

Rose Park Community Childcare Newsletter

Term 4 2020

AGM and Board News

Thank you to all the families who came to the AGM or were able to "Zoom in" from home for the meeting. If you would like copies of the reports presented on the night, please let us know and we will email you copies or there are copies in the passage outside the office for you to look through.

We were lucky enough to have more nominations than places needed for the Board, so a vote was required.

The new Board is as follows:

Nick Thwaites	Chairperson
Nikki Davies	Deputy Chairperson
Paul Santinon	Treasurer
Phung Ta	Deputy Treasurer
Emily Lee	Secretary
Emily Schneemilch	Ordinary Member
Paul Wallace	Ordinary Member

We would also like to thank the two other members that nominated for the Board. We wish we could have everyone and maybe we can work with you on next years Board.

Early Childhood Educators Day



In September, for Early Childhood Educators Day, the Educators were spoilt for a day. They educators were treated to a morning tea of Krispy Kreme's and lunch of sushi and cold Rolls. As you may have noticed, the educators also received a lovely metal water bottle with individual names on them. The educator team also spoilt Sarah with a basket of goodies for being a wonderful leader in Early Childhood Education. We

were also inundated with chocolates, cakes and other treats as well as cards and messages from families throughout the day.

Dates to Remember

The Board made the decision at the July meeting that the dates for closure this year will be as follows; ***closing at 1pm on Thursday 24th December and re-opening Monday 4th January 2021 at 7:30am.***

Fees will not be charged for the closure period.

Please note that on the 24th there will not be any sleeps for children after lunch time.

If you are going to be away leading up to Christmas or in January, please let us know so we can roster accordingly and allow staff to have additional days off to be with their families. You would have received a form via email to fill out. It is also very important that you let us know if you need any changes to your care requirements for 2021 as our numbers are continuing to be very high next year.



Please be aware we are still working out what we can do for an end of year/Christmas celebration for the families and children due to COVID restrictions, stay tuned for further updates.

Announcement

It is with sadness that we inform you that Sylvia will be finishing up at the Centre at the end of November to move to Whyalla. Sylvia has been a loved member of staff at RPCC

since January 2017. We are currently in the process of recruitment for the position in the toddlers. We wish Sylvia all the best in her new endeavour.

SunSmart



As per our SunSmart policy, children and educators are required to wear hats and sunscreen from the beginning of August through to the end of April. Please ensure that your child has an appropriate hat that fits and covers well, at childcare and has sunscreen applied before they arrive at care. We will re-apply after lunch/sleep. We have the Cancer Council Everyday Sunscreen 30+. If your child requires a different type of sunscreen due to skin irritations, please supply your own, with your child's name on the bottle, in date and in the original container.

Illness

You would have all received the recent emails about illness at the centre. We just want to say that we understand that it is hard to take the time off work when your child is unwell, but at the same time what seems like a general illness in an older child can lead to something very serious and at times lead to intensive care hospitalisation in young babies, the elderly and adults with compromised immune systems. We want to take care of everyone in our community and staying at home for even one day if you or your child is unwell can help stop the spread of further illness.



A very helpful tool is Staying Healthy in Child Care, 5th Edition, see the link below to view more about hygiene and fact sheets on more than 40 childhood illnesses with the incubation periods and how long is recommended to stay away from care.

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/clinical%20guidelines/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf>

Casual employees

A month or so ago, we sent out a newsletter listing our casual educators. Here are a couple more profiles:



Hello! My name is Tijana Maric and I have been a casual educator at Rose Park for over two years. I completed my Certificate III as part of my high school studies in 2016 and am currently studying a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts at the University of Adelaide. I am passionate about making the world a better place and am especially passionate about the rights and best interests of children. In my spare time I enjoy listening to hip hop and chilling with my two cats.



Hello! My name is Elena. I joined Rose Park Community Childcare team as a casual educator last month. I finished my studies at TAFE the Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care in June 2017 and since then, I had been working in a few different centres having valuable experience with different learning approaches and environments.

I came from a very diverse, culturally appreciative background. I speak Russian, Hebrew and English, however Russian is my first and primary language. I love caring for children, arranging activities and being involved in children's play, negotiating and providing emotional support with patience and love.

My diverse background, social and friendly nature helps me to connect with children and adults from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. I am creative and enthusiastic, and sensitive to children's individual needs. I am dedicated to providing high quality service to children and parents and look forward to demonstrating my skills.



Name:

Lisa

Role at RPCC:

Assistant Director

Who Lives at your House:

My husband of nearly 14 years Mark, 2 sons Lucas 12 and Hamish 8, who both came through the centre as babies until they started school. As well as our COVID addition dog Lilly, RSPCA rescue, Staffy x Kelpie.

Favourite TV Show:

Nothing in particular at the moment, but usually binge a series on Netflix or go back to old series on 7plus or 9now.

