



March Newsletter

Children's Centre Governance

Although our large numbers of new children and families have settled extremely well into our Education Care and Community Programs - it has been a very challenging few months for our Administrative Systems!!

From **4 February 2019** all Child Care Subsidy payments for

- ✓ **Long Day Care,**
- ✓ **Between Session care (Lunch care)**
- ✓ **Before Preschool Care**
- ✓ **After Preschool Care**

Are now directed to

Keithcot Farm Children's Centre **Childcare Inc.**

Thank you for your support in ensuring that this process is as smooth as we can make it. Special thanks to Cathy Mazzarolo and Sue Hall for their amazing support, patience and expertise with this highly challenging Administrative task.

Responsibilities for Families whose children are enrolled in the above programs and **who access the Childcare Subsidy.**

1. Go into the MyGov Website.
2. Look for "Tasks to Action"
3. Confirm your child's enrolment under the heading of Keithcot Farm Children's Centre Childcare Inc

If you need assistance with this process – please call Cathy on 82512700 – as soon as possible.

Children's Centre Leadership

Anne Whittleston – Director: Education and Care will be on Long Service Leave from Saturday 9 March, until Tuesday 9 April.

Janet Hazel has been appointed Director: Education and Care and Bianca Cutler has a Teaching Contract to replace Janet during this time.

Attendance

Please note : It is a Licensing requirement that children are signed in and signed out each day. It is critical that the Sign In sheets are up to date at all times. Emergency Services use these documents to ensure that everyone has evacuated the building during an Emergency Evacuation.



We practice both Evacuations and In vacations with children, staff and visitors at least every 3 months.

Please ensure that while your child is at the Children's Centre that you are contactable via your phone.



Please make every effort to respond to messages left on your phone

as soon as possible.

Please also phone us and let us know if your child is not attending for the day.



Preschool Closure

Please note - there will be no Department for Education preschool on

Friday 12 April

Long Day Care will be available to families who have children with a regular LDC booking each Friday.

Our core Educators from across our site will spend the day reviewing our Children's Development and Planning Policies. We will monitor the progress of our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) as well as discuss Workplace Health and Safety issues.



Curriculum

Children have been introduced /reintroduced to the Centre's routines. They are learning that when the bell rings, this is a signal to come inside for group experiences.

Educators have also explained our 'limits'. For example, walking inside, sitting when we eat and drink and washing hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children's understanding of **WHY** we implement these hygiene practices and other procedures will be embedded in their daily practices.



We have been reflecting on our program and practice with a focus on '**Sense of Agency**'. When children have opportunities to make choices, to attempt tasks for themselves, and to take on increasing responsibilities, their sense of themselves as competent members of society grows. Doing something for yourself produces a powerful sense of achievement and success. The evidence clearly shows that children who develop strong self-esteem, sense of agency and academic motivation are more likely to achieve their potential at school as well as being resilient to risk factors throughout their education.

Educators across our Birth to School Transition site use a variety of strategies to collect, rich and meaningful information that depicts children's learning and development. One of these strategies is the use of "**Learning Stories**". This strategy focus' on children's strengths, interests, actions and dispositions and documents children's involvement in learning, including communication, interactions and collaboration. The portfolios are strategically placed for all children to easily access and to enable children and their families to read through together. Please sign out your child's portfolio home and share with other family members.



We would love you to contribute some information about what activities your child enjoys with your family at home, on holidays or other experiences by adding your own photos and stories.

If you require information with regard to your child's overall development, please contact your child's Primary Educator. If you are not sure who is your child's Primary Educator – please contact Janet or Jen on 82512700.



A note from Sarah: Occupational Therapist

Should my child be writing their name?

For a preschool aged child, there can be a lot of emphasis placed on writing their name. However, as we know, writing is a very complex skill that takes time and practice to develop.

Rather than putting too much focus on such a specific skill, you can support your child by helping them to develop the underlying foundation skills they need to get ready for writing.

Some activities to try at home include:

- Going to the playground, climbing, digging in the sandpit, swimming – to develop upper body strength and good posture
- Playdough, building with blocks, craft activities, squeezing sponges in the bath - to develop hand and finger strength



- Reading books together – to develop visual and attention skills
- Encourage your child to practice drawing in a variety of ways – using different tools, painting, drawing in sand and shaving cream. Practice lines and shapes and free drawing, rather than focusing too much on letters.



Most importantly, try to keep it fun and motivating for your child!

