

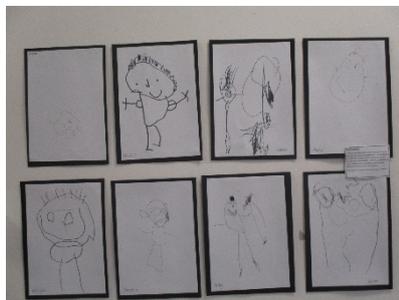


Dear Parents and Carers,

Our term has certainly moved extremely quickly as we have welcome children and families into the Centre building a sense of belonging and connections into the community.

We have Preschool Photo day occurring early next term. Please see details of the event in this newsletter and look out for an information flier in your child's communication pocket before the end of term.

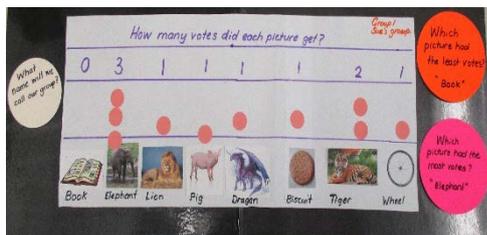
Quality Area 1- Educational Program & Practise

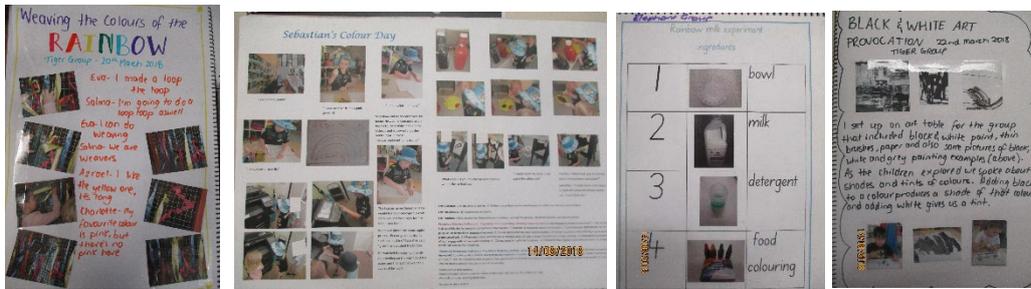


It is important for children's sense of identity and wellbeing that they have a safe, secure and supportive environment to learn in. The children have been developing understanding of a range of Preschool and Occasional Care routines such as hygiene, eating, Sunsmart, group skills, sustainability, transitions, emergency drills and beginning and end of day routines. The majority of children are now demonstrating independence most of the time with these skills now. Educators are continuing to monitor and support individual children as required to ensure they build capacity to manage these self- help skills with increased confidence.

Voting for our group names.

Children have been busy deciding on a name for their small groups where formal learning occurs. Children used literacy and numeracy processes to name and vote for their preferred name reading data and using number to calculate the winning name.





Colour Inquiry

Children in Group 1 have commenced their Inquiry of Colour through exploration of paints, colour mixing, reading stories, science experiments and sensory play experiences. Meanwhile in group 2 children's inquiry has focussed on establishing a garden and reptiles. This learning has been supported by voting for favourite plants, planting seedlings/seeds, observing reptiles such as a beaded dragon and tortoise and exploring the outdoor environment for reptiles. All the children's learning is displayed in the preschool room and in each group's floor book.



Harmony Day

Children in group 2 held their celebration on Tuesday 20th March and Group 1 on Wednesday 21st March. Children's celebration included painting while listening to a variety of cultural music, reading big books about cultural celebrations, reading the picture book Handa's Surprise and playing with balloons.



Quality Area 2- Children's Health & Safety

Nude Food Day this term

Each term our centre will be celebrating Nude Food Day to build awareness of healthy food and awareness of how to reducing plastic and wrapper waste. Look out for the flier in your child's communication pocket and supports us to teach children the value of unprocessed food. It will support health and the environment.



Benefits of Nature Play at Preschool:

- *We have such a brief opportunity to pass on to our children our love for this earth, and to tell our stories. Richard Louv, Author of Last Child in the Woods -*

Immunity and overall health

Studies are now indicating that the cleanliness of our society is reducing the exposure to important bacteria resulting in increased levels of immune disorders and allergies. In addition, when children are interacting in the natural environment they are being active which aids in the prevention of obesity and cardiovascular related illness.

Creativity and imagination

Mud is an unstructured element of play with no prescribed use. And therefore children have full creative power to use it in any way they choose. Whether they invent characters, games, make mud pies, create small worlds, or perhaps smear it all over their face – they are creating their own stories from the creativity and imagination that exists in their hearts and minds. In addition, problem solving, sensory awareness, benefits to fine and gross motor skills, resourcefulness, inventiveness, and other life-long skills are associated with mud play.

