
Waite Campus Childrens Centre Parent Newsletter

April 2009

Please read this newsletter to find out more about:

- ◆ Accreditation
- ◆ Philosophy Review
- ◆ Walk to school/childcare day May 15th
- ◆ Kidsafe
- ◆ Information on the web
- ◆ WCCC 'Green Page'

Parent evening—thank you

Thank you to all the families who attended our parent evening with Mark Le Messurier on building your child's emotional resilience.

As well as having an extensive knowledge of child development and dealing with challenging behaviours Mark was also a very entertaining speaker. If you would like to have a look at some of his work visit his website at: www.marklemessurier.com.au Our next parent evening will be in September. If there is a particular topic on early childhood development and learning that is of interest to you or a speaker you would like to hear please speak to Kaarin .

Accreditation

We are into Step 2 of our accreditation process. This involves each family and staff member completing a validation survey and then a peer validator visiting the Centre for 2 days. We are not provided with the specific dates that the validator will attend the Centre but have been notified that our validation period is from 9th April to 20th May. Our validator, Vanessa, will conduct her validation visit anytime during this period. The validator will be at the Centre for 2 consecutive days observing practice and viewing documentation. Each family has been given a validation survey which has a return date of April 22nd.

We are required to have a response rate of at least 40%. At past accreditations we have had 60%-70% of families return their surveys and we are hopeful that have the same response this time. **Surveys will be forwarded to the NCAC on Tuesday 28th April so please return by then.** If you have lost or misplaced your survey additional copies are available on the reception desk or from staff in the room.

Philosophy review

Our philosophy review continues. The current draft as modified by the ACCC PAG is:

"We foster reciprocal connections between children, families and staff to create a welcoming and safe learning environment.

We promote relationships that support children to:

- develop a sense of belonging and community;
- respect and care for each other and the environment;
- see themselves as confident, adaptable and capable.

We provide a positive environment to promote active learning and development through play.

We recognise and celebrate our diverse backgrounds and the abilities that we all bring to our community.

We respectfully acknowledge that the land we learn, grow and create upon is the traditional land of the Kurna people and we value and support the importance and principals of a reconciled Australia."

*Please provide any written feedback via the centre post box in the office door or email:
childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au*

Welcome

We have several new children commencing at the Centre in April .

We welcome the following children and their families

Charlotte, Fabian, Jay and Thomas to Room 1

Cooper, Grace, Edward and Thomas to Room 2

and Hansi to Room 3.

Board and PAG Matters 2009

Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc (AUCS) Board meets on the last Monday of the month. The next meeting will be Monday 27th March at Waite Campus. The new collective agreement for staff has been signed and will go to the Industrial Relations Commission in April/May. The **Parent Advisory Group (PAG)** meets on the **third** Friday of the month. The next PAG meeting will be Friday 15th May.

Walk safely to childcare/school on Friday May 15

If you live too far away why not park the car away from the Childrens Centre and enjoy a short walk with your child. Tell the staff when you arrive about what you have seen on the day and we will keep a record of everyone who walks and children's comments about their walk.

This is an ideal opportunity to review road safety with your child, particularly key pedestrian safety messages. *Tips on pedestrian safety with children are available from staff.*

Staff Matters

Welcome to Judy Newport who has joined us as a casual/relief staff. Emma D has taken up a position as a nanny and Jacqui is commencing a position as an assistant at St Andrews early learning centre.

Did you know?

There are photos of all the staff in the entrance hallway and each room has a daily photo roster which shows the photos and names of the staff working in the room across

Recycled paper quiz

How does buying recycled paper reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

- A) Less energy is used in production.
- B) Less paper is sent to landfill.
- C) Fewer trees are cut down.
- D) All of the above.

(answer on next page)

Information for families on the web

Kidsafe

www.kidsafe.com.au the Kidsafe website is a directory of State sites which have fact sheets on such topics as nursery equipment, toys, storage and handling of dangerous products in the home and poisoning. General fact sheets on safety concerns for specific age groupings of children are also available.

The Centre also has a resource folder of these fact sheets in our parent library. Please speak to staff if you would like a copy of any of these. There are also copies of the Home Safety Checklist if you would like to take one on the reception desk.

