

October Newsletter



Keithcot Farm

Children's
Centre
for Early Childhood
Development and Parenting



The staff for Term 4, 2023 include

- **Anne Whittleston** (Director: Education + Care)
- **Jodie Murray** (Assistant Director)
- **Nathan McGuinness** (Community Development Coordinator)
- **Louise O'Reilly** (Speech Pathologist)
- **Sarah Harry** (Occupational Therapist)
- **Roshni Amroliwala** (Early Childhood Teacher)
- **Zuzana Haladej** (Early Childhood Teacher)
- **Amanda Smith** (Early Childhood Teacher)
- **Adrienne Hicks** (Educator)
- **Magdaline Saredakis** (Educator)
- **Lisa Ordway** (Educator)
- **Jess Maher** (Educator)
- **Lisa Mildrum** (Educator)
- **Andrea Randell** (Educator)
- **Amanda Ouwens** (Educator)
- **Christie Jenner** (Educator)
- **Holly Montana** (Educator)
- **Julia Tilley** (Educator)
- **Danielle Brynski** (Educator)
- **Iona Angely** (Educator)
- **Yogini Patel** (Educator)
- **Rinjani Bonavidi** (Educator)
- **Kelly McDonald** (Educator)
- **Nobuko Nakajima** (Educator)
- **Amber Maxwell** (Educator)
- **Noor Abdulteef** (Educator)
- **Pamela Cutts** (Educator)
- **Zahra** (Educator)
- **Jo Oliver** (Cook / Educator)
- **Iona Angley** (Cook/ Educator)
- **Steph Byron** (Cook/ Educator)
- **Cathy Mazzarolo** (Admin Officer)
- **Kylie Webster** (Finance Officer)
- **Simon Costello** (Grounds person)

Keithcot Farm Children's Centre Website



A range of information about our Children's Centre can be accessed through this QR code.

Early Years App

There is a lot of information out there for new parents. The first 5 years of a child's life are critical to their health, development, learning and wellbeing. However, they are also a major learning curve for parents too. This is when brain, physical, language, social, emotional, and cognitive development is fastest.

The Department for Education in consultation with Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS), the Department of Human Services, Wellbeing SA, Parenting SA and SA Dental, with resources from organisations such as the Raising Children Network, has launched the Early Years App - a go to for trusted information about child health, learning, development and wellbeing from birth to 5 years.

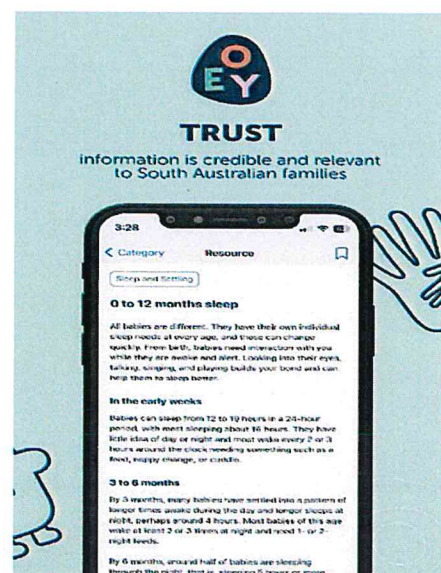
The Early Years SA mobile app complements but does not replace your child's Blue Book.

Your child's Blue Book is where your midwives, doctors and community nurses record important health information for your baby and you will need to bring this to all your child's medical appointments, including health checks, GP or specialist appointments and immunisations.

No Department for Education Preschool on Monday 13 November

Our core Educators from **across our site** will spend the day monitoring the progress of our 2023 Prior to School Quality Improvement Plans (PQIP's) and planning our 2024 PQIP's.

Long Day Care will be available to families who have children with a regular LDC booking each Monday. Please confirm with Cathy your booking.



2024 Fees

On 25 September 2023, our Preschool and Childcare Governing Councils reviewed and updated Fees.