Favourite Band:

Pretty diverse..... from G'n'R and The Whitlams and good Aussie rock!

Likes:

Catching up and going out for dinner and drinks with friends.

Dislikes:

Spicy Food.

Favourite Part of My Job:

Variety that my position offers, some days in rooms, some in office, stepping up as Acting Director when needed.

If I won a Million Dollars:

Pay off the house and pay school fees in advance to make later life more comfortable, then go on a big holiday (when we are able to travel again!).



Name:

Sarah R

Role at RPCC:

Director

Who lives at your house?

My husband of 25 years, Daryle and my 17-year-old son Joshua

Favourite TV show / movie:

My comfort show is Gilmore Girls. I love the movies 'Dirty Dancing', 'Armageddon' and 'Independence Day'.

Current favourite Album/ Artist / Band:

I recently celebrated my 50th and put together a playlist from the past 5 decades. It was fun listening to lots of songs from your youth.

Likes:

Spending time with my husband and son. Going to the movies when there was more on. Pottering around home.

Dislikes:

Spiders and snakes

Favourite part of my job:

Getting big smiles or hugs from the children.

If I won a million Dollars:

I would help my extended family pay off some things and go on a holiday to America (like Lisa said, when we can).

Public Holidays

We have had a few queries lately regarding the charge of Public Holidays. We do charge for Public Holidays throughout the year, as we still have overheads to pay, eg wages for our permanent staff. We do allow, however, that you swap to another day in the same week, if your usual day falls on a Public Holiday, **if** we have the space available. Please see the following section regarding bookings from our handbook, which all families receive at enrolment and we encourage you to read thoroughly. If you would like another copy of the handbook, please let us know and we will email you a copy.

BOOKINGS

Hours of Operation

The Centre is open from Monday to Friday:

Morning	7.30 am	1.00 pm
Afternoon	1.00 pm	6.15 pm
Day	7.30am	6.15 pm

The Centre is **closed** public holidays and for about 5-7 days over the Christmas/New Year period, usually only operating for a morning session on the last working day before Christmas.

The Centre opens at 7.30am and closes 6.15pm, this means that families and children should not be at the Centre before 7.30am and out of the premises no later than 6.15pm. Due to licensing and operational matters these session times are fixed.

If you are running late we ask you to contact the Centre to let us know, this allows us to plan for the child/ren and educators to make their own arrangements as they may be finishing work late. A late fee of **\$2 per minute** will apply for collection outside the session time.

Types of Bookings

In order to better meet the needs of our families at Rose Park Community Childcare we offer the following types of booked sessions.

Permanent Booking:

These sessions that you require are booked and held for you on a permanent weekly basis. You will be charged for these sessions even if you do not attend. **For example: - due to illness, holidays, or if these bookings fall on a public holiday.**

We require two weeks' notice of permanent cancellation of or reduction of these bookings, however, an increase or change of booked sessions may be available earlier, please contact the Director.

Extra time/casual:

These bookings are usually made in the short term.

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.

Holidays, Illness and Other Non-Attendance

Please note that all booked sessions **will be charged for even if children do not attend**. This includes being charged for **holidays, public holidays and illness**. Charges do not apply to the end of year shutdown period.

We do encourage you to let us know if you are going to be away in advance as much as possible. This allows us to plan for the groups and offer casual bookings to other families that maybe looking additional care. *This is especially important if your child has special dietary requirements.*

Carparking

We have heard that, on occasions, there have been issues with carparking along Close St in the mornings. Please be mindful for your community members and park your car so others are able to either park in front of you or behind, don't leave spaces that are not big enough for someone else not to be able to get into. Also, if you need to make phone calls once you are back in your car, could you please be respectful to others and move your vehicle down the road and then do what you need to do before going off to work. Everyone is busy in the mornings to get to work, drop off other children at kindy and school etc, so please show some respect and kindness to each other while parking.

A little consideration goes a long way.

Ambulance Cover

We have had some recent clarification from SA Ambulance in regard to the ambulance cover that we pay for at the Centre. We pay a small amount per head if an ambulance needs to be called for an accident that may occur at the Centre. This policy does not cover calls for preexisting illnesses e.g. asthma attack. If you have a private health cover which includes ambulance cover, you will not be covered under our policy. SA Ambulance will recover the costs from you via your health fund.

A message from our Educational Leader -Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements

At RPCC we pride ourselves on having a confident, supportive,

Code of Ethics



capable, diverse, communicative, respectful and consistent working educators' team. The positive relationships between the education team benefits the children's learning and development, through delivering a high-quality education and care program. It is a requirement of the National Quality Regulations, that all educators are to have either a Certificate 3 level Education and care qualification or a Diploma in Early childhood education and care. A centre should also have access to an Early Childhood Teacher based on the number of children in attendance at the centre (acecqa.gov.au). At RPCC we are blessed with a range of educators all with the above qualifications, and varying age ranges 😊 Every educator brings a range of culture, abilities and knowledge to the service, just as the families and children who attend care. Through valuing, and living by the ECA Code of Ethics, educators are never discriminated against by age, gender, sexuality, economic status, religion, culture, language or national origin. The educators employed at RPCC are professional, trusted and valued and through continuous reflective discussions, are able to provide you and your child with a lively culture of learning and care.

