
Waite Campus Childrens Centre Parent Newsletter

May 2009

Please read this newsletter to find out more about:

- ◆ Inquiry into learning in the early years
- ◆ Budgets 2009-2010
- ◆ New staff, bookings and enrolments
- ◆ WCCC 'Green Page'

Learning and development in early childhood:

The most important learning that children ever do happens in their first five years. This has traditionally been within their home with parents and extended family. However in the 21st century most children under 5 will also spend increasing amounts of time in an early childhood service such as a childcare centre. Governments around the world are acknowledging the importance and value of quality early years environments through increased funding for programs and through the development of 'frameworks' for early years learning. These commitments recognise that education and care for young children are inextricably interwoven. The rapid rate of growth and development in the first five years demands that we provide for all areas of a child's development and implement strategies to scaffold each child's learning.

Programs at WCCC aim "To enhance the development of each child attending the Centre, to encourage children to be actively involved in learning and to promote the development of strength and resilience."

The rationale for this is that: providing a balance of developmentally appropriate and diverse experiences for all children will enhance their learning and development and encourage them to explore interests with curiosity and persistence. (Developmentally appropriate experiences are those that are consistent with and build on the child's current level of understanding).

It is good to review and evaluate what we do and why we do it. In the next 18 months we will be giving some focus to an inquiry project, to explore with families and staff, our shared understandings of the early years. Some questions to begin this inquiry might be:

What is your understanding of early years learning?

Have you ever reflected on your expectations of childcare?

Have you discussed this as a family?

Are these expectations the same for your child at age 1 and at age 3?

What are the values that underlay your expectations?

If you have any thoughts or ideas on these please record them and share with the staff in your child's room or email to childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au

Budgets 2009-2010

The Centre's budget for the 2009-2010 financial year has been completed and approved by the AUCS Board. We are probably all feeling the effects of the Global Financial Crisis in some way or other.

At the childcare centre we are feeling the impact via reduced interest on our provisions accounts and increasing cost in food and consumables. We have also had to budget for wage increases as the new collective agreement becomes effective from 1 July 2009, and also the new child:staff ratios for under twos.

The result is that there will be a \$3 per day increase from Monday 6 July. New fees will be

	Under 2's	Over 2's
Weekly	\$340	\$335
Daily	\$69	\$68
Session am	\$40	\$39
Session pm	\$39	\$38

Welcome

Welcome to Room 1 to
Alize and Hikaru
who join their siblings at the Centre
and welcome to ;
Room 3 to
Laura and her family.

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 June at Waite Campus. We are still waiting for the ACCC to confirm our revised philosophy. The **Parent Advisory Group (PAG)** meets on the **third** Friday of the month. The next PAG meeting will be Friday 20th June.

Walk safely to childcare/school and Loud Shirt Day

Thank you to all the families who supported these projects. Room 3 children enjoyed being able to discuss what they saw as they walked to childcare. Our support for the Cora Barclay Centre, is in recognition of the two children who attend Waite CCC each week who have significant hearing loss. We raised \$270.

Staff Matters

Welcome to Vince Eli who has joined our staff team as a Children's Services Professional in a contract position in Room 2 for 2009. Vince has over 10 years experience working in childcare at all age levels.

We also welcome Sofie Yankou who has joined us as a casual/relief staff member. Sofie has been working across the Centre in all rooms
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 the day. (new staff photos yet to be taken!)

Accreditation

Almost 60% of families returned their validation surveys and our validation visit was on May 12 and 13.

This means we are now at stage 3 of the accreditation process. All the information, family and staff surveys, the Centre's self study report and continuing improvement plan and the validator's report on our validation response will be reviewed by a moderator who will make a recommendation to the NCAC Board as to our accreditation status. It can take up to 3 months for us to receive our accreditation.

Bookings and enrolments

As most families are already aware we had a large number of siblings born in 2008 and the progressive enrolment of these children is filling most of the vacancies in Room 1.

In addition we have an imbalance in bookings in all rooms which means that the vacancies that will be created in Room 3 in July (when a small group of children go to school) do not match the children who may be ready to transition from Room 2.

Any vacancies then created are in Room 2 do not match the bookings of the children who could move from Room 1.

I am currently in the process of speaking to families who may have options of changing days to assist with creating a balance of enrolments across the Centre. The days creating the biggest problems are Wednesdays in Room 3, Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 2 and Wednesday in Room 1.

There are also several families wanting to add additional days or change the days of their bookings and we are currently unable to accommodate these changes.

If you are planning to make changes to your child care bookings in the coming months we would appreciate written notice as early as possible.

WCCC Green Page

Food For Thought

Coming into winter it's nice to stock up on hearty meals. This doesn't mean we need to put extra weight on the environment.

Our food accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions than our transport, and uses more water than goes into our home and garden. This is due to the fertilizers, water, transport, storage, packaging and processing involved in food production, as well as our food scrap disposal.

Simple actions can reduce the impact of food on the planet, and on our wallet. Here's a few:

Cut down on food wastage

Almost 25% of the food that is purchased in Australia is wasted - that represents a huge waste of energy and resources.

Setting a menu plan - and shopping to the plan - is one of the easiest ways to reduce food wastage.

Check out LoveFoodHateWaste.com to find menu plans (great when you're busy!) and other tips like judging portion sizes, recipes for leftover food and more cheap eco-friendly ideas.

Recycle Food Scraps

When food scraps (and other organic material like garden cuttings) are thrown in the garbage they end up in landfill where they break down without oxygen and create methane. Methane in a greenhouse gas with **20 times** the global warming capacity of carbon dioxide. This greatly increases the impact of our food choices on the environment.

Any of the food recycling methods, composting, worm farming or bokashi buckets (and using your council's green collection service if they provide it), reduces these negative greenhouse effects.

[International Compost Week](http://InternationalCompostWeek.com) has just been held on 3rd - 9th May. Visit CompostWeek.com.au to find out more about how composting helps us to combat climate change by reducing harmful greenhouse gases, reducing water use and recycling nutrients.

More Info

There are many other ways to lower the impact of food and drink. For more info, factsheets and guides to composting and worm farming check out Planet Ark's [Festive Recycling](http://FestiveRecycling.com).

(Reprinted from Planet Ark)

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 save paper and email: childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au

World Environment Day is June 5
The Slogan For 2009 Is 'Clean Up The World'
Wear blue because the world needs you

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**.