

Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre Newsletter

Term 3 2019



Our beautiful new yard is in the last stages of construction. The new 'frog' gate was put on yesterday. The builders are waiting for the wood to arrive, so that part of the under twos fence can be replaced. The gate for the main entrance on Close Street and the gate for the 'picket fence', between the under twos and over twos fence, are currently being constructed. The gate on Close Street will then have a security pin code system installed, so that anyone entering will need a code or will need to be buzzed in. Once all construction is completed we will be able to get our chickens 😊

The Board has also approved, this week, to have the exterior of the building painted and for solar to be installed. The Board members have been working hard in planning and approving all of the changes at the Centre. Paul and Nick, from the Board, have also had a lot of involvement during the nature play project.

I would really like to thank you, as the parents/guardians, for adapting to all of the changes, moving to and from different yards and using different entrances. It has really made the process much easier for all of us at the Centre.

I have also been incredibly impressed by your children. They got used to moving between the two yards and all mixing together. It was really cute the other day when one of the toddlers were picked up by their parent and they pointed to the babies door and said 'That way?'. The parent said, 'No the other way'. The toddler just said 'Oh' and off he went without concern. They have been so resilient.

Lastly, I would like to thank the educators. There have been some tough days, when they may have had to be inside all day with the children, or when children need to move from one end of the Centre to the other – especially the under twos (they have certainly been getting their steps up). The older children have been able to organise walks around the community, which has been a great enhancement to their program. Your educators have certainly showed their resilience too. We are all looking forward to having the final things finished off and being able to use all of the areas.



Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre Newsletter

AGM

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 29th September. It will be from 11:00am to 12:00pm, in the hour preceding our 50th Birthday Celebration. More details to come. We'd love to see you there.

Socks

Educators ask that all babies and toddlers please bring in at least 3 pairs of socks per day if they are not in shoes, for outdoor play.



Signing children in and out

It is extremely important that all children are signed in and out of the Centre on arrival and departure.

We use this as a means of roll call in the event of an emergency evacuation or lock in. It is also sent to Centrelink for your Child Care Subsidy. Please make sure that you use the devices located in each room, to electronically sign your child in and out and make sure you **tap the confirm button as well**. If you do not know your access code or how the devices work, please ask the educators who are happy to help. We have keyrings that you can have to write your code onto and clip it to your keys, so that you always have it with you.

Casual days

We do on occasion have casual days available for families. If you need extra days of care that are in addition to your regular permanent bookings, please email or check at the office. The following comes from our Centre handbook:

Extra time/casual:

These bookings are usually made short term (2 weeks maximum). Availability will depend on

child-educator ratios and are not always guaranteed. No fee will be charged if **24 hours' notice is given of cancellation**.

Please note; if your child becomes unwell over a weekend and you have a casual booking scheduled on a Monday, (or Tuesday after a public holiday) please email the Centre to cancel on the Sunday, that way we know that you have done everything possible to let us know that you no longer need the day. If we only find out that day, you will be charged as we staff according to projected numbers.

Allergies

As most families are aware, we have many children and educators at the Centre with food allergies, some being life threatening. One of the most common allergies is to nuts. We ask that if your child has nut based products before coming to the Centre that you make sure that their hands, face and mouth are washed thoroughly to eliminate the possibility of any traces coming into contact with children with these particular allergies. The educators have all been trained in allergy management, but we do not want to have a life-threatening situation occur that could have easily been prevented.

We also ask that nothing is added to water bottles or milk bottles, as this could also pose as a risk to other children or educators at the Centre.

Illness and childcare

If you feel that your child is too ill to go outside when they come to childcare, then they are too ill to be here. We are unable to have one child stay inside all day with one educator. Of course, if the weather is not okay for all children to be outside, then the educators will bring all of the children inside.



Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre Newsletter

Name:

Vic

Role at AECCC:

Educator in Wallabies

Who Lives at your House:

My partner Matt and our dog Marty

Favourite TV Show/Movie:

Buffy The Vampire Slayer, 5 Bedrooms, True Stories movies and House Rules

Favourite Artist/Band:

Pink, Eminem, Usher, Guy Sebastian, anything R'n'B

Likes:

Beach, holidays and sunny days. Family and seeing friends

Dislikes:

Bananas

Favourite Part of My Job:

Having conversations with the children and building friendships

If I won a Million Dollars:

Help my family and go on a huge holiday

**Name:**

Deb

Role at AECCC:

Part time/Casual Educator

Who Lives at your House:

Mr Turdie my turtle who is 24 years old and thinks he is a dog – new name “Turdog”

Favourite TV Show/Movie:

Wentworth, Coronation Street, Chicago PD, Fire and MD and The 100

Favourite Music:

Dance music – Melbourne Bounce EDM DJs – Timmy Trumpet, Joel Fletcher and Will Sparks

Likes:

Visiting friends, PS4 VR, easy recipes that taste amazing (feel free to pass any my way)

Dislikes:

Rude drivers, olives and anchovies

Favourite Part of My Job:

So far, I have loved every part of my job. I particularly like when a child learns something new.

If I won a Million Dollars:

It's a secret, come and see me to find out!



Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre Newsletter

News from the rooms

Babies

It's been wonderful to be back in our amazing Nature Play space and await the final touches. Working together with toddlers during the renos as 'under 2's' has been rewarding, inclusive and supportive for educators and children. While we near the completion of the outside area, we have been collaboratively working side by side as we've joined for mealtimes, sleep times, general routines and running of the day. Our children have formed secure attachments with the toddler staff, providing a sense of belonging – this is a strong foundation and main focus as we establish relationships with children.

We've celebrated International Mud Day and recently NAIDOC week – our collaborative artwork can be seen displayed throughout both rooms. We've witnessed our younger babies reach their developmental milestones, emerging autonomy and growing independence. We also see them become confident and capable learners.

Still focusing our program around 'PLODS' (Possible Lines Of Development) we also become aware of our older children's interest around play schemas. Next month's program interests are rotation, trajectory and orientation. Providing provocations based around these interests are evident in the outdoor play space, day book and learning journals.

A massive thank you to parents who are/have purchased the Nature Play Onesies, it's great seeing our children outside exploring their environment.



So many discoveries have been made and learning evident when children feel free to explore muddy puddles, water, sand, mud and other sensory explorations such as paint and gloop.

Exploring puddles develops their cognitive development (problem solving and cause and effect), maths and science concepts (empty/full and measurement volume), Physical development (hand/eye coordination, strength), language skills (expressing ideas), social interactions (collaboration, role modelling).

Evidence of how busy, capable and involved our children are throughout the day is evident in our documentation and the state of their clothing!

We thank parents who continue to provide us with verbal and written feedback in their child's individual learning journal.

We also thank Kylie, Sylv and Chelsea for their continuous support as we have been working together over the last several months during renos. We can't wait for the end result. Don't forget Book Week in Mid-August.

Toddlers

The toddler room children have celebrated significant cultural events within their community environment. Educators have provided opportunities to explore the diverse culture, heritage, background and traditions that shape this country. This has been through national events such as international mud day, a day of connection with others through the joy of mud and messy play, whilst providing exposure to microbes. Educators provided many provocations to explore the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander culture as we recognised and celebrated NAIDOC week, and acknowledged ways of "belonging and being" with people, country and community.

Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre Newsletter

Learning diversity through play allows the children to not only share the joy of peer/educator relationships but it provides an opportunity to expose children to language, culture and community. These are all important aspects of living together as citizens of this country.

On the topic of community, educators in the Toddler room have revelled in the relationships that have formed between the children. Upon arrival and throughout the day we observe acts of joy, kindness, excitement, empathy, unity, social confidence and shared play. All of which form the basis of relationships, which are contributing factors for the development of identity. It is through these interactions that we notice the children feeling safe and secure, which in turn provides confidence to explore, engage, learn and grow.

