

# Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre Newsletter

## Term 1 2019

Welcome to the start of 2019. 2018 was an instrumental year at the centre with developments and upgrades to the office, babies sleep rooms and staff room as well as a new area for the staff to use for programming and parent meetings. It had been a vision of the Board (previous and current) to upgrade the administrative areas of the centre and give the staff better areas for programming and their break times.

The staff have loved the first few months of the new areas and really appreciate the work involved to make it all happen.

As previously mentioned the next steps at the centre are the Nature Play areas, which we are all excited about. We will keep you posted when things progress towards an official start date.

We have a big anniversary for the centre this year, as we celebrate 50 years of being a community based childcare centre. Here is a short history, taken from our Handbook...

*"We began in 1967 as the result of efforts by a group of academic educators and graduate students who required child care for their children and found existing services unsuitable. The non-profit organisation was formed in 1969 and incorporated in 1971 as one of the first community-based child care centres in South Australia.*

*The University of Adelaide acted as guarantor for loans and donated a staff person to act as treasurer, who, now retired, dedicated 26 years of service to the Association. Some of the parents were able to loan money to the Association to help subsidize, others helping with fees. Out of this dedicated group of innovative and committed people we have grown, retaining much of the community spirit and parent involvement that characterised our beginnings. The Association was originally named the University of Adelaide Preschool and Nursery Centre Incorporated, then Unikids Pre-school and Nursery Inc. which indicated the original association with the University of Adelaide.*

*In the 1970's the Association set up the Nursery site in Gilberton and Pre-school site in Rose Park and operated successfully for many years through the following decades. With the loss of government funding in the form of Operational Subsidy in April 1997 the Association found it had difficulty providing affordable quality care at its two small sites and after two years of running at a loss the associations members voted to combine the Association's operations to the Rose Park site.*

*This involved the extending on to and refurbishment of the Pre-school at 22 Watson Avenue using capital from the sale of the Gilberton property and with both Federal and State Government support in 2000 and completed with the renovation of the kitchen in 2002. The additions to the Rose Park site were named in honour of Pat Harlow's work and support of the Association as its Director from 1972-1997. In April 1999 the name became Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre Incorporated reflecting its location and the community-based nature of the service."*



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## Getting to Know AECCC Staff

**Name:**

Jacinta

**Role at AECCC:**

Casual Educator

**Who Lives at your House:**

My housemate Georgia.

**Favourite TV Show/Movie:**

How I Met Your Mother, Vampire Diaries, Tangled, Shrek and 10 Things I Hate About You.

**Current Favourite Artist/Band:**

Taylor Swift and 21 Pilots.

**Likes:**

Burgers, music, family, friends, The River, dogs, Sangria and wine, musicals and singing.

**Dislikes:**

Spaghetti Bolognaise, freezing cold weather and city traffic.

**Favourite Part of My Job:**

Being able to work in every room to get to know all the children.

**If I won a Million Dollars:**

I'd go traveling to every country in the world.



**Name:**

Tracey

**Role at AECCC:**

Casual Educator.

**Who Lives at your House:**

Me and my partner Paul, plus my cockatiel "Charlie".

**Favourite TV Show/Movie:**

Better Homes and Gardens and Avatar.

**Favourite Artist:**

INXS and Phil Collins.

**Likes:**

Gardening, animals and Sci-Fi movies

**Dislikes:**

Animal Cruelty.

**Favourite Part of My Job:**

All the laughs I have with the children and watching their milestones.

**If I Won a Million Dollars:**

I would travel Australia and then buy a hobby farm.



# Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre Newsletter

**Name:**

Kim C

**Role at AECCC:**

Kitchen Manager.

**Who Lives at your House:**

My 3 kids (husband and 2 adult sons), and my fur-child Dusty and a cockateil

**Favourite Movie/TV:**

Ghost, Dirty Dancing and Masterchef and My Kitchen Rules.

**Favourite Music:**

Anything 80's.

**Likes:**

Music and Animals.

**Dislikes:**

Fake people and animal cruelty.

**Favourite Part of My Job:**

The kids.

**If I Won a Million Dollars:**

Well... like anyone else – give up work, extended holiday, donate to animal welfare and bring my mother over from South Africa to live with me!

**Thank you**

Thank you to Tom, Hamish's dad (in the toddlers) for donating and installing a water spray system under the toddler patio area. By using this on the hot days we are able to stay out there for longer as it drops the air temperature by about 7-8°C while only using around 4 litres of water per day and the babies and toddlers (and staff) are loving it!

## Superloop Adelaide 500



As in previous years, the Superloop Adelaide 500 (formerly Clipsal 500) takes its toll on the traffic conditions and road closures in the immediate area. The dates for the race this year are Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup> until Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Please be aware of traffic restrictions during this time if traveling from the city to collect your child. Give yourself extra time as there will be delays. For further information regarding when certain roads will be closed and then re-opened go to [https://superloopadl500.com.au/event\\_info/road-closures](https://superloopadl500.com.au/event_info/road-closures)



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## News from the rooms .....

### Babies

We would like to welcome our new families to our room. Part of our baby room pedagogy is formed around sustainability and upcycling, providing a natural play space that encourages imagination and exploration. We use loose parts such as lids, bangles, rocks and other natural materials as part of our heuristic play, enabling children to discover or learn something for themselves. This is child led and open ended, allowing them to use objects in any way they choose.



