

Welcome to
PRESCHOOL



***** DATES TO REMEMBER *****

Governing Council AGM:

Wednesday 3rd March - 1:00—3:00pm
(See the "A note from the Director" below for more information)

CAFHS 4yr old Health Checks:

Wednesday 24th March
(See page 5 for more information)



Preschool Photo Days:

Tuesday 16th March (Red Group)

Thursday 18th March (Blue Group)



So that your child doesn't miss out, please return your Photo Order Form envelope and correct cash payment by Tuesday 9th March

Public Holidays:

Adelaide Cup Day - Monday 8th March (Red Group)

Good Friday - Friday 2nd April (Blue Group)

Easter Monday - Monday 5th April (Red Group)

Staff Training / Pupil Free Days:

Term 2

Friday 11th June (Blue Group)

Term 3

Friday 3rd September (Blue Group)

Term 4

Friday 19th November (Blue Group)

What is a "Friend"?

Pre-schoolers learn through everyday play and experiences. They are **beginning** to think about other children's feelings and are learning the **qualities** of what being a "friend" means. They are also learning the **skills** to be a "friend". Here are just a few:

- Taking turns and sharing.
- Including other children's ideas in play.
- Gaining an understanding of how others may be feeling.
- Using words to describe thoughts and feelings.
- Playing group games e.g. Families, superheros and copying adult behaviour.
- Learning how to make and use rules for their play.

True friendship bonds aren't usually formed until later in a child's life. At preschool, children are learning the skills of how to be social. We are all learning to be "friends" at preschool and everyday experiences help us build the skills required for social interaction.

At this stage of the year, the children are still learning each other's names. Throughout the day, preschool educators are helping the children to do this. At group times, children are participating in songs and activities using each other's names.

We encourage parents/caregivers at the end of a preschool day to ask questions such as "What amazing things happened today?" or "What did you like doing the most at preschool today?", rather than asking children to try to remember the names of the many others who they have played with or next to - this will most likely happen naturally after a while!

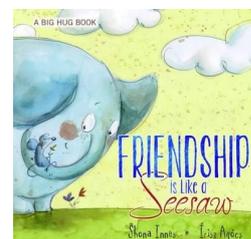
A fantastic book about social skills, 'friends' and friendship during play:

"Friendship is like a Seesaw"

A Big Hug Book

Written by: Shona Innes

Illustrated by: Iriz Anocs



A note from the Director.....



Welcome to the Children's Centre for your child's preschool year!

For the first weeks we have focussed on establishing and developing relationships with the children and their family members. Our staff have worked hard to get to know everyone quickly over the first few weeks. It has been easy for the educators to get to know the children, however it has been a bit more challenging to get to know the families as quickly, given that we can have up to 44 children in Red Group and 44 children in Blue Group and in many cases multiple family members dropping off and picking up children each day. We thank you for your patience during this time.

Another priority has been to establish the preschool routines with the children. This is a big task given that everyone is new, however it is amazing how quickly this has happened. The educators are highly skilled and have again done a brilliant job of settling in all of the children.

Play is so important for children. It is children's "work"; the way that they make sense of the world and build upon their existing knowledge and skills. The *Belonging, Being, Becoming*, which is *The Early Years Learning Framework* states "Play can promote positive dispositions towards learning". "Educators create learning environments that encourage children to explore, solve problems, create and construct." Educators are here from very early in the morning and stay long after the children leave to ensure that activities that are developmentally appropriate and based on the children's interests, are set up for the children's arrival at the following session. We are already seeing a high level of engagement from the children.

The Governing Council AGM will be held on **Wednesday 3rd March at 1:00pm**. A free Crèche will be provided however there are limited places available so please let us know if you wish to book in. The Governing Council is a friendly group of parents/caregivers, staff and community members and meetings are relaxed and informative. Please see me if you would like more information about Governing Council. We would love to see you there!