As you may be aware the majority of the children's day is spent in the great outdoors. We use nature as our teacher as we watch what is happening in our outside environment. Recently we have engaged in learning based on the elements of weather, by watching, feeling, seeing and hearing what is happening around us. Using the creative arts, the children painted "winter", made a winter mobile, and read the book "Big Rain Coming" by Germain Katrina, all of which were intentional based investigations to engage the children with meaningful or purposeful learning. We looked to the skies for the planes that fly overhead, once again looking deeper into this group interest, as the children painted planes and then used a hand-held drill to make a plane mobile. Exposure to tool use in play promotes the development of hand eye coordination, motor skills, problem solving, self-assessed risk and provides an opportunity to have a "real hands" on experience. As we display the

children's artwork or mobiles, we are mindful to display it in a respectful manner and ensure that the documentation regarding the journey of the art experience is documented for you in the room daybook. This is a way that you too can share the learning experience with your child.

Following the children's individual interest educators have been investigating shape play in a series of ways.

Through the exploration of art, group times, in text, within the community, through heuristic play and

construction. We continue to investigate, as we use maths in play for cognitive development, educators acknowledge the understanding that children are beginning to recognise that markings and patterns have meaning and similarities.

Moving forward in our learning journey, our intentional teaching areas are; dramatic play, as we provide opportunities to explore identity in play, tunnels and trains and ways in which we can further investigate this with the children. Focusing on our literacy component by reading "It starts with a seed" by Laura Knowles which helps teach the children about the lifecycle of plants and habitats. This in turn leads to our small world provocation based on biodiversity as we will be creating our own native wetland in dramatic play. (The wetland provocation is also linked to the child led interest of ducks in puddles and ponds). The embedding of Nature play is so important to the toddler room pedagogy as to look after our environment is to look after our future and as David Suzuki said it best "unless we are willing to encourage our children to reconnect



Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre Newsletter

with and appreciate natural world we can't expect them to help protect and care for it".

Wallabies

We would like to welcome all the new children to the Wallaby Room that have transitioned from the Toddler Room and the new families that have started in the Wallabies. We have loved having Tracey as part of our Wallaby team and the children have also made secure attachments with her. She is an amazing team member and has made a positive change to the Wallaby Room. Sarah was also away for a few weeks, so we have had the help of Chelsea and Deb, which has been very helpful for the children as they know them both well.

The Wallaby children have been exploring the under-two's yard and have loved the Nature Play Space. They absolutely love the water access and mud kitchen. We are excited for when our yard re-opens, so we can explore and discover our new play spaces and master new skills. We have been going on lots of community walks around Rose Park to the Kindy Playground and just walking around the block to encourage road safety.



The Wallabies have also been learning about diggers, trucks and bobcats as they have been watching the re-development take place in the over two's yard.

They have enjoyed watching Yard Stick develop and build our new Nature Play Space. We have been doing lots of reading about diggers and playing with the small yellow diggers in small world play. We have also been creating lots of group art and learning about different textures and ways to create art. You will see these hanging up around our room.

Another big focus has been dramatic play with the pretend cooking and food, dolls house, doctors' kits and babies. The Wallabies have really loved using their own imaginations and ideas to role play and act out different scenarios.

Kangaroos

The Kangaroos have been busy learners this term! We have become very confident at taking walks around our community. We now spend most mornings out and about, walking around the streets and exploring the nearby parks and playgrounds. We take turns at different responsibilities, like being the leaders, who make sure it is safe to cross the road, and the rear guard, who makes sure no one falls behind. The older Kangaroos have risen to the challenge of helping to keep the younger ones safe, and we have also begun to care for our environment by collecting rubbish as we walk. These walks have promoted so much learning that they will become a frequent part of our program, even when we are back in our yard.

The construction work has prompted a lot of curiosity around engineering and scientific concepts, so we have been doing some investigating into them. We are now seeing a lot of this learning being transferred into play, which means that the Kangaroos are developing a great understanding of these concepts. Perhaps we have some future engineers, scientists, and architects in our class! We will be continuing to build on this learning over the following months. With Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week just having passed we've also focused a lot of celebrating our First Nations people, and we've been hearing feedback from a few families that their children have really enjoyed what we've been learning, and really taken this learning on board. Rest assured that our inclusion of indigenous perspectives continues all year round. We do LOVE to hear feedback from our families, so please don't hesitate to have a chat with us, write in the day book, leave a note on the pinboard, or send us an email!

We are looking forward to exploring all the new learning possibilities the new yard will offer us! Here's to another great term 😊

