

Waite Campus Childrens Centre

# Family News

August 2023



**Congratulations** to Qi, Gang and Leo (R3) on the arrival of Hannah

**Congratulations** to Meaghan, Tysen and Phoenix (R1) on the arrival of Layla



Save the date: coming up on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September** we will be have a Sunday Soup day at the centre. Grace will make a chicken, corn and quinoa soup, and a vegetarian minestrone soup and we will provide bread rolls. All you need to bring is a mug for the soup and rug to sit on. (A mug and a rug ) More details to follow. Come along for a chance to catch up with friends and spend a relaxing afternoon in the sunshine (hopefully!) There is a registration sheet in reception.

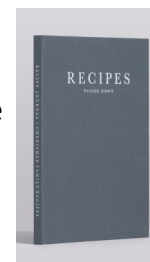


## Parent Advisory Group 2023

Thank you to everyone who responded to the call out for PAG members. We had a great response. I would like to welcome Kelly (Room 3), Ana and Kent (Room 1) and Yu (Room 2) to the group. We are now at capacity. Our next meeting will be Monday 11th September, at 4.30pm. We will be holding a working group to write the WCCC Reconciliation Action Plan.



We are collating a recipe book from Grace's kitchen. This will be a collection of her most loved recipes, and the child care favourites from the children. There will also be a section of favourite recipes from home. If you have a recipe that you would like included in the recipe book, please send it to me via email. We would like any submissions to be in by the end of September. It will make a great Christmas present for the family! Don't forget to email your recipes to [childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au).



Waite Campus Childrens Centre is on Facebook.

Like us and share our posts



## Tell Services Australia if your circumstances change

If you get Child Care Subsidy (CCS), you have an ongoing responsibility to keep your information up to date.

You must tell Services Australia if:

- your family's income changes
- your or your partner's activity levels change
- your relationship status changes
- there are any other changes to your or your partner's circumstances.

Services Australia needs this information to pay you the correct amount of subsidy. They may overpay you if your details are not up to date. If this happens, you'll have to pay back the amount you owe.

The easiest way to update your details is online. Update your details using your Centrelink online account through myGov, or the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

Read more on the [Services Australia website](#)

## Big W Toys for Joy

Is your playroom littered with old toys that are broken or unfit to rehome? We have got a solution for you!

[Big W Toys for Joy](#) collects all brands of toys for recycling—and its free to participate in.

Getting started is as easy as one, two, three.....

1. Round up all of your old and broken toys.
2. Head to the Big W Toys for Joy program page to find your nearest Big W store.
3. Take your toys in store so they can be sent to TerraCycle for recycling.

Once collected, the materials of the toys will be separated. Plastics are shredded to be made smaller, then melted and reformatted into pellets or flakes, while metals and aluminium are shredded and smelted to be used as something new. Natural fibres from soft toys are converted into a material called 'shoddy' which is used for insulation and product stuffing.

Find your closest Big W store so you can start recycling.







## *What's cooking in the kitchen with Grace?*



By now you've probably heard of 'worm juice' or 'worm tea'. But in case you've never heard of it, worm juice is the liquid that you collect from a worm farm. Some people also call this worm tea but hardcore worm farmers use this term to refer to a potent brew they make by adding molasses to 'worm juice' and aerating it with an aquarium pump to increase the numbers of beneficial microbes in the liquid fertiliser that this process creates. The short story is, whether you make 'worm juice' or brew up a pot of 'worm tea', it can be used as a fertiliser for your garden, and here are some reasons why it's **amazing**.

**Remember early in the year, we talked about making our own worm farm, now its time to use some of the benefits our hard-working worms have been brewing in their little home.**

Worm tea acts as a natural **insect repellent**. The tea contains **microorganisms** which produce **chitinase**, a digestive enzyme that breaks down the exoskeletons of insects such as arthropods. Additionally, the microbes have disease suppressant qualities too, helping to stop problems such as root rot! Simply spray the worm tea on the leaves of your plants until it is dripping onto and into the soil to give protection from various root and foliar pathogens, as well as the pesky insect pests.

Beyond the benefits of worm tea, worm farming is a fantastic way to sustainably eliminate food waste. Not only are you creating amazing veggies and fruits, you're also returning the leftovers back to the earth. Whether you buy worm tea or you make it yourself, it's a beautiful, organic way to fertilise your garden, and it cuts down on the plastic used to create factory-made fertilisers. **Dani & the Room 3 children love making worm juice.**









## Lamb Meatballs in Shell Pasta



### Meatballs

500g of lamb mince (or.... ½ & ½ of pork & beef or chicken & turkey mince)

1 medium brown onion, chopped

1 small garlic clove, crushed

½ cup chopped herbs (parsley, sage, basil)

1 medium carrot, grated

1 medium zucchini, grated

½ cup grated cheese, (parmesan or pecorino cheese)

### Sauce

2 x 500g tins of chopped tomato

2 tbsp of olive oil

few basil leaves chopped

1 packet of large shell pasta

2 litres of water

1 teaspoon of salt

### Method

Combine all meat ingredients into a large mixing bowl and make into round small walnut size balls. Then in a medium stove top pot, place olive oil, basil leaves and tomatoes from the tin, bring to boil, place meatballs into sauce & let simmer for 20 minutes, adding a little water as needed. At the same time, bring to a large pot of 2 to 3 litres of water to a rapid boil, add your salt. Then add your packet of shell pasta, cook for 12 to 15 minutes or when the pasta is soft to touch. Drain water from the pasta, and combine the sauce and meatballs with the pasta and serve with the grated cheese and ENJOY!