Connection with nature

There is something profound about the benefits that nature provides to every human being. Whether it is listening to the wind in the trees, watching the clouds float across the sky, or recognising the familiar smell of dirt after rains, and the gritty feel of mud between our fingers and toes, we all feel a connection. Nurturing this connection in children is vital as it builds values associated with empathy, nurture, love, and a broader sense of belonging. Mud provides an ideal platform for children to immerse themselves in one of nature's finest elements and in doing so build a life-long connection to the natural world. *Information source: Nature Play SA website.*

Our centre will be developing information on the benefits of nature play to share with families. In the meantime please find attached a number of Nature Play publications

- 50 things to do before you are 5
- 50 things to do in Nature in Autumn

Maintaining a healthy environment for all centre users

It is really important that the centre is notified when your child is unwell. We are required under the regulations of the National Quality Framework to inform families of outbreaks of illness or infectious conditions.

When children are unwell the centre is not a restful environment like home where children can have ongoing support if feeling unwell to rest and recover. We do not have surplus staff to care 1:1 for sick children.

If your child is unwell overnight with vomiting or gastroenteritis they are required to have 24 hours recovery time before returning to the centre.

In the case of an infectious condition you will need clearance from your doctor to ensure it is safe for your child to return to the Centre to avoid infecting other children and adults.

Thank you for your support in this matter. If you would like further information about illness and infection control please check the glass doors in the foyer for specific information or speak with our Receptionist Kim.

Quality Area 4 Staffing Arrangements

Director:	Sue Holecek (1.0) Teaching 0.4 Monday and Wednesday morning/ Administration (0.6) Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and Wednesday pm.
Multidisciplinary Team	Family Services Coordinator (1.0): Kirsty Dimmick Community Development Coordinator (1.0) Susan Petrie Allied Health Speech Pathologist (0.3) Melissa Saliba Allied Health Occupational Therapist (0.3) Belinda Jankowiak
Receptionist	Kim Smith Monday to Thursday 8:00-3:15 Friday 8:00-12:00
Teachers:	Gemma Cross (0.8) Tuesday to Friday, Libby Jones (0.8) Monday to Thursday Cheryl Capewell (0.6) Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Niki Koutroulis: Aboriginal Family Literacy Strategy teacher (0.4) Monday and Friday
Speech and Language program	Sophie Seekamp: (0.4) DECD Speech Pathologist Kristen Scrimshaw (0.6) ECW2
SSO:	Kathryn Wall, Melissa Delia, Bethany Postings, Vanessa Stuchbury, Annie Rutherford, Vicki Kerr, Elaine Thompson
ECW Occasional Care	Melissa Delia and Kathryn Wall
Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer	Karley Agius Monday and Friday morning

Our Centre has been fortunate to be provided with an extra 0.4 teacher position this year. Niki Koutroulis has been appointed as an Aboriginal Family Literacy Teacher and will work with 3 and 4 year old Aboriginal children and their families to build engagement with reading. This initiative is supported by the federal government initiative of "Closing the Gap" on Aboriginal learner's academic attainment.

Niki will conduct an inquiry on reading. We will report on the inquiry's progress over the year.



Preschool sessions

Group 1 – Monday and Wednesday full day 8:45AM-2:45PM and Thursday morning 8:45AM-11:45AM

Group 2-Tuesday and Friday full days 8:45AM-2:45PM and Thursday afternoon 12:00PM-3:00PM

Preschool Fees

There are still some outstanding fees for Term 1, these can be paid either at the Reception of the Children's Centre or the School Front Office. Thank you.

Occasional Care

We conduct 2 sessions of Under 2 year old and 4 sessions of Over 2 year old Occasional Care each week.

Under 2 sessions are Monday and Thursday morning 8:45am-11:45am

Over 2 sessions are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings 8:45-11:45am and Thursday afternoon 12:00-3:00pm.

Please see Kim at our Reception desk if you would like further information or would like to enrol.

Occasional Care Fees are set at \$5:00 per session for non- concession card holders and \$1:50 per concession card holders per session. Sibling discounts apply if more than one child in the family attends Occasional Care

Families are reminded to please pay their Occasional Care fee on arrival to their booked session to Kim at the Reception desk.

