

---

---

# Waite Campus Childrens Centre Parent Newsletter

---

---

*From the Director*

*February 2011*

---

---

## Talking about 'play'

*Belonging Being Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework* is Australia's first National Curriculum for educators working in early education and care settings with children from birth-to age five. The *Early Years Learning Framework* confirms that play-based learning is nationally and internationally valued and seen as a key contributor to young children's lives and learning. *Yet what is play ?*

Play in the context of early education and care settings is far more than children being provided equipment and opportunities to enjoy each other's company.

Play is seen as having seven characteristics. Play should be:

1. Voluntary - something children choose to do, but other children can be invited to join in.
2. Pleasurable - a deep sense of enjoyment that will vary from child to child
3. Symbolic - usually includes some type of make believe or pretend and objects assume new meanings and purposes for the players/s
4. Meaningful - to the player/s, but the meaning may not always be clear to the observer
5. Active - it requires active mental, verbal or physical engagement with people, objects or ideas
6. Process oriented - its enjoyed for the activity itself, not concerned with an end product
7. Intrinsically motivated - it is its own reward

*Providing children with experiences that are open ended and explorative, and opportunities to experiment with the process is a key to early learning. It means that children will not be taking home 'products' or 'objects' that they have made as these things are usually the result of adult directed activities . Such activities will not meet the criteria above and provide limited learning for young children.*

In the early childhood service environment educators have a key role in play that maximizes children's learning. These include:

1. Quality adult-child interactions, including sustained shared thinking
2. Intentionality - includes knowing how to value add to children's play by encouraging persistence and scaffolding to enable the child to complete a task such as a puzzle
3. Taking different roles directly in the play - allows the educator to ask questions that extend play and increase its sophistication
4. Teaching to support play - including providing space, flexible environments and open ended materials
5. Challenging unjust and unfair play

Ref: EYLFPLP e-newsletter No 1 2010

---

---

## Welcome

We welcome the following children and their families  
Callia, Madeleine, Casper , Mika, April, Keeley, Alex, Bowen,  
Felix, Olive and Andre to Room1; Max to Room 2  
and Sequoia, Duc, Minh and Noa to Room 3.

We extend a special welcome to Duc and Minh who arrived from Vietnam recently  
and are new to Australia as well as to our Centre

---

---

## New Babes

Congratulations to  
Ruth, Andrew and Naomi (R3)  
on the birth of Ian 15/01/11  
to  
Hong Mei, Gary and Krystelle (R1)  
on the birth of Curtis 27/01/11  
to  
Meredith, Karl and Jemima (R2)  
On the birth of Piper 7/2/11  
And to  
Merrilyn, Finnur and Hali (R3)  
On the birth of Solveig 13/2/11

## Board and PAG Matters 2010

**Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc (AUCS)** meets on the last Monday of the month, The next meetings will be Monday 27 November at WCCC .  
The **Parent Advisory Group (PAG)** meets on the third Friday of the month. With our next meeting on Friday 18th February.  
We will welcome Michelle Gegenhuber (Parent of Natasha R3) as a new member.  
If you are interested in joining this group please speak to Kaarin or one of the other PAG members listed on the Parent Notice Board.

## Thank you

A big thankyou to all Monday families who supported our early closure day by collecting their children early on Monday 14th February. Staff had an extended time (5-8.30pm) for reviewing OHS and emergency procedures and developing our 'group understandings' for 2011. Program teams also spent time further exploring learning through play and planning for 2011.

## Bookings and Enrolment

We have had a busy start to 2011 and have enrolled 14 new families with 16 children. All rooms are working close to capacity.

In the coming months there may be some options for additional casual bookings in Room 3 on Tuesday and Friday, in Room 2 on Tuesday and Thursday and Room 1 on Tuesday and Friday. Any vacancies on these days will however be filled in April/May when we have 6 siblings due to start in Room 1. There will be 3 part time children transitioning to school at this time however this again does not provide the vacancies in Room 3 required to transition 3 year olds from Room 2.

\*\*Casual bookings in Room 1 are only available with advance notice of at least 10 days.

## Staffing Matters:

The team of educators for 2011 are:

**Room 3:** Dani (CSP3, assistant director and room coordinator) Lucy (CSP1) Vikki (CSP1) and Eunice (CSA 2.5) with Daphne (CSA 2.5) supporting the team by covering annual, training and sick leave .