## Room One Report to Families

**August 2023**

Welcome to new children and their families starting with us in Room One - Indi, Rylee, Mackenzie, Luna, Fred and Mitchell. Educators will sensitively support the children as they develop a sense of trust and security with their Primary Educator and the broader play environment during their transition to Room One.

The children have been actively showing their interest in animals and birds recently. We have the opportunity on a daily basis to share the outdoor space with many visiting birds and many children are enjoying watching and calling "Bird" during their play. We also support these interests through providing puppets/ soft toys, plastic animals, stories and songs. We hope to introduce several of the Kurna names for the animals and birds.

Our visits to Pilybilyangga/ bush garden have provided many learning opportunities for the children to explore the paths, climb over logs and rocks, watching the worms in the worm bath, feel the sensory wonders of the stones, bricks, sticks and plants on hand - all unfolding at the speed of the children's interest and energy levels.

We also took a short walk to the CSIRO building to visit the Aboriginal themed mural (part of commemorating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on Aug. 4). The mural contains many images of animals which the children loved to find and identify.

Birthdays have been an important part of the room's highlights during the past month and the older children engage enthusiastically with blowing out the candles and sharing the excitement among their Room One friends.

Children continue to share in the daily tasks of "helping" as they contribute to packing up toys, washing the tables, sweeping the sand back to the sandpit, washing their own hands and face after meals.

With the support of our visiting students (Megan, Leah and Abbey) we have been able to offer experiences such as painting and playdough which the older children readily engage with.

Thank you to families who have recently donated toys and books for the Room One children.

As we begin to enjoy more sunny days we ask that families please provide a broad brimmed hat for sun protection.

Room One team - Gayle, Cherry, Karen, Yaejee, Zoe, & Yan

## Room Two Report to Families

August 2023

In Term 2, we were focusing more on language skills for children to be able to identify and communicate their feelings, needs, and emotions.

Our team has been practising an intentional teaching approach to enhance communication and language skills. We were committed to using new words in our conversations and illustrating those words with pictures. Thinking and listening to the children is naturally also an integral component of this process.

As a result, children are interested in talking and sharing their feelings with their friends. They have long conversations even on small topics. As an example, most of the children have their gumboots and jacket because of the wet weather. They use descriptive words when talking with their friends, like “I have two pockets in my jacket”, “I have a blue jumper with two pockets”, “I love my Dinoceras gumboots”, and so on. Being able to have conversations about these things help them not only develop their language skills, but it gives them affirmation of their beliefs and help them learn the concept of ownership.

Recently, we captured children's attention through fun activities like singings songs, making animal and bird sounds, and acting funny faces. This helps to increase their focus and sustain it throughout the activities. We also have rhythms such as “walking in the jungle”, and story times for developing their phenological awareness skills and preparing them to be a good reader in the future.

In Term 3, we have been focusing on social and cognitive skills of our children. Our team has been practising a play-based learning approach to achieve our goal. One of our strategies is to form a weekly chart to organize learning experiences effectively. We are welcoming new educators, placement students, and volunteers to be involved in the process and enhance children’s learning and development by providing new, fresh, and different perspectives. As a result, our children are more excited and engage well in group and individual experiences.

We have also been enjoying Butterfly Garden with Room 3 every Tuesday. Children are using this opportunity to gain new play ideas from their senior friends in a natural environment. Making a campfire, waving to next-door kindy friends from the fence, hanging on the tree branch, and bonding with their siblings help children not only to feel belonging and community but also help them to figure out negotiating group dynamics.

We are very grateful to our new and transitioning children as they are getting well-settled and have gradually started to play with their peer groups. We are also excited to support them through a consistent and warm nurturing relationship. We look forward to being a part of their learning and emerging personality in the future.

Room Two Team

## Room Three Report to Families

**August 2023**

Welcome to Sebastian, Jimmy, Zoe, Robert, and Asher, who have successfully transitioned from Room 2. We also welcome Bella, Renee, and Winston, along with their families, as they begin their journey in the Kindy Room this July. We are excited for this transition and aim to ensure it is a positive experience for everyone involved. We look forward to getting to know the unique qualities and interests of every child and fostering a nurturing and supportive environment together.