For further information and ideas, you are welcome to contact our Occupational Therapist, Sarah, who is at the centre on Thursdays and alternate Tuesdays.

Community Development

What a fantastic start to 2019 we're already enjoying. We would like to say a big thank you to the families who recently attended our **Twilight Stay & Play** and our **PJ Story time**. Throughout the year we will continue to offer a range of other opportunities for you and your family to connect with other families from our Children's Centre. If you have any ideas or suggestions of what weekend get togethers or events you would like to see offered please feel free to let me know, we genuinely appreciate any and all ideas you have.

On 20 February over 80 people, including parents, grandparents, other family members, educators and teachers attended 'A Diagnosis of ASD (Autism)' seminar with Mark Le Messurier at Keithcot Primary School. Mark shared inspiring stories of families with children diagnosed with ASD and their wonderful transitions into happy, engaged adults. In follow up to this seminar we will be offering follow up groups to bring together parents/carers of children with ASD to enable connection, support and sharing. Dates to be advised.



Earlier this term a group of families also attended our 3 week after school/kindy **Kids Cooking Club**, with children enjoying a great range of hands-on recipes that can then be replicated at home.



The next afternoon program commences on Tuesday 5 March (and continues 12 & 19 March) **Chill, Connect & Create Hub** and welcome children aged 4- 10 years to a 1 hour weekly program that combines art, craft, relaxation, yoga and new friendships. \$5/ child per week. Bookings are essential.

Our other regular weekly programs are also continuing to be very popular this term including; **Baby Bop** (for under 12 month olds), **Move & Groove** (for more active

crawlers) and **Watch, Wonder & Playgroup** (for active crawlers and older).

Our weekly **Nurture Nest** program (for parents during the antenatal and postnatal stage) is also continuing to be a great connection for parents during their pregnancies and post birth stage, to each other and to Melissa our midwife. Raising Baby, our 6 week program for parents with bubs is also well attended this term and we continue to welcome anyone who has a baby (from newborn- 12 months of age) to join us.

A reminder that we also have 2 fantastic health and wellbeing programs available to parents to attend here each week provided by our Personal Trainer, Sophie Beers; Monday mornings 9:30am **Mums & Bubs Fitness** and Thursday evening **Small Group PT classes** (adults only) 6pm. Both classes are just \$5 / week.

With the end of Term 1 rapidly approaching please also keep an eye out for options for the school holiday period and our program for Term 2. If there is something specific you would like to see featured or a program you would like to see us revisit please let me know.

Plans for Term 2 will include:

Bringing Up Great Kids- with Sarah, Occupational Therapist.

Getting Ready for Reading & Writing- with Sarah and Tamara, Speech Pathologist.

First Aid for Parents & Carers- with St John Ambulance

Infant Massage- with Bonita Stockley

If you aren't already following us on Facebook and would like to, please find us as 'Keithcot Farm Children's Centre' we use this regularly to keep families informed of our upcoming programs and events, as well as others

from across our community. 

Please also feel free to stop by for a chat any time, particularly if you're looking for any information on parenting or family wellbeing topics or would like to know more about groups and programs.

I also share an office with Sarah and Tamara, who as our Allied Health team are always happy to talk with you about your child's communication (speech, language, literacy) and participation in daily routines and development (play, fine and gross motor, toileting, feeding and sleep).

Thank you everyone, Laura- Community Development Coordinator.



Easter Raffle

Many thanks for the generous donations for our **Raffle**.



Raffle tickets have been distributed and more are available on request. Please return all sold tickets and money and any unsold tickets by Monday 1 April. The raffle will be drawn on **Monday 8 April!**

Dates to Remember



Tuesday 5 March:

Chill, Connect, Create (afternoon 3 week program begins. Continues on 12 & 19 March).

Monday 11 March:

Public Holiday

Monday 18 March:

Governing Council Meeting (All welcome).

Monday 8 April:

Easter raffle drawn

Friday 12 April:

No Preschool – Educators Professional Learning Day.

Fortnightly coffee & chats for remainder of Term 1:

15 and 29 March 2pm- 3pm

Long Day Care continues during the scheduled school holidays

Monday 15 April to Friday 26 April

EXCEPT

Friday 19 April

Easter – Public Holiday

Monday 22 April:

Easter – Public Holiday

Thursday 25 April:

Anzac Day – Public Holiday

Preschool recommences: Monday 29 April 2019.

