



KEITHCOT FARM
Children's Centre
 for Early Childhood
 Development and Parenting



Rated
EXCELLENT
 by ACECQA



March Newsletter



The implementation and use of QR codes has begun in all SA Schools, Preschools and Children's Centres.

QR code posters are displayed throughout our Children's Centre. A Government paper recording template is available in our front office for people who don't have a smart phone.

ALL ADULTS entering the site **must** check-in by scanning the QR code or completing the paper recording log template.

Please Note: The COVID SAfe Check - In is purely for SA Health contact tracing purposes and **doesn't replace** our sign - in processes. All guests/visitors should continue to sign in at the front office/ reception on arrival.

Attendance

It is a Licensing requirement that children are signed in and signed out each day by their parent / caregiver. 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 Shelter in Place 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.



Please note - there will be no Department for Education Preschool on **Friday 9 April.**

Our core Educators from **across our site** will spend the day monitoring the progress of our Preschool Quality Improvement Plan (PQIP) and reviewing Policies and Procedures.

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



Curriculum

Children have been introduced /reintroduced to the Centre's routines. They are learning and further consolidating their understanding that when the little bells ring, this is a signal to come inside for group experiences.

Educators have explained and negotiated with the children our 'limits' (rules). For example, walking inside, sitting when we eat and drink and washing hands before eating and after using the toilet etc . Children's understanding of **WHY** we implement these practices and other procedures grows as we constantly and continually embed in their daily practices.



Water is provided for children during morning and afternoon snack times and milk is provided with lunch. Children are shown where they can independently access water using their own personal cups in-between these times. **Please do not send drink bottles as occasionally children are seen sharing bottles which can ultimately mean sharing unwanted germs. Please place a named plastic cup in your child's bag.**

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.

Each child has a Primary Educator who develops an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) with learning goals which are reviewed and updated through the year. If you are not sure who your Primary Educator is – please check with either Anne (Director) or Jen (Assistant Director).

All 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. Each child has their own Portfolio with Learning Stories and other information about their learning.



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 to your child's portfolio.

Across our site we have an Improvement Goal which forms part of our **Preschool Quality Improvement Plan for 2021**.

To promote children's Emergent Literacy Skills. (Oral Language, Phonological Awareness, Print Awareness)

We are currently working with our Speech Pathologist – Tamara on a book based programme focusing on one particular book **"Handa's Surprise"**. This topic /inquiry will continue into next term.



Please see attached to this Newsletter our Article on **"Learning with Books"**.

Tamara (Speech Pathologist) and Sarah (Occupational Therapist) have a Parent Workshop planned for 24 March @ 6.30-8.30pm

"Getting Ready for Reading and Writing"

Bookings are Essential.

A free crèche will be provided if needed.



Sarah (Occupational Therapist) is supporting the implementation of **Animal Fun**.

We are currently introducing a series of "movements" for the children (and Educators) to practice.

These include

- ✓ Pine Tree
- ✓ Squirrel climbing
- ✓ Flamingo
- ✓ Rocking Starfish
- ✓ Gum Tree
- ✓ Forest

This term we are focussing on developing children's **Balance** and **Strength**.

We know that **Balance** is such an important foundation for ALL movement skills – children who struggle with balance find everyday tasks such as sitting on a chair, getting dressed and climbing on the playground difficult.



We currently have University of South Australia Occupational Therapy students on placement at our Centre. One of the main objectives of this placement is for students to develop knowledge of child development and group management skills.



Community Development

Wow, how can we be in mad March already? I hope that everyone has settled into the year nicely. Just a quick update from the Community space, we have had a positive response to the Community programs that have been facilitated already this year.

The **Coffee mornings** started us off in weeks 1-3 and gave Preschool parents the chance to get a cuppa and make sure their Preschool child settled into the term.

We then had a good turn out to **Twilight Stay and Play**, which gave families the chance to meet the staff team and to also meet their children's new friends.

The **First Aid course** didn't quite have the numbers I would have liked, but it was a fantastic evening for those that attended with plenty of laughs and the session was well put together by Heather Palmer who was very engaging and was able to meet the needs of the group. I will run this session again later in the year, and I do encourage anyone who has not done a First Aid course to have a look.

PJ Story Night was a great success, we had a fantastic turn out to this event and the children had a ball, a really big thankyou to Sarah and Tamara who put the evening together.

Staff at the centre have just finished doing the Educator version of "**My Child and Me**" which was facilitated by Natalie from the Parenting Support Team. Staff have done this training to enable us to further reflect on interactions and relationships we have with each other, the children and their families. They will also be able to discuss with you the content of this highly regarded program.

Most importantly I am looking at running a Centre wide footy tipping competition for the upcoming 2021 season, I will email out the details for any families that are interested, and then I can send a link to the competition. It will cost \$20.00 for the season with prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and also 3rd to last. Let's see whose family will reign supreme.

Please keep a lookout in your Emails for upcoming events and we will be sending out

What's happening this week at KFCC when an event is just around the corner!!

Easter Raffle



Many thanks for the generous donations for our **Easter 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 22 March.

The raffle will be drawn on

Monday 29 March!

Dates to Remember



Monday 8 March:

Public Holiday

Monday 22 March:

Governing Council Meeting @6.30pm.

Wednesday 24 March:

"Getting Ready for Reading and Writing"

6.30-8.30pm **Bookings Essential**

A Crèche will be provided as needed.

Monday 29 March:

Easter raffle drawn

Friday 2 April:

Public Holiday – Good Friday

Monday 5 April:

Public Holiday – Easter Monday

Thursday 8 April:

Last Preschool Day for Term 1.

Friday 9 April:

Staff Professional Learning Day. No Preschool.

Long Day Care available for Friday childcare bookings.

Long Day Care continues during the scheduled school holidays Monday 12 April to Friday 23 April

Monday 26 April:

Public Holiday – ANZAC day

Preschool recommences Term 2: Tuesday 27 April 2021