**Room 2:** Cassie (CSP2 and room coordinator) , Kathy (CSP3 and assistant director), Christine (CSP1), Pina (CSP2) and Yvett (CSP 1).

**Room 1:** Eleanor (CSP2 and room coordinator), Marta (CSP1), Bobbie (CSA 2), Helen G (CSA2) and Karen (CSA2) is our regular relief member . We are currently recruiting a new permanent CSP 1 educator. Helen W is continuing in her current role until our recruitment process is complete.

Tamala continues to complete her apprenticeship for her Cert 111 . Jamie, and Belinda also provide relief work as needed. Heather is our Tuesday -Friday cook and Helena our Monday cook, though occasionally they will swap days just to surprise you! Jill is responsible for accounts and works Monday mornings and Thursdays and last but not least Kaarin our Director.

In coming weeks Bobbie will be taking 2 weeks leave from Feb 21 to March 4 and Dani , who gets married on March 5th , will be away from Feb 28th until March 21st .

## Primary carers:

While we aim to have primary carers rostered to greet children and parents in the first few weeks of their enrolment at the Centre we have found this rather difficult with 11 new children in Room 1. While we have ensured that each educator does not have a large group of new primary care children on any one day it has then become impossible for each staff member to be at the Centre every day when their new primary care children arrive. We have aimed to ensure that primary carers are at the Centre as much as possible with primary care children in these first weeks and thank the parents for their support and understanding with this. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

# Waite Campus Childrens Centre Green Page

## Sustainable Living

Since 2007 WCCC has had a Sustainable Living policy which is aimed at helping children, staff and families acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to form judgements about sustainable lifestyles and to participate in environmental decision making as part of a global community.

Our 'green page' is a result of this.

We have integrated an experiential approach to environmental education into Centre programs providing opportunities for child-initiated experiences that support children to learn through discovery.

We have purchased carbon credits to offset our carbon usage for the past 4 years and improved our sustainable living practices through reducing water usage, reducing electricity consumption, recycling and implementing a range of environmentally friendly cleaning procedures. We have also been active in supporting and educating other early childhood services and we were the first child care centre in South Australia to be an AUSSI (Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative) site. The work of educators and families has been acknowledge recently by NRM Education who have asked us to be a focus site for AUSSI-SA in 2011.

## Pilyabilyangga– the butterfly place

Pilyabilyangga is the name of our outdoor classroom and garden which is located at the western and southern ends of the Centre. Pilyabilyangga means butterfly place in Kurna. This name was given to us by the Kurna Warra Pintyandi Group (Kurna elders).

Additional development in this area will begin soon. At the end of 2010 we were successful with our application to NRM Education for a small grant to install a watering fountain for the butterflies.

Our landscaper is in the process of gathering suitable rocks for this. In addition 3 seating areas of gum logs and rounds will be positioned along the western boundary.

Room 3 children are regularly enjoying time in this area. The addition of the seating will allow for quite observation and monitoring of seasonal changes.

## Clean Up Australia

WCCC is participating in Clean up Australia Day on Friday March 4th. Our designated area is the Waite Campus. Room 3 children accompanied by staff and parents will walk around the Campus between 10am and 11am collecting any 'rubbish'.

Children will be closely supervised to ensure this is done safely. We have special bags and gloves for participants.

To support this project it would be great to have at least one parent and staff member with each group of 4 children. If you are able to give some time on this day please speak to Vikki who is coordinating this project.

National Clean Up Australia Day is Sunday March 6th. If you would like to help in your local area visit: [www.cleanup.org.au/au/](http://www.cleanup.org.au/au/)

## Green Notice board

This is located in the hall way.

Our Carbon Neutral certification will be displayed . This are is also use to display events of interest to families with respect to sustainability and environmental education.

Please take time to look at this regularly.

## Outdoor development

The remodeling of Room 1 outdoor area has been completed with lots of new plantings and a beautiful mosaic .. Original design by Room 1 educators. We have also had some new shade blinds installed in both outdoor areas allowing us to increase the shade in hotter weather.

The new lawn continues to thrive and children are enjoying the lovely green space.