Advanced notice: Preschool Photos

Preschool Photo Day

Preschool Photos for 2018 will be taken on Tuesday 8th May (Group 2) and Wednesday the 9th May (Group 1). There will be fliers placed in communication pockets before the end of term. All Preschool children will have their photos taken. There is no need to pay for photos on these days.

When the photo albums arrive from the photographers we will place up signs for parent/caregivers to view photo albums. (This can take up to 4 weeks) Albums must be paid for before taking.

All payments **MUST BE CASH ONLY**. Included with the albums is an order form, if you would like to order more photos (for the grandparent, aunts or uncles).



Attendance

If your child is absent from Preschool, we ask that you ring the Children Centre to notify staff.

Change of information

If you have moved house or have a new phone number please let Kim at Reception know so our student records can be updated.

Preschool banking

Our banking days are Tuesday and Thursday. For further information, please see Kim at the Reception desk. Children will be given a gift when they open an account. Thank you.



Parents and Carers are reminded that the Car Park at the front of the Centre is for staff and centre visitors only. Thank you for your consideration in parking on the street.

In the Community

Get to know the Multi-disciplinary Team

Not everyone may have had the opportunity to get to know our Multi D team thus far and therefore may not even know who they are or what they do here in the Centre. Therefore each upcoming newsletter we thought we would introduce one member of the Multi D team and share their role. This week is Kirsty, our Family Services Coordinator:

Welcome Kirsty!

Kirsty is our new Family Services Coordinator at the Centre.

Family Services Coordinators work alongside early childhood education and school staff, health workers and other services to help families develop and maintain safe, caring, connected and resilient relationships. They also support parents to access support within their own community.

Family Services Coordinators can:

- provide short-term counselling to identify and respond to personal issues
- connect families with appropriate services eg, mental health, housing, drug and alcohol, domestic violence, provide follow up, advocacy and work in partnership with the family and other services
- facilitate parenting programs, such as Circle of Security and Bringing up Great Kids, with a focus on parenting, relationships, trauma recovery and social and emotional wellbeing
- work with Families SA to assist children in out-of-home care to be either reunified with their parents or to facilitate positive connections with their parents and extended family.



Meet & Greet Breakfasts – Back again in Week 11

Some of you may remember the breakfast session we held in the reception area back in week 3 of term and even had a go at trying the delicious pancakes, muffins or muesli we had available. The Meet and Greet Breakfast is an opportunity to get to know and have a chat to the families, staff and services available at the Centre and a FREE breakfast, where children will be able to get involved and there will be resources on breakfast to take home. We will be hosting this again on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th April (last days of term), with new foods (and recipes) for you to try.

Community Foodies

Do you have an interest in food and healthy eating, or a love for cooking or gardening? Would you be happy to share this with others?

Our Children's Centre has strongly supported the Community Foodie program and for those who have attended recent cooking programs or the Meet and Greet Breakfast, would have got the opportunity to meet a Foodie. So next term along with Novita, Parafield Gardens Children's Centre and the local community centres we are running our own Community Foodie training. This is



a volunteer program in which you will receive training around nutrition, food safety and skills such as communication and leadership which will look fantastic on are looking for work or considering returning to work in the future. Creche will be available.

An information session is being held at Parafield Gardens Children's Centre, 9 Casuarina Drive, Parafield Gardens on Thursday 5th April at 12pm to find out more information.

If you have any questions, or interested in hearing more, have a chat to Susan, Community Development Coordinator, she was once a community foodie herself! Or visit www.communityfoodies.com

OPAL partnership consultation

As families may have seen throughout the centre and on our Facebook page, the Children's Centre has partnered with OPAL Salisbury to support our families to eat well and be active and we wanted the community to help us decide what they would like to see within the Centre next term.

Options include:

- A bike rack purchased for the centre (so bikes and scooters can be left here safely during school hours) and learn to ride lessons for children
- A nature craft program for children to be held within our community space
- Adult gardening program and resource development for the community garden

Voting has now closed and we just wanted to thank all families who voiced their choice – whether it be through facebook, the whiteboard in reception or completing a flyer.

Grow Free Cart

Don't forget about our Grow Free Cart at the entrance of the Children's Centre! Families and the community are welcome to place items on here in addition to taking as much or as little as they would like off the cart – it's a lovely fresh produce community exchange! So if you have anything in excess at home, please remember to bring it along to the cart rather than seeing it go in the bin.



Term 2 Timetable – Out soon!

Our term timetable for next term will be released soon! Keep a look out for it as there will be lots of new things happening within the community space including the introduction of a baby playgroup, Dad's Circle of Security, Bringing Up Great Kids and workshops on sleep and separation anxiety.