Drop off and Pick up times can still be a bit hectic as so many children are starting and leaving at the same time so there is not a lot of time to chat to adults as our priority is to the children. If you would like to talk to an educator in more depth, please wait until after all the children have been picked up and then they will be more available to chat. Alternatively let us know and a teacher can give you a phone call. The educators have also greatly appreciated the positive feedback we have had from chats with families. We are looking forward to a great year of learning!

Christine Townsend
(Director)



Preschool Learning Program

Welcome to Preschool!

A Day at Preschool...

Some of you may be wondering what we get up to everyday once you leave your child at the gate so we thought we'd give you a brief run down of what happens during a typical day at preschool.

Once the children have entered the preschool through the gate, they find their hats, put their drink bottles on the trolley and put their bags away in a locker. Then they go and wash their hands before heading off to explore the preschool environment. The children have the opportunity to choose freely from all of the different activities provided or to request specific resources or experiences. Educators respond to children's interests and facilitate their learning. The children are developing great decision making skills from this and have quickly developed a sense of belonging that comes from being able to make these choices. To help with our supervision of a large number of children starting at the same time, we all stay outside until about 9:00am, then educators open the preschool rooms for access to inside activities as well.

With educator's supervision, children apply sunscreen every 2 hours. They are reminded to wear their hat and drink water throughout the day.

The children are able to help themselves to their snack up to 11:00am. Lunch time is from 11:30am to 12:30pm. During this time, the children are encouraged to make the choice to come in when they are ready to eat their lunch with the educators who are supervising and keeping a checklist of who has been in for lunch and who they need to follow up. While eating, the children and educators talk about the different foods everyone has, listen to stories and enjoy relaxing music.

At 2:00pm (11:00am on Wednesday) the educators and children start to pack up, get ready for group time and prepare for the parents/caregivers to arrive. During group time, the children are learning about regulating their bodies through relaxation and also explore stories, sing songs and play group games before saying goodbye at the end of the session.

Some of the activities that have been happening over the first few weeks of term are:

- The Red Group children have been showing their creativity at the making table and painting, using position, location and arrangement at the playdough table and with loose parts to make giant cupcakes, cooking pancakes and cupcakes in the mud kitchen - mixing and transforming mud, water, sand and shaving foam to make their cooking masterpieces, building obstacle courses outside with the big foam blocks and lots of pretend play in the home corner.
- The Blue Group children have been really curious about the stick insects and we are currently doing an inquiry into them. They have also enjoyed yoga and building with the K'nex, large foam mats on the grass, Mr/Mrs Potato Head and threading. Because we've had some really hot weather, we've also enjoyed having the water in the sand pit and have been cooking like master chefs in the mud kitchen. We have also been exploring "Pete the Cat" stories and songs at group time, encouraging perseverance and resilience.



THANK YOU!

Thank you very much to **Lindsay R.** for bringing in some seedlings (from Woolworths) for the garden and to **Harper K.** for bringing in some boxes for the children to use in the making area. Your contributions are very much appreciated!

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR CONTACT DETAILS RECENTLY?



Please advise Tina (at the Reception Desk) as soon as:

ANY of your own contact details change

ANY of your emergency contact's phone numbers change

OR

You wish to **add** or **remove** an emergency contact.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CONTACT YOU AT ANY TIME IF NEEDED.



Children's Centre Car Parking

Parking space in the Children's Centre car park is limited and is primarily for staff and families attending CAFHS appointments or accessing Community programs.

Alternative parking space is available along the side of Barnet Road or opposite the centre, behind the Aldi building.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE DISABLED ACCESS CAR PARK - UNLESS YOU HAVE A VISIBLE, AUTHORISED DISABLED ACCESS STICKER DISPLAYED IN YOUR VEHICLE.

This clearly marked parking space is allocated specifically for people attending the Children's Centre who need access to this park.

Also, please be aware of and avoid parking over the walkway crossing the car park.

The walkway (concrete path), provides a designated crossing for families to walk safely though the car park from the front gate to the Children's Centre entrance.

Please remember to drive carefully around the Children's Centre and schools!

