Continuity of Learning

‘Connections and continuity between learning experiences... make learning more meaningful’ (DEEWR 2009 p 32)

Continuity of learning is one of the key principles of the National Early Years Learning Framework that is the core curriculum document for early childhood services across Australia... why?

Significant learning rarely ‘just happens’; new learning for everyone usually builds on our previous knowledge and experience. Children’s learning occurs over time as they practice and master new skills, concepts and techniques. To achieve this children need repeated opportunities and extended blocks of time to use open ended materials and resources and engage with new ideas and knowledge.

For young children continuity of the learning environment, continuity of educators, and continuity of group all contribute to the development of supportive learning relationships. When children have longer periods in the same learning environment the sophistication and complexity of their play increases. They then have not only the time to plan and refine ideas but the comfort in knowing that they have the time to finish what they have started and the possibility of returning to further build their ideas later in the day. For 3-5 year olds play ideas and scenarios can be built across days and weeks and returned to again and again.

The opportunity to revisit and extend play deepens the learning. Natural materials including sand and water are great examples of rich materials with endless possibilities. Nature play in Pilyabilyangga provides children the opportunity to use other natural materials including dirt, stones, bark, leaves and twigs. Other open ended materials and experiences include blocks, drawing, painting and bits and pieces for do it yourself construction. All of these experiences allow children to experiment, discover, construct, problem solve and hypothesise. They provide the foundation for numeracy and literacy as children can explore size, shape, texture, colour, height, weight, volume and much more.

Parent and educators may worry that children get bored if they have the same experiences that are repeated many times yet open ended materials that can be used in multiple ways are likely to engage children’s interest for longer periods of time. Extended blocks of time with rich open ended materials will engage children in meaningful and absorbing play and also promote higher level thinking as children recall and make connections to what they have done previously. For children sameness is not usually boring it is exciting with endless possibilities as they can create their own play resources and use these in the play scenarios that they script.

Familiarity breeds creativity.


Free dental care for young children

The School Dental Service is available to children aged birth up to 18 at public dental clinics throughout South Australia. Dental care is provided by teams of dentists, dental therapists and dental assistants. Dental care is free for children before they commence school.

It is recommended that children have their first dental visit at around 12-24 months. It is very important for future health and wellbeing that children develop good dental habits early. Dental staff can talk to you about your child’s individual dental health needs.

You can contact the local School Dental Clinic for our area Mitcham School Dental Clinic on 82710317. The clinic is located at Mitcham Primary School Elphyn Road Kingswood 5062 and is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
New babies
Congratulations

to Gabriel, and Dominique on the birth of their twins
Benjamin and Sebastian

Welcome to
the following
children and their families who have joined WCCC in April
Ethan, Adam, and Sebastian to Room 1
and
Clara to Room 3

AUCS Board and WCCC PAG Matters 2014

The Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc (AUCS) Board meets on the last Monday of the month and will meet next on Monday 28th April and then Monday 26th May.
The AUCS Board is currently reviewing budgets for 2014-15 and working on a new strategic plan.

The WCCC Parent Advisory Group (PAG) and Sustainable Futures Committee meets on the third Monday of the month with our next meetings on Monday 28th April and Monday 19th May. We will complete a final review of our QIP and continue planning for our 20th birthday in 2015.
If you are interested in joining this group please speak to Kaarin or Merrilyn.

Educator and staff news:
Cathy has commenced as our new administration assistant working Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and Gavin has commenced as our chef/cook working Monday to Friday preparing healthy and nutritious lunches and afternoon teas.
Helen has returned from long service leave to work in Room 1 while Eleanor is having an extended holiday and will return on May 14th. Bobbie, Kathy Christine and Dani will all complete an update of the first aid certification in April and May.
Some of our educators are also students. Daphne and Kay are currently completing placements for their Children’s Services Diplomas.
Tamala and Lucy are also building on their Certificate 111 qualification by studying for their Diploma.

Administration Reminders:
Annual administration fees for 2014 have been invoiced to accounts for families who continued from 2013. If you have set up an regular automatic EFT to pay your account please remember to do a one off transfer to pay the administration fee.

Attendance sheets
Parents are required to sign their child in and out each day and sign for absences. Attendance sheets are kept in the room for a week. If you have forgotten to sign in or out or if you child has been absent and you have not been able to correct this during the week you will received a coloured slip in your communication pocket. Past attendance sheets are located in folders on the reception hob for signing, with a folder for each Room.

Attendance times
It is very important that we have correct arrival and departure times for all children. The busiest times of day are usually arrivals between 8 and 9 and departures between 4.45 and 5.30. In order to maintain our educator:child ratios at their optimum children should arrive and be collected as close as possible to their booked times. If after your child commences work you find that you need to adjust these times please discuss this with the room educators. A request to change your booked times can be emailed to the Centre.

Changes to contact details
It is important that we have correct contact details for parents and emergency contacts. Please remember to update these if changes occur by emailing us at childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au

Health records
If you child has had a new immunisation please provide details to the Centre so we can update our records. If you child has an allergy or special diet please ensure that you have updated the health care form as least every 6 months.
**Family Working Bee - Taking care of Pilyabilyangga**

Saturday May 3rd 10am-12.30pm we are having our autumn working bee in Pilyabilyangga to weed mulch, plant and revive our beautiful outdoor classroom.

We have 100 seedlings from Growing Bush to reinvigorate the southern area and some Sheoaks to replace the trees we have lost to borers.

We also have three large patches of couch grass which we have been solarising over summer which now need some intensive weeding.

Pilyabilyangga was planted and has been maintained by WCCC families and educators for the past 5 years. We greatly appreciate even an hour of your time.

Pilyabilyangga is the WCCC community’s garden

*Please register on the parent notice board if you will be able to attend.*

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**Australian Community Gardens Network**

It is unfortunate that in today’s world of shrinking backyards and larger houses not all of us have the space to grow our own vegies and to include our children in this important experience. One of the ways to be involved in growing your own food or to connect with others and learn about growing vegies is through a local community garden.

Home grown food is great for the taste buds, the household budget and the environment.

By improving people’s diets and physical activity levels, and by combating social isolation, community gardens improve a neighbourhood’s all-round physical and mental health.

The **Australian Community Gardens Network** is an informal, community-based organisation linking people interested in community gardening across Australia. Community gardens are places where people come together to grow fresh food, to learn, relax and make new friends.

The Australian Community Gardens Network was started by **Dr Darren Phillips** in 1996. Darren’s idea was to set up an Australia-wide network of people interested in community gardens, city farms, urban agriculture and community education centres. He organised contact people in different states who could provide information on community gardens and notify enquirers where they could find the gardens. The website now fulfils some of those functions, however there remain contact people who may be able to provide other advice within the limits of time and cost availability.

If you are interested in connecting with a community garden in your area have a look at the community garden website at: http://communitygarden.org.au/

You can download a brochure that lists the community gardens across Australia at: http://communitygarden.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/New-SA-map-August-2102.pdf

Kitchen Gardens SA is supported by the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide and the Department for Environment, Water & Natural Resources. More information can be found at: http://www.kitchengardenssa.com.au/

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**International Composting Awareness Week**


International Composting Awareness Week Australia (ICAW), is a week of activities, events and publicity to improve awareness about the importance of this valuable organic resource and to promote compost use, knowledge and products.

We can compost to help scrap carbon pollution by avoiding landfilling organic materials and helping to build healthier soils.

For more information visit the website: http://www.compostweek.com.au/core/