
Waite Campus Childrens Centre Parent Newsletter

From the Director April 2011

The Early Childhood Development Story

A National Project conducted on behalf of the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) has reported on recent neuroscience research and how to better engage families, educators, carers and the community to increase their understandings about early childhood development and thereby maximize early childhood outcomes.

“Neuroscience confirms several key factors as being vital in early childhood development:

- ◆ The first five years of life last a lifetime
- ◆ Good nutrition, health and exercise are critical
- ◆ Children are born ready to learn
- ◆ The best learning happens in nurturing relationships
- ◆ The brain develops through use
- ◆ Children’s wellbeing is critical to brain development and learning
- ◆ Children learn through being engaged and doing
- ◆ Children learn from watching and copying
- ◆ Children’s self control is critical for learning, responsibility and relationships
- ◆ Children learn language by listening to it and using it
- ◆ Children are born ready to use and learn maths”

Each of these keys factors links to one or more aspects of the National Early Years Learning Framework (Outcomes, Principles and Practices) which is the core document used by educators in implementing learning programs at the Centre.

In addition the reports notes that:

“Play more than any other activity, promotes healthy development of children. All learning (emotional, social, motor and cognitive) is accelerated by play... Play engages children’s attention, providing challenge, observation and opportunities for practice and success in the development of skills, creative problem solving, concepts and relationships.” And that:

“There is little evidence that television viewing before age 3 increases later learning.

Over-scheduling of educational/structured activities limits children’s natural curiosity which drives their learning through their explorations.”

If you would like to access the full reports you can go to the MCEECDYA website at:

<http://www.mceecdya.edu.au/mceecdya/publications> and look at the various publications on *Engaging Families in the Early Childhood Development Story*

Saturday May 7th -A working bee for Pilyabilyangga

Work on the butterfly place is progressing well with stage 3 completed and stage in progress.

As the area has been developed we have made some adjustments to plans and will now include a small wetland area and boardwalk in the south western corner.

Thanks to a small grant from Grow a Great School we have 200 plants to go along the fence line and fill up some bare spots in the established garden areas.

We will be having a working bee for planting and weeding on

Saturday 7th May 11am-3pm.

We hope this time will provide the flexibility for families to come for an hour or so without taking up too much of the week end. Drinks and snacks will be available.

Please bring hats, gloves, spades, forks and lunch if needed.

Welcome to:

Gabrielle and Elizabeth
who have recently joined Room 2
And to the following children who will be
joining us in April
Sidney, Arlo, Yumo, and Darshvir to Room 1.

Bookings and enrolments

From the end of May all rooms will be fully booked on all days with the exception of Room 3 where there are a couple of places available on Friday. This means that options for casual care or occasionally swapping days will not be available unless children are on holidays.

AUSSI-SA

Thank you to the parents who attended the planning session for AUSSI-SA on Saturday 2nd April. We will be drafting a Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) and seeking further feedback from families in early May.

Some questions we will continue to explore are:

- ◆ Who/What is the WCCC community?
- ◆ What does children's leadership look like in early childhood?
- ◆ Where do we want to be in 2015 with respect to sustainability?
- ◆ What will be our priorities for education for sustainability?

Board and PAG Matters 2011

Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc

(AUCS) meets on the last Monday of the month,

The meeting for April was held early due to public holidays. 2011-2011 budgets were approved and discussion continued re the Collective Agreement with staff and the extensive changes we are required to implement due to the National Quality Framework.

The next meetings will be Monday 30 May at ACCC .

The **Parent Advisory Group (PAG) has changed it's meeting day and will now meet on the third Wednesday of the month.**

Meeting times are going to be rotated between a lunch time meeting and a 4.30-5.30 pm time slot.

The schedule of meetings for the remainder of 2011 will be Wednesday :

18th May 1-2pm

22 June 4.30-5.30 pm

No meeting in July

17 August 1-2 pm

21 September 4.30-5.30 pm

19 October 1-2 pm

16 November 4.30-5.30 pm

14 December 1-2 pm

We have combined the Sustainable Futures

Committee with the PAG and hope to have several new members join us soon. All meetings are held at Lirra Lirra.

Budgets 2011-2012

As many of you are aware early childhood services in Australia are currently undergoing extensive change with the implementation of the National Quality Framework.

Once this process is complete it will bring all early childhood services whether they be long day care preschool or family day care under the same National standards and Regulations with expectations of the same outcomes for children from all services.

WCCC has been for several years exceeding State licensing requirements with respect to child:educator ratios and educator qualifications. These new changes do however have an impact on us and require more strict adherence to child:educator ratios at all times of day including during lunch breaks and beginning and end of the day.

WCCC also prides itself on having a collective agreement that is second to none in SA and which is used as a model by the union, United Voice.. This agreement has improved staff retention and is providing children and families with a highly qualified team of educators.

High quality childcare is expensive and meeting the new requirements of the National Quality Framework as well as CPI increases in on costs, particularly food and services, will require a daily fee increase of \$5 per day. As a not for profit service all income received is used for service delivery to children and families with 87% of costs related to the employment of staff.

The new fees, effective from Monday 4 July 2011 will be:

	Under 2's	Over 2's
Weekly	\$385	\$380
Day	\$78	\$77
Session AM	\$46	\$45
Session PM	\$45	\$44