Gawler & District College B-12 Children's Centre

Yes! We're on Facebook!

Our Face Book Page has posts containing Preschool Information, Program and Activity Flyers, Photos, Community Notices, plus lots of other interesting and important information that might be of interest or help to you and your family.

So, if you use Facebook, please have a look and "Like" our page!

Just type in

Gawler & District College B-12 Children's Centre
and search for our spotted Logo!



Child and Family Health Service

Child and Family Health Nurses are at the Gawler and District College Children's Centre for scheduled appointments from Monday - Friday.

We provide services for children aged 0-5 years of age.

If you would like your baby/child's weight, growth and development assessed, health checks completed or to gain information on all aspects of parenting (including feeding, sleep and settling), please book an appointment to come and see us.

To make a clinic appointment, please phone: **1300 733 606**



FOR OUR FAMILIES!

CHECK OUT THESE FABULOUS COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND PLAYGROUPS!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON!



"WOMEN ONLY"
on **WEDNESDAYS!**
Is Back On - 24 Feb!
B.Y.O. ART & CRAFT CAFE
OR JUST COME FOR A CUPPA AND A CHAT!

"WOMEN ONLY" on WEDNESDAYS! 

W.O.W. is a **FREE** Friendly and Relaxed
B.Y.O. ART & CRAFT CAFE GROUP for women of all ages.
It's a safe and inclusive space for women to come and share
a cuppa and a chat together, and make new friends.

WHEN?

The Group gets together on Wednesday Evenings
7:00pm to 9:00pm
(During School Terms Only)



WHERE?

Gawler & District College B-12 Children's Centre
Gate 6 - 69 Barnet Road, Evanston

For More Information or To Register Please Contact
Kim on 0408 192 143 or 8523 2575



BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL EACH WEEK PLEASE
SORRY - NO CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



Please Practice Safe Distancing
BE COVIDSAFE
If you are feeling
unwell please stay home



KADLITIYA KIDS Play & Learn Playgroup

NOW ON FRIDAYS!
12.00midday to 1.30pm

(During School Terms)



Aboriginal Cultural Activities & Lots of Outdoor Play

AT THE GAWLER CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Starting on Friday 5th of March, 2021
GATE 6 - 69 BARNET ROAD, EVANSTON



PLEASE BRING
HEALTHY SNACKS WATER BOTTLE & SUNHAT
FOR YOU & YOUR CHILD



FREE

To Book In - Please Call or text Kim Wright on 0408 192 143
Or email: kim.wright2@sa.gov.au

ENTER VIA THE SIDE GATE AT THE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND



Gawler and District College B-12
Children's Centre
for Early Childhood
Development and Parenting



Practice Social Distancing

BE COVIDSAFE
If you or your children are
unwell please stay home



GAWLER
FRINGE
IN THE PARK
BACTON ST. RESERVE
EVANSTON
SATURDAY 6 MARCH
10AM-1PM

LIVE MUSIC • CIRCUS WORKSHOP
ART & CRAFT ACTIVITIES • FACE PAINTING
AIRBRUSHED TATTOOS • SAUSAGE SIZZLE
ICE CREAMS AND MORE!

ALL FOR FREE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Phone: 8522 9208
Email: community@gawler.sa.gov.au



2021
Easter
SATURDAY DADS & KIDS
EASTER CRAFT FUN MORNING!

FREE ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY 27TH OF MARCH, 2021
9.00am to 11.00am

Gawler & District College B-12 Children's Centre
Gate 6 - 69 Barnet Road, Evanston

FREE - EASTER CRAFT ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS!
Special Easter Egg Treasure Hunt Too!

HOT PANCAKE BREAKFAST FOR DADS & KIDS!

Gawler and District College B-12
Children's Centre
for Early Childhood
Development and Parenting

All Dads, Grandads, Male Carers Welcome
But Please Let Us Know You're Coming
To Register - Call Kim on 0408 192 143
by Thursday 2/4/2020