Working families often have busy hectic lives and do not always have time to visit or phone government and other services. You can view the what, why and how of family assistance, including information on childcare benefit and family tax benefit on the Family Assistance Office website at **www.familyassist.gov.au**

Other useful websites for families include:

www.ada.org.au the Australian Dental Association website has information in the Consumer Information section including fact sheets about dental health for babies and preschoolers and answers to frequently asked questions on dental health. .

www.choice.com.au the Choice Magazine website has up to date consumer information about a wide range of products and topics including: nursery furniture and bedding, infant health, safety and feeding, general health, nutrition, diet and safety and appliances

www.immunise.health.gov.au the Immunise Australia website provides comprehensive information regarding immunisation for both adults and children. It has the most up to date immunisation schedule and also provides a question and answer section of the most commonly asked questions about immunisation.

www.parenting.sa.gov.au provides information fact sheets on parenting and child development topics as well as links to other useful sites.

WCCC Green Page

Walk Safely To School Day

Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual, national event when all Primary School children will be encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment. It will be held throughout Australia on Friday 15 May 2009. The event is proudly sponsored by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. It is supported by the Australian Government, all State, Territory and Local Governments and Planet Ark, The Heart Foundation, The Cancer Council of Australia, Diabetes Australia and Beyond Blue. Tell your friends, parents, carers and teachers about the event and encourage others to participate.

For more information visit walk.com.au, phone the Pedestrian Council of Australia: (02) 9968-4555 or email: walking@walk.com.au.

For information on children's health and nutrition visit: www.heartfoundation.org.au

Lets walk safely to childcare on Friday May 15th! See posters in Centre for more information

Recycled paper... is it worth it?

We all use paper, and generally we all know that paper comes from trees and plants. We are also increasingly conscious of conserving trees by reducing paper consumption, and using products made from recycled paper. As well as using our limited natural resources manufacturing paper also uses large quantities of water, oil, electricity and chemicals. These chemicals pollute our waterways, air and earth. Paper is one of the greatest causes of deforestation worldwide. In many countries, irresponsible, illegal logging is widespread. In Australia native forests are logged for paper cardboard and packaging destroying the habitat of endangered species such as Leadbeaters Possum, the Tasmanian Wedged-tailed Eagle and Western Ringtail Possum.

Producing 1 tonne of recycled papers saves 31,1780 litres of water, 4100 kilowatt/hours of electricity, 75% of chlorinated bleach, 27 kilograms of air pollutants, 13 trees, 4 cubic metres of landfill and 2.5 barrels of oil.

Buying 100% post consumer waste recycled paper is the best way to minimise the impacts of your paper consumption.

Quiz Answer (all of the above)

(Ref: Australian Conservation Foundation)

To support the reduction of paper usage at the Childrens Centre we would like all families to receive their invoices by email. Please provide us with your email address by a written note in the post box or emailing: childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au

Reducing consumption :

We can all do many things to reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfill.

- ◆ Reduce the amount of disposable packaging by buying in bulk from co-ops and refilling containers.
- ◆ Avoid plastic bags and compost your food scraps. Use what you need, not what you can afford!
- ◆ Reuse -- keep everything that can be reused (eg paper, bottles, jars).
- ◆ Recycle -- everything that cannot be reused.
- ◆ Aim for zero rubbish, it can be done!

If you have achieved the level of zero rubbish please tell us your story

Ideas news or information to share

Is there something you would like to share with others? Events that support the environment and sustainable living? green tips that will help us all lighten our footprints?

Please email to:

childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au for inclusion on our [Green Page](#)

National Tree Day gives all Australians an opportunity to get involved with their local environment at a community level.

<http://treeday.planetark.org/>

In 2009, **Schools Tree Day** will run on **Friday 31st July** and **National Tree Day** will take place on **Sunday 2nd August**.



Walk Safely to Childcare/School

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Tell the staff when you arrive about what you have seen on the way and we will keep a record of everyone who walks and children's comments about their walk.

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Key pedestrian safety messages

Stage 1

- Hold a grown-up's hand
- Hold a grown-up's hand when you're on the footpath
- Hold a grown-up's hand when you cross the road
- Hold a grown-up's hand when you're in a car park
- Wait till the traffic has gone and then use a safe place to cross

Stage 2

- Use a safe place to cross
- Hold an adult's hand when you cross the road
- Wait till the traffic has gone and then use a safe place to cross

Step 3

- Stop! Look! Listen! Think! every time you cross the road
- Use a safe place to cross the road
- Wait till the traffic has gone, then use a safe place to cross the road