



September Newsletter

- **Anne Whittleston** (Director / Educator)
- **Jenny Reid** (Assistant Director / Educator)
- **Laura Francis** (Community Development Coordinator)
- **Tamara Hall** (Speech Pathologist)
- **Daniela Barilla** (Occupational Therapist)
- **Kate Hallam** (Educator)
- **Janet Hazel** (Educator)
- **Roshni Amroliwala** (Educator)
- **Carolyn Howson** (Educator)
- **Adrienne Hicks** (Educator)
- **Erin Wilkinson** (Educator)
- **Magdaline Saredakis** (Educator)
- **Bec Walker** (Educator)
- **Coby Romano** (Educator)
- **Dani Innes** (Educator)
- **Lisa Mildrum** (Educator)
- **Jodie Murray** (Educator/ WH&S Rep)
- **Andrea Randell** (Educator)
- **Julie-Anne Duffy** (Educator)
- **Robbi Meinel** (Educator)
- **Cathy Mazzarolo** (Educator)
- **Sally Phippen** (Educator)
- **Iona Angely** (Educator)
- **Julia Tilley** (Educator)
- **Louise Salmon** (Educator)
- **Carolyn Potter** (Admin Officer)
- **Jo Oliver** (Cook / Educator)
- **Nobuko Nakajima** (Cook /Educator)
- **Simon Costello** (Grounds person)



Please note - there will be
no DECD preschool on

Friday 29 September

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 Workplace Health and Safety Policies. We will monitor the progress of our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) as well as discuss DECD Strategic Directions as we plan for the remainder of 2017 and into 2018.

Building Redevelopment



Many thanks for your patience and support during our building redevelopment. We are absolutely thrilled with our extended facility which will offer so much more to our wider community.

Children's Centres support children and families to achieve the best possible learning, health and wellbeing outcomes in a universal setting with targeted responses for children and families who may require additional support.

Children's Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting are a collaborative early childhood initiative that brings together care, education, health, community development activities and services for families with young children.

The recently published DECD Strategic Directions – **Education for a Stronger Future** – builds on the SA Government's strategic directions.

Visit www.decd.sa.gov.au for:

Strategic Directions / Strategic Plan / Public Education Statement

Two Areas of the Strategic Plan that particularly relate to our new Building Redevelopment include:

Engaged Parents and communities

"We will engage with parents from before their child is born and invite parents and carers into their local education community. By providing additional support, high quality resources and information about their child's progress, we will ensure parents and carers know how to best support their child's learning and development."

Stronger Services

"We will use the statewide reach of our services to increase access to support for child and family health and child development in the critical early years. Better linkages to other Government services will ensure we play our part in the protection of vulnerable children."

Although the redevelopment is almost complete we are not able to fully utilise the new entrance and implement planned community programs until next term.

We will have a formal opening which will include the Minister for Education (Susan Close) and other dignitaries as well as families and other community members who have been so supportive over the past 10 years while operating as a Children's Centre.

Better start...

Curriculum



Our Centre is in the process of purchasing three chickens as pets to live at the Children's Centre. They join a range of other animals including our resident frog and living and non living creatures borrowed by Roshni from the Nature Education Centre. A purpose built chicken coop will complement our redeveloped outdoor learning space. The chickens are housed at night within their coop, but will otherwise be free to roam within our outdoor learning environment.

Within an early learning setting we are governed by Australian National Quality Standards (NQS) and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) which outlines 'learning environments' as one of the eight pedagogical practices that promote children's learning and recognises the responsibility to educate for sustainability-

"Outdoor play spaces foster an appreciation of the natural environment, develop environmental awareness and provide a platform for ongoing environmental education."

The chickens will be an extension to our existing sustainable lifestyles program, where children are encouraged to engage with their natural environment through growing their own fruit and vegetables, using recycled materials within their play and utilising play spaces such as our digging patch, sand pit and garden to explore, experiment, observe and wonder. We strongly believe that by providing children with 'real' materials to work with such as real mud, real plants and real animals they are able to better connect with, respect and learn from our natural world.

First hand sensory experiences are important for children to develop into caring, responsible citizens who value and appreciate their environment. We believe that the benefits of encouraging direct contact and developing bonds with animals help children build empathy and teach children how to be gentle and respectful of living things. They also teach children about the interconnectedness between plants; people, animals and the land (Let the Children Play, 2012). We also have a number of children who attend the children's Centre with additional needs, including several who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Research also suggests there are therapeutic benefits of having animals, as often they can serve as conversation starters for children who are shy or have limited social skills and can help children feel a stronger sense of belonging when they

may ordinarily find it a challenge to connect with other people.

Links to the National Quality Standard (NQS): Standard 3.3 requires the service to take an active role in caring for its environment and contribute to a sustainable future.