Throughout July, we have been consistently emphasizing the importance of health and what it truly means to be healthy. Encouraging outdoor experiences remains important even during winter months, allowing children the freedom to choose whether to spend their time indoors or outdoors. We have made regular visits to the Butterfly Garden and the Adventure Playground, providing valuable opportunities for children to enhance their gross motor skills, take calculated risks, exercise their imaginative abilities, play safely, and learn to care for one another. In Term 3 on Tuesdays we start the day in Pilyabilyangga and on Wednesdays we regularly visit Adventure Playground.

Children have been enjoying drawing and colouring and turning their pictures into kites by using the hole-puncher and attaching a piece of string to it.

Large floor puzzles have been very popular, offering the children the opportunity to collaborate as a team and work together to complete them.

Children have been role-playing scenarios like doctors and patients, dance shows, and family interactions such as playing mom, dad, and kittens. It's fascinating to observe how they create characters, negotiate roles, take turns, and invent props accordingly. Moreover, their dialogue has become more complex, adding depth to their imaginative play.

The children have displayed a consistent fascination with planets and the solar system. They find joy in listening to both fictional stories about space and real non-fiction books about spaceships, astronauts, and planets. During playtime, they love to imagine themselves as astronauts.

Folding paper airplanes has been a consistent favourite among the children, providing them with an opportunity to learn and follow instructions. With Science Week just around the corner, we decided to build on the children's interest during group time. We selected two distinct paper airplane designs from the book "Awesome Paper Planes." Together, we folded these planes and then put them to the test to see which one flew the fastest.

These topics will lead us into Science Week in Term 3, with a specific focus on "Inventions." During this week, we will celebrate the inventive mind of our young "inventors" in Room 3, showcasing their creative PoliM cars and trucks. It promises to be an exciting and educational journey into the world of innovation and discovery!

We have already begun planning for a busy Term 3, as it will not only feature Science Week but also Book Week.



## Waite Campus Childrens Centre Calendar

Term 3: 24<sup>th</sup> July to 29<sup>th</sup> September

**Education for Sustainability** Wednesday

**R2/3 Pilyabilyangga** Tuesday

### August

31<sup>st</sup> August

Last day of Winter



### September

3<sup>rd</sup> September



Father's Day

6<sup>th</sup> September



Early Childhood Educators Day

7<sup>th</sup> September

Indigenous Literacy Day

10<sup>th</sup> September



Sunday Soup Day – bring a mug and a rug

14<sup>th</sup> September

R U OK? Day



Term 4: 16<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> December

**Education for Sustainability** Thursday

**R2/3 Pilyabilyangga** Wednesday

### October

2<sup>nd</sup> October

**Centre closed** – Public Holiday

4<sup>th</sup> October

Early Childhood Australia National Conference Centre Tour at WCCC: Ecological identity and sustainability

9<sup>th</sup> October

**Closure Day** – WCCC team professional development day

16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October



Aussie Backyard Bird Count

21<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October

Childrens Week - **Children have the right to relax, play and take part in activities they enjoy.**

# Child Care Subsidy balancing basics

At the end of each financial year, Services Australia balances your Child Care Subsidy. They do this to make sure you got the right amount of subsidy for the year.

## How it works

Services Australia look at your actual income for the 2022–23 financial year and compare it to the estimate you gave them.

They then work out if you were paid too little, the right amount or too much. They'll send you a letter to let you know the outcome. Your outcome will tell you which of the following applies to you:

- You'll get a top up of subsidy because you were paid too little.
- You'll need to pay Services Australia back because you were overpaid.
- Nothing further because you were paid the right amount.

## What you need to do

To balance your payments, Services Australia needs to confirm your family income for the 2022–23 financial year.

They'll do this after you and your partner lodge your tax returns with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). If one or both of you don't need to do this, you'll need to tell Services Australia you or your partner don't need to lodge and provide your actual income, even if you've already told the ATO.

For 2022–23, you need to confirm your family income before 30 June 2024.

Your subsidy can only be balanced once your income is confirmed.

## Telling Services Australia you or your partner don't need to lodge a tax return

You can tell Services Australia you or your partner don't need to lodge a tax return and provide actual income in either your:

- Centrelink online account through myGov
  - Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.
- Select **Advise non-lodgement** and follow the prompts.

If you separated during the financial year, we may use your ex-partners income to balance your payments. If your ex-partner has not lodged a tax return, or if you don't know if they have lodged one, you should call Services Australia on **136 150**.

## When Services Australia will balance your subsidy

Services Australia will start balancing Child Care Subsidy payments from mid-August 2023. This is to make sure they have all your attendance details for the financial year.

## Where to go for more information

To see when your subsidy has been balanced you don't need to call Services Australia. Instead you can:

- keep an eye on your myGov Inbox or myGov app, this is where Services Australia will send your outcome statement
- view the status of Child Care Subsidy balancing in your Centrelink online account through myGov or Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.



To find out more about balancing your Child Care Subsidy go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/ccsbalancing](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/ccsbalancing)