Fees for 2024 are as follows:

Preschool	\$600 /year
Long Day Care	\$145 / day Minus Childcare Subsidy
Before Preschool Care	\$20 / session Minus Childcare Subsidy
After Preschool Care	\$37 / session Minus Childcare Subsidy
Between Session Care <i>(in conjunction with Preschool)</i>	\$20 / session Minus Childcare Subsidy

We have 2 Governing Councils

1. Early Childhood Development and Parenting (Preschool).
2. Childcare Inc

Membership of both Governing Councils consist of parents, community members elected at the Annual General Meeting and the staff leadership team.

Annual General Meeting

Our **2023 Annual General Meeting** is planned for **Monday 11 December @ 6.00pm.**

Parents of both the Preschool and Childcare Program will be formally elected to the Governing Councils.

Please seriously consider nominating for our Governing Councils.



We are delighted that the Minister for Education (**Blair Boyer**) along with the 2024 Director: Education + Care (**Kate Hallam**) will be available to join us at this special meeting.

Role of the Governing Councils

- ✦ To support the implementation and management of the integrated Long Day Care; Department for Education Preschool Program; Allied Health and Community Development Programs.
- ✦ To develop and review policies and directions which will ensure a supportive learning environment for all children and their families.
- ✦ To identify strategic directions in the form of a Preschool Quality Improvement Plan (PQIP) and a Childcare Quality Improvement Plan along with the Centre Leadership team.
- ✦ To use human resources flexibly, effectively, and efficiently.
- ✦ To raise funds to enable the purchase of resources and the maintenance of facilities
- ✦ To work collaboratively with Community Groups to strengthen community partnerships.

Governing Council meetings are both informal and informative and an opportunity for you to have a positive, productive say in the future directions of your child's Children's Centre.

The Governing Councils meet apx. every 6 weeks via Microsoft TEAMS online platform.

Sun Safety



Sunscreen must be applied by parents/ caregivers to all exposed skin **before** arrival at the Centre. Our Educators will reapply sunscreen through the day in line with the current Cancer Council recommendations when the UV Rating is **3** or above.

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.

Please ensure your child has a ***named broad brimmed hat*** with no drawstring or toggles.

Please provide a named cup in your child's bag. Our Educators ensure that all children have a drink of water with fruit in the morning and in the afternoon as well as a drinks of water and milk at lunch time. We ensure that fresh water is easily accessible for children to independently access using **their own cups.**

Health Checks

As part of a range of services to children and families in SA, the State Government provides funding to Child and Youth Health to offer free health assessments for Preschool children.

A CYH Nurse will provide assessments on

Tuesday 7 November 2023

If your child is 4 years and 3 months or older, please collect a consent form from our front office.

Bookings are essential.

Community Development



Toileting workshop

Tuesday, 17 October 2023 | 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

For parents or carers of 0- to 5-year-olds who want to learn about toilet training their child.

You are invited to attend a free session run by Sarah, Occupational Therapist.

- The developmental stages of toileting
- Signs that a child is ready for toilet training
- Strategies and tips to promote success with toilet training

Everyone is welcome to join us for this engaging and informative session.

Free creche provided - limited spaces.



Sleep workshop

Tuesday, 24 October 2023 | 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
For parents or carers of children aged 12 months or older who want to learn about sleep time.

Does your child struggle to settle to sleep? Maybe they wake frequently during the night and you're looking for strategies to help them resettle.

Has sleep - or the lack of - created extra stress for you and your family?

Are you looking for ideas to encourage more positive sleep routines for your family?

This session will cover important information about children and sleep, followed by question time.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this session facilitated by Sarah Harry, Occupational Therapist.

Free creche provided - limited spaces.

Playconnect plus

MONDAY 10am - 12.00pm

Playconnect Plus is a free, safe and supported Playgroup for children aged 0-8 years with a disability, autistic characteristics, developmental delays or behaviour concerns and their families. A diagnosis is not required for families to attend.

