

Newsletter, Term 3, Week 8

We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal people as the State's first people and Nations, and recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters.

Key Dates:

After School Market- 14th September
Thursday 22nd September National Day of Mourning – School Closure
Steiner Spring Festival- 23rd September
Family Fun Fair- 5th November

Director's message:



The children tell stories in many different ways. Often their stories are part of making 'small worlds' with blocks, toy animals and people. They then recount and as part of sharing what they have been doing. This then becomes a rich literacy experience that is enjoyed by children and extends their imaginative and creative abilities.

Term three is coming to an end and the children show us they are growing and developing socially, emotionally and cognitively each time we see them. It is a joy to hear their stories, their expressions about the world and their place in it.

Next term the preschool children who are going to attend the primary school will be visited by the reception teachers as part of the transition process. Building relationships of trust is an important part of a successful transition. We also visit the school library regularly and then play on the equipment close by. Often the reception children are in the area to play alongside of our children, making the experience of playing in a school yard a familiar one.

If you want to share with us any thoughts you have about class placement for next year, please don't hesitate to do so. Whilst we can't guarantee what

class your child is placed in, we will always advocate for your child, and welcome a chance to discuss with you our insights into who their friendship group is and who they learn best alongside of.

With Covid-19 restrictions lifting we welcome families to spend time with their child at drop off either inside or in the garden. All we ask is you keep as much socially distanced as possible. However, we want you to feel welcome to be in our space and meet with other families where possible.

Our younger children that attend Occasional Care and Playgroup really enjoy playing outside in the garden and so the longer days and warmer weather will be welcome.

We still have many children absent with sickness and we truly thank you all for keeping your child home to stop the spread of infection.

The School will host the annual fete this year for the first time in a few years. The Trinity Gardens Family Fun Fete will be held on Saturday the 5th of November. We will be looking for families to help out by manning the Animal Farm station. This entails taking payment and monitoring the foot traffic for the wellbeing of all. So please look out for the request to help on this important combined fundraising event. It will only be a half hour of each person's time and they will be supported. Please lock this date in your calendar to not only help out if possible, but to come along and have fun with the whole family

Spring is here and the sun is more damaging at this time of the year. **Please pack your child their hat** for when the sun comes out. We will start applying sun screen soon and requiring hats to be worn in week 9.

Ngaityalya,
(Kurna, *thank you*)
Christine (Director Education and Care)

Early Learning Centre/Preschool

How do the Educators at Trinity Gardens Kindy Support Children's Learning?

One of the most important goals of all education, at every level, is to support and strengthen the disposition to go on learning throughout life.

(Lilian G Katz STEM in the Early Years)

As part of our site's educator learning, we have engaged in several articles looking at the importance of engaging children in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) opportunities. One of these articles discusses the importance of making a distinction between Academic (such as pre-literacy and numeracy skills involving memorisation, drills etc – writing/counting, often learnt out of context) and Intellectual goals for young children (such as coming up with ideas, predicting, questioning, and reflecting often sitting within a particular learning context).

The article suggests that effective learning in the early years engages both Academic and Intellectual learning in a context that is of interest to the children and is lead by their wonderings. Where the educator works closely alongside children to prompt, encourage, support and extend their learning. Supporting important dispositions for learning such as problem solving, resilience, perseverance, creativity and curiosity as well as recognise and stretch children's identity and skill as literacy and numeracy learners in purposeful and engaging interactions.

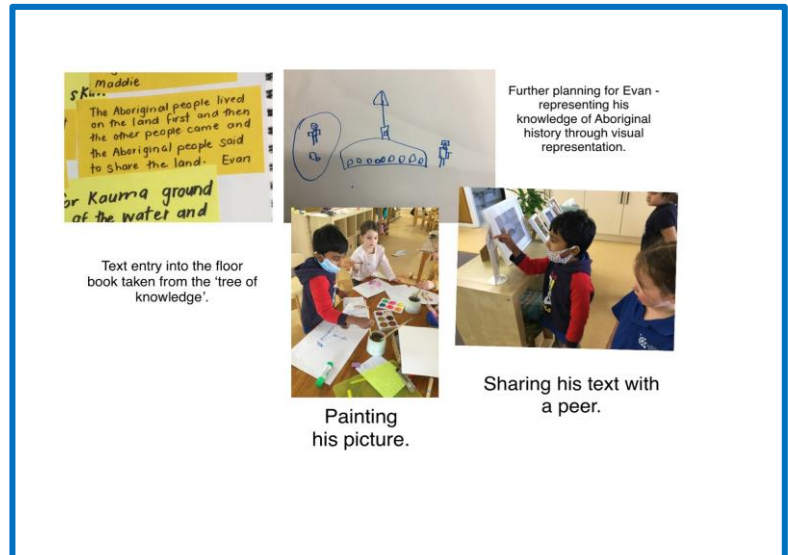
An effective way for early years educators to engage and promote both Academic and Intellectual learning and to integrate STEM learning into the curriculum is by using an Inquiry Approach where children work in groups with a common interest. Children are supported to work collaboratively and learn from one another. It allows children to enter the experience at their level of development and to be supported to extend their learning in an individualised way. It strongly supports our sites improvement goal to 'extend children's speaking and listening skills'

As educators at Trinity Gardens Kindy we have been exploring this way of working and to document the children's learning, the educator's analysis and their future planning for children we are exploring the use of 'Floor Books' to make this process visible.

We are very proud of these documents as they develop, grow and expand. They illustrate the wonderful collaborative learning taking place in children's play.

We often have these documents out for you to access at the beginning and ending of the day.

