

---

---

# Waite Campus Childrens Centre Parent Newsletter

---

---

*From the Director*

*March 2011*

---

---

## Belonging, Being and Becoming at WCCC

Belonging, Being, Becoming is the name of the new National Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) The EYLF vision is that :

*"All children experience learning that is engaging and builds success for life."*

"Experiencing **belonging**-knowing where and with whom you belong– is integral to human existence. Childhood is a time to **be**, seek and to make meaning of the world. **Becoming** reflects the process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn and grow. "

Since early 2010 WCCC educators have been exploring what EYLF means for children at the Centre.

We have also explored what makes educators and staff belong at WCCC, what they feel they can be and what they feel they are becoming by working at our Centre. The staff team have used their responses to plan how they will work together as a team in 2011.

In our 2010 program and service review we asked families to reflect on how WCCC supports their sense of belonging, being and becoming. Key words and phrases used by families in their responses included:

*involved, confident, welcome, genuine relationships, open communication,*

*connected, community, happy, relaxed;* showing us that most families develop a strong sense of belonging, being and becoming through being a part of our children's centre community.

More detail is displayed on the parent notice board.

The program and service review also provided an evaluation of our key outcomes for 2010.

Almost forty percent of families responded to the survey providing a diverse cross section from each room.

Almost 90% of respondents felt the seven key outcomes included in the survey had been achieved or achieved at a high level. We value the additional comments provided and the ideas for improvement provide a starting point for our continuous improvement plans.

The Parent Advisory Group has done a review of the feedback received and will extend these key outcomes as areas to be built on and enhanced during 2011.

*Please take some time to have a look at the display on the parent notice board in the reception area and read some of the responses.*

## Parent Evening

**Our first parent evening for 2011 will be on Wednesday 30th March 7-9 pm.**

Our guest speaker will be Fiona Glover

who will provide an introduction to mindful parenting. Fiona will explore how to parent in a kind, calm and peaceful manner while maintaining clear and fair boundaries for your child. She will discuss how living 'mindfully' in the present moment can assist you to be the parent you want to be and deepen your relationship with your children.

We have another evening booked for Tuesday June 21st with guest speaker, Sarah Blunden from the Australian Centre for Education in Sleep

## Earth Hour

### Saturday 26th March

Join millions of global citizens and turn off your lights for one hour at 8.30 pm and demonstrate your commitment to the environment and sustainability. Go to:  
<http://www.earthhour.org.au>  
 To sign up and show your support

## Board and PAG Matters 2011

**Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc (AUCS)** meets on the last Monday of the month, The next meetings will be Monday 28 March at WCCC .  
 The **Parent Advisory Group (PAG)** meets on the third Friday of the month. With our next meeting on Friday 18th March.  
 The current members of the WCCC Parent Advisory Group are listed on the parent notice board.  
 If you are interested in joining this group please speak to Kaarin or one of the other PAG members.

## Story Board

Have you noticed our story board?  
 On the right hand side of the hallway as you walk through the Centre there is a long felt board that we call our story board. During the year this is used to display different aspects of the Centre program. Kathy has recently put up a display of photos and observations detailing the children's experiences with tadpoles and caterpillars as they watched them going through lifecycle changes and become frogs and butterflies.

## Harmony Day—everyone belongs

Harmony Day is celebrated around Australia on 21st March each year. It's a day where all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. The day is also the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. On Monday 21st we will have a special performance from Tony Genovese and the Cool 4 Kids team. Their performance of original music promotes living in harmony and a sense of belonging for everyone. Our theme is 'when everyone belongs we can make a rainbow' so we encourage everyone to wear their favourite colour and celebrate belonging.

## Bookings and enrolments

All rooms are working close to capacity. In the coming months there may be some options for additional casual bookings in Room 2 on Tuesday and Thursday and Room 1 on Tuesday and Friday.  
 In April/May when we have 6 siblings due to start in Room 1 and only 3 part time children transitioning to school from Room 3. Transitions to Room3 will be limited especially as no Thursday children are moving on to school.

## Sustainable living and AUSSI-SA

Waite Campus Childrens Centre has been chosen by the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative SA (AUSSI SA) to be a focus site.

This means that we will be receiving support to review and evaluate our strengths and weaknesses as a whole centre in our approach to education for sustainability (EfS) with the view to becoming a lighthouse centre for other early childhood services.

In 2007 a group of WCCC parents and staff completed a comprehensive assessment of our service to develop a strategic plan that would support and guide us in achieving both short and long term environmental and educational goals. Underpinning this is our Sustainable Living policy which is also linked to the Centre's philosophy which was comprehensively reviewed in 2009.

Being an AUSSI-SA focus site will involve us exploring with families and staff where we are and where we can go, and, developing a Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP).

We are very excited to be offered this opportunity .

Our first consultation will be on Saturday April 2nd 9.30-11am.

This will be a meeting for parents and staff to meet with AUSSI-SA program staff and discuss the AUSSI-SA Core Indicators tool and evaluate WCCC strengths and weaknesses.

To make this process worth while we need you to join us.

Please email [childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au) and title your email 'EfS Focus meeting' by Thursday 31st March to let us know if you are able to attend this important meeting.