Health

If your child is showing signs of being unwell before coming to the Children's Centre, **it is important to keep him/her home for the day and ring the Centre of your child's absence.**

Advice has been received from the Department of Health informing us that:

*"Children who are suffering from vomiting and / or diarrhoea should not attend the Children's Centre. Parents / guardians will be contacted and asked to collect their child **within an hour** to reduce the possibility of the illness spreading.*

Children are not to return to the Centre until all vomiting and / or diarrhoea has ceased for a period of at least 48 hours from the last episode and the child is feeling well.

Save the Date! Family Christmas Celebration

Thursday 7 December @ 6.30pm.

At the Dame Roma Mitchell Centre at Golden Grove High School.



More details of this event will be sent home soon.

Christmas Raffle

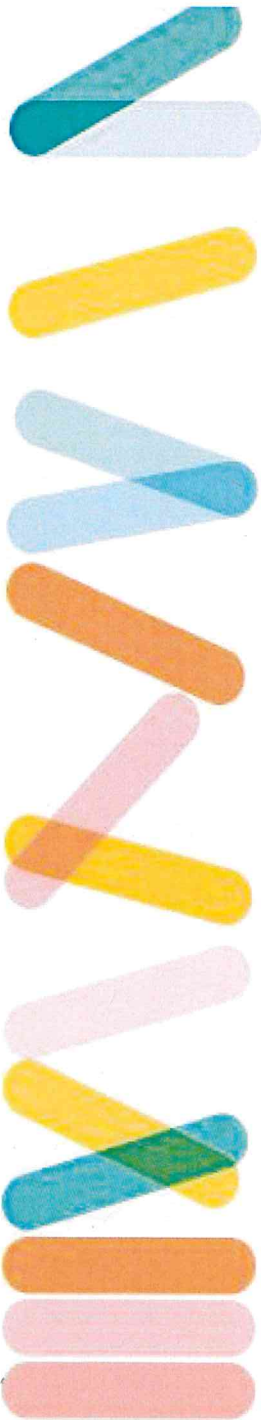


The Governing Councils have organised a Christmas Raffle- donations of non-perishable foods; new toys; books; gift vouchers; wine etc are needed.

Books of 10 raffle tickets @ 50 cents each will be given to all families and staff – additional books are available on request.

Raffle Books + money are due back on Monday 27 November.

The raffle will be drawn on **Monday 11 December.**



Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care

On Sunday 27 August 2023, the Commissioner the Hon Julia Gillard AC handed down the final report outlining the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care in South Australia.

In conducting its inquiry, the Royal Commission was tasked to hear the voice of parents and caregivers from diverse backgrounds, experts in early childhood development, service providers in the first 1000 days, leaders of early childhood education and care services, relevant unions, and providers of Out of School Hours Care.

The Royal Commission focused on three key areas:

1. The extent to which South Australian families are supported in the first 1000 days of a child's life, focused on opportunities to further leverage early childhood education and care to enable equitable and improved outcomes for South Australian children.
2. How universal quality preschool programs for 3 and 4-year-olds can be delivered in South Australia, including addressing considerations of accessibility, affordability, quality and how to achieve universality for both age cohorts. Consideration of universal 3-year-old preschool should be undertaken with a view to achieving this commencing in 2026.
3. How all families can have access to out of school hours care at both preschool and primary school ages, including considerations of accessibility in all parts of the state, affordability and quality in public and private settings.
 - This is an exciting time for South Australia's early years sector as all tiers of government and sectors consider bold changes to ensure all South Australian children get the best start in life.
 - There will be more information provided as plans are confirmed in the coming months. We will keep you updated as we learn more.
 - It is too early to enrol children into 3-year-old preschool. Three-year-old preschool will be implemented from 2026.
 - Parents should continue to enrol their children into preschool for the year before full time school.

Royal Commission into
Early Childhood
Education and Care

REPORT

South Australia
August 2023

Better start... 