You are warmly invited to spend some time engaging with these books to see this process in action.



Shelley, Gen, Katrina, Mary, Lisa, Alison

Occasional Care

With the aim of extending children's speaking and listening skills, we are engaging the children in conversations as we invite them to share something about home. We wonder what is important and meaningful to children in both the special and the routine things at home. Over time, we observe children's language growth, as they add more detail to their responses, and use more complex words, sentences, and concepts.

Here are some of the responses to our wonderings and questions with children in our groups aged mostly 2 and 3 years of age.

"Tell us about your home...."

- "I have lights like yours. I have 5 puppies that fall asleep on us"
- "I have two gardens. One at the front and one at the back"
- "I have a toilet - a BIG toilet! My house has corners"
- "I live in an Adelaide house. I have incredible books! We borrow incredible books from the library"
- "My house is black".

(Do you go shopping?)

- "I have scones. Mummy puts me in a trolley and a man gives us scones".
- "I've done the shopping. Woollies!"

Conversations - both verbal and non-verbal, involve "serve and return" - as in a game of tennis. This term refers to the turn taking that is so important in a

conversational exchange. For the littlest children, a sound, eye contact or a movement can be their 'serve' - and then the responsive parent/carer answers the child's serve with a 'return'- by giving the child attention, eye contact, mimicking their action or sound, or speaking to them. Waiting and giving time for children to think and respond is important. These interactions are the building blocks for brain growth, making strong connections and language learning. The conversations you have together as you involve children in the everyday routines of home and life are all teaching and learning moments.

If you have any concerns about your child's speech or language development, please feel free to speak to staff. CAFHS (Child and Family Health Service) offer a free service for all families with children 0-5 years of age living in South Australia. CAFHS provide developmental check-ups for children and can offer advice for any concerns. Call 1300 733 606 to make an appointment, or visit www.CAFHS.sa.gov.au. CAFHS has consulting rooms in our Trinity Gardens Children's Centre.

Alison and Kirsty

Community Development Update **Cathy Tomaselli**

Hi Everyone,

Here we are in Week 8 and Term 3 is nearly over.

My role as the Community Development Coordinator (CDC) in the Children's Centre and my work at the centre is to be the Community Connection for families and ensure that we can offer a good range of community programs at the Children's Centre to compliment the education programs we provide for families.

The Dad's Playgroups on Saturdays has been well attended this term with a few new families starting too.

Even though the weather has been cold the dads and children have been very busy playing and learning together and enjoying the space and activities we have set up for them inside and outside.



Some of the dads have given us feedback about their experience

"My kids enjoy having me take them somewhere to a fun activity and they are always very excited to go!"

"Coming to Dads Playgroup has strengthened my enthusiasm for being a dad and valuing my role in the family. It's a great to celebrate dads."

The Mums Wellbeing Group was happening at the same time on Saturday and a few families make the most of this opportunity with mum having some time out while dad is sharing the fun in playgroup with the children. It's always nice to see the families catch up after both sessions and the children sharing what they did in playgroup.

We offer this playgroup three times a term to enable families that can't do these activities during the normal week an opportunity to share some time together.

Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) are back in the centre more often this term and have just started the Early Parenting Groups. It's great to see the new parents and their babies back in the centre again after the long break due to COVID.

Please have a look at our What's On for all program details and if you have any questions or are looking for some further information, please don't hesitate to contact me at the Children's Centre or by email cathy.tomaselli@sa.gov.au

Take care and I hope to see you soon.

Cathy

Making Yourself Predictable

Caregivers in our supported playgroups may have heard us talk about the importance of telling our children what we are doing.

In everyday moments naming what you are doing is a simple action which will help build learning and relationship you have with your child.

When you name what you are doing for children:

- 1 It is respectful – it sends the message to the child that you are aware of their presence and that they are considered.
- 2 It makes you predictable, and this makes children feel safe and secure in the environment and with you – they are kept “in the loop” with you
- 3 When you name what you are doing it models this behaviour for children. They will then name what they are doing - this develops their social skills.
- 4 Overtime, children will trust you will return and be more settled. This supports development and self-regulation

Examples-

“I am just going to my bag to put my phone away”

“I am leaving now (such as childcare) and I will be back later”

“I am coming up behind you so I can see what you are doing”

“I just putting the washing in the basket so we can take it outside to hang up”

“I will just turn the T.V. off so I can hear you better”

“Ah, you want me to be the Doctor, I am going to give you an injection (pretend play).....”

“I’m just going to pick you up and put you in your car seat”....

Want to know more, please ask us!

Mary, Hazel, Mandeep and Andrea

Learning Together Playgroup snapshot



Message from Emma



If your child is unwell or will not be attending Preschool session please contact the centre on 8333 2557.

Feedback

Preschool families were recently sent a Parent survey by the Department for Education via a text or email. Thank you to the families that took the time to respond.

Children's Centre families will shortly be able to give us feedback about the services/programs provided in the Children's Centre building. This will be shared electronically via facebook or QR code and we will have paper copies in the centre. Your feedback is used in our planning for future programs to ensure they are relevant for our community.

Important reminder - Child Safety

The Preschool and Children's centre are very busy places at pick up and drop off time. The Children's Centre building opens directly into the carpark on Devitt Ave, so the following information is a reminder to teach our children road safety.

Remember to teach your children to
STOP at a safe distance from the road
LOOK left and right
LISTEN for oncoming traffic
THINK is it safe to cross
Before crossing the road

More information can be found using the following links www.kidsafesa.com.au and www.raisingchildren.net.au



Upcoming Event