“Play provides an important ‘context for learning’ where children are able to explore ideas, solve problems, make

connections and engage with other” (DEEWR, 2009 p 9).

In this month’s program we are focusing on cognitive development, through loose parts – using problem solving skills, inquiry and investigating ideas. Experimenting with math concepts such as volume, size and encouraging language development such as, long/short, big/small. We are also focusing on gross-motor and attachment.

‘We nurture children to form a sense of themselves and their belonging to the Centre and its community’ (AECCC Educational Philosophy)

A reminder to feel free to take your child’s learning journal home and we welcome any comments or feedback. It is all part of

working collaboratively with families to support and develop your child’s journey. Please see Jess or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Em and Jess

### Toddlers

Hello families, the Toddler team hopes you all had a great break with your loved ones. The Toddlers learning is off to a flying start as we explore literacy through many avenues. Through play and home connections we discovered the children’s interest with the text “Wombat Stew” by Marcia Vaughn. This has led to many provocations as we follow our emergent curriculum. The children made a Wombat Stew banner, incorporating fine motor development, dexterity and problem solving to name a few! Using scissors, glue, pencils, sharpeners and textas. We made connections as educators recognised that the children are beginning to make meaning of the symbols they have drawn by verbally communicating their drawings to us. We used the book to connect to the environment and the creative arts, as we use puppetry and natural resources to explore the flora and fauna as described in the text. This led to the connection and celebration of Australian culture and diversity as educators explore the meaning of Australia Day with the children. Celebrating the culture of our families, diverse communities and acknowledging respectfully, what this day means for the Aboriginal people. Educators created a display to represent the above and the children made an Aboriginal flag that is



# Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre Newsletter

displayed proudly in our "outdoor room". As we painted the flag we engaged in conversation regarding the meaning of the Aboriginal flag and although the children may not be able to retell the meaning now, the knowledge, exposure and familiarity is there, stored away for use in later life.



Which is why it is important to view the children as capable learners and for adults to use correct terminology when describing or talking to children. 😊

Transitions have been a large focus in the Toddler room as we welcome new families and sadly say goodbye to others. The Toddler educators have reflected on the success of this process and attribute this to the children having a voice and being heard in regard to settling and given the autonomy to choose when they are ready to move to the next room placing our bias aside. Toddler educators work hard to ensure all children feel safe, secure and supported always!

Next step on the learning journey is exploring Trajectory and the Creative Arts! As per usual I've said too much! Looking forward to a great and eventful year ahead.

Kylie, Ama and Syl.

## Wallabies

The Wallaby room have been exploring, challenging their problem-solving skills and learning about the concepts of float and sink, cause and effect, and how things work and mix. The Wallabies have been enjoying sensory exploration with water, shaving foam, paint and flour.

During the hot weather the children have been playing in the water sprinkler, washing babies in bubble bath and making a "fish pond" with the water and bark chips.

The Wallabies have been observing their wider community and have been watching the trucks, diggers, cherry pickers and forklifts that have been helping with the building works down the road as well as the maintenance of the power lines/gas lines. The children have been going out to the front of the Centre to watch this big machinery at work.

In the future we are planning on continuing our exploration of our local community through excursions to the local park as well as further afield like Marshmallow park and the soft play gymnasium. We will continue to explore, challenge and build on the children's skills and explorations.

We would like to welcome our new Wallabies to the room and we wish the Wallabies that have moved up to Kangaroos all the best.



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## Kangaroos

Hi families! Welcome to all of the children and families who are new to the room this term! There are so many new faces and names for us all to learn, and so many new ideas and interests. We are looking forward to getting to know you better and learning with you this year.

Our program for term one is out, so make sure you take a look! This term we will be focusing on making everyone feel a part of the group and developing our social skills. We will also be continuing with our creativity focus, developing our pre-literacy skills, and investigating insects and other creepy-crawlies! We have noticed that the children have been fascinated with insects of late, so we are looking for new ways to extend this interest.



We have updated our room handbook and handed out some copies to families, so if you would like a copy, let us know. We also have a new email

address, so you can get in contact with us directly, at

[kangaroosaecc@outlook.com](mailto:kangaroosaecc@outlook.com)! Please note that we don't check this every day, so anything urgent should go to the usual Centre email address.

Thank you to those families who have brought in their old bits and bobs to add to our loose parts collection! They children have been pushing the limits of their

creativity and engineering skills and loving it. We can always use more donations of loose parts, recyclables, and scrap paper, so let us know if you can help, or if you would like to know more about the theories behind loose parts play. Here's to another year of learning! - Kim, Rachel, and Karilyn

## Community Events

### Australian Breastfeeding Association –

#### Unley/Burnside

Friendly, informal gatherings to meet other mums, speak with trained counsellors about your breastfeeding questions, share ideas and learn about up-to-date breastfeeding & parenting information.

<https://www.burnside.sa.gov.au/Whats-On/Community-Centre-Program/COB-Hirer-Programs/Australian-Breastfeeding-Association-%E2%80%93-UnleyBurnside>

### Adelaide Fringe at Burnside Library

Saturday, 16 February 2019 | 12:00 AM

<https://www.burnside.sa.gov.au/Whats-On/Library-Events/Adelaide-Fringe-at-Burnside-Library>