Walks to our local park from Keithcot Farm Drive (opposite Lady Penrhyn) to the bottom of O'Leary Place will continue on alternate Wednesday and Mondays with the older preschool children.

Research demonstrates that unstructured, outdoor play in nature is fundamental to childhood and that it is as important to children as food and sleep! Children innately reap great benefits as they grow connections and an appreciation of the natural environment. In the structured, busy and technologically-advanced world we live in, the role of outdoor play that we experienced as children is being forgotten. Outcomes from nature play include achievement, innovation, creativity, positive relationship development, skill development, self-awareness, organising, decision making, innovation, problem solving, communication and working with others. These outcomes will contribute to successful trajectories later in life.



2018 Fees

On Monday 11 September our Governing Council met to review our fees for next year.

It was agreed that the following charges will be implemented as of January 1 2018.

Long Day Care

\$100 / day. (\$3 / day increase)

Preschool

\$100 / term+ \$20 building maintenance (no increase)

Between session care

\$23/ day (\$1/ day increase)

Parent Opinion Survey

Thank you to those families who recently completed our Parent Opinion Survey. This survey is a mandatory reporting requirement for all Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) Schools, Preschools and Children's Centres. The questions are based on the National Quality Standards.

Your feedback about the Children's Centre and the range of programs that we provide is collated and then reflected upon during planning processes - the planning of the learning program, the centre priorities, strategic directions and achieving the National Quality Standard (NQS).

The information is also used when completing the Annual General Report.

Overall the responses to the 2017 Parent Opinion Survey indicate *a continuing high degree of satisfaction* in each Quality Area of the National Quality Standard.

Community Development

Dr. Justin Coulson, 9 ways to a resilient child: Friday 22 Sept 7pm

To date 125+ people had booked to attend this seminar. Places still available for anyone who would like to come along.

This event is part of DECD Parents in Education week, and cost will be partially covered by 4 grants that we have received across the Golden Way Partnership (\$500 each).

Planning for Term 4

Plans are well underway for Term 4, which will include existing programs such as Infant massage as well as the introduction of new programs all offered within our new space:

Managing Big Feelings- a 4 day workshop (held one morning per fortnight) with Daniela (OT) and Laura (CDC)

Baby Bop Music group- weekly program for children under 18 months and their parents. Facilitated by Daniela (OT) and Tamara (SpPath)

SPOT group (targeted Speech and Occupational Therapy) for children who attend our Preschool.

Laura is keen to introduce a new weekly **Coffee & Chat** morning for any parents from across our Children's Centre and school who are interested in connecting with other parents.

Modbury Hospital Antenatal Service and a Midwife who is a trained lactation consultant are keen to explore the possibility of providing services at our site.

Offering a **Pregnancy and Partner** support/information group is also something that we may deliver in the future.

It will take time to determine the logistics of our new space and to ensure that services such as the antenatal providers and allied health (Daniela and Tamara) are given priority over use of the space as they represent most cohesively the vision of the Children's Centre.

CAFHS will be providing Term 3 Preschool health checks (for children aged 4.3 years and older) on Friday 22 Sept (all appointments are now full) and Term 4 checks on Thursday 7 December.

Sun Safety

Sunscreen must be applied by parents/ caregivers to all exposed skin **before** arrival at the Centre. Sunscreen will be reapplied through the day in line with the current Cancer Council recommendations. If your child has a medical need for a particular brand of sunscreen (eg- allergic to others) we need permission from your Doctor to administer this sunscreen and you will need to supply your own sunscreen with your child's name on a Chemist label. If you do not want your child to receive sunscreen- please put your request in writing and it will be filed with your child's confidential documentation. Please do not send children with exposed shoulders/ backs. These children will be asked to put on a t-shirt or will be required to spend all day inside as sunscreen alone is not an acceptable means of protection for these body parts during the hot summer months.



Dates to Remember

Friday 22 September: CAFHS clinic.

Thursday 28 September: Last preschool day for term 3

Friday 29 September: Preschool closure - Long Day Care continues as normal for children booked into a Friday and through the school holidays.

Monday 2 October: Public Holiday

Monday 16 October: Preschool program recommences for Term 4.

Wednesday 25 October: Information night for Long Day Care families whose children are commencing preschool in 2018.

Tuesday 31 October: Information night for new families whose children are commencing preschool in 2018.

Wednesday 8 November: First Aid for Parents (non accredited course)

Monday 27 November: Annual General Meeting @ 6.30pm

Wednesday 6 December: Family Christmas Celebration

Thursday 7 December: CAFHS clinic.

Friday 15 December: Last day for 2017 for **all programs**.

The centre will close @ 12.30pm.

Monday 8 January: Long Day Care resumes for 2018.

Monday 29 January: Preschool program resumes for 2018.