Kylie 😊

News from the rooms.....

Babies

In the under 2's, "we consider children to be 'inquirers,' who make choices, ask, investigate, think, create, reflect, participate, co construct knowledge and collaborate with others in their learning" - RPCC Educational Philosophy.

Play is a way in which children learn to make sense of their world through hands on exploration.

Educators have observed various thought processes (cognitive development) evident in children's play. Dispositions, which include problem solving, inquiry, experimenting, curiosity, investigating and hypothesising are also observed regularly. There is also evidence emerging in children's learning through provocations educators have provided. Provocations which have promoted cognitive development have included our weights and scales with loose parts (exploring early maths concepts of weight, volume and measurement), magnets (cause and effect, trial and error).



Our amazing home corner area provides children with opportunities to explore functional play – we have recently been observing several of our under 2's explore this concept. Functional play is a repetitive action such as throwing objects, opening and closing things, filling and pouring out cups/teaset. This is how a child learns about their world around them. Functional play is mentioned in Piaget's (Theorist) stage of cognitive development. Our home corner area not only explores this concept but promotes social skills and language development.



"Educators encourage children's curiosity and wonder to ensure that the curriculum emerges from the children's interests" - RPCC Educational Philosophy.

In celebration of Book Week, we remind families about our own Community Library 'Bring a book, swap a book' if you have books at home you would like to share with our library. We have ordered a special weather proof box that they will be in on a permanent basis.

Toddlers

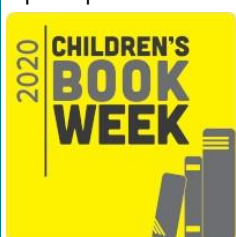
With the change of the season comes the change to the toddler room program. It now includes environmental learning. The weather has had many unpredictable patterns and has therefore provided an opportunity for many teachable moments as guided by the

children. You may have observed the many mobiles in our play space. The wind has been a topic of conversation with many children referencing the wind as it blows about the yard. As you are aware, we use nature as the third teacher to provide meaning and knowledge about the world in which the children live in. Educators extend and scaffold on children's interest as we explore the wind in our environment. Through play we have looked at the movement of the wind and created many ways in which to reference this. Wind mobiles in collaborative art sessions, in text and literature, in conversation and observation, all intentionally applied to educate children about seasonal changes. As children develop, the outside world can become a little frightening as children become more aware of their surroundings. Fear creeps in as new sounds and feelings are recognised. Educators support children with connection time or "time in" as we like to reference. The wind was a little scary for some, so exposure to various investigations based on the wind, helped to decrease the fear and replace it with understanding. Educators use the same approach for noises that are heard and not always seen. Exposure decreases the fear as does a cuddle, a safe quiet space or story about what noises are heard within the community. Strategies are a very important dynamic in the under 2 rooms as we support children and families with many stages of development.

Under 2 families may also be aware of the term "connection" often used by educators. Educators are focused on building secure relationships with children, so that they feel safe to play independently within their care environment. We use connection to anchor relationships between children, educators and families. To support children when they are experiencing big emotions and behaviours, for co regulation and development. The benefit of a hug or human contact is by far the best strategy for a successful learning environment with strong, secure attachments.

You may be aware that Book Week was postponed from August to October this year.

Book week runs from October 17th to the 23rd. Literacy is an embedded element of the under 2 programs; for speech and language development,



increased knowledge and understanding of the world and program elements, for time in and connection and solitary play.



During this time, we will be celebrating Book Week with "share your favourite book at care". Under 2 educators ask that you and your child select a book together from home to share at childcare.

This provides a sense of belonging and pride, as children delight in bringing a special item brought from home. We look forward to seeing your choice! (please label your book so that it is returned to its rightful owner 😊) As always, if you have any questions or queries about your child or the educational program, educators are more than happy to discuss and share with you. We are proud of what we do, sharing knowledge with you brings joy to our day.

Happy learning, Kylie, Syl and Ama.

Wallabies

Spring is here, and the children are enjoying the warmer weather.

The Wallaby children have been exploring many concepts included in the acronym S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths). The children have been developing their early coding skills (maths) using the robot, exploring the science of bubbles, colour mixing – both with bubbles and with paint and exploring the concept of volume and capacity through water play.



The vegetable garden has provided us with lots of peas and sugar snaps, the children have learnt about how the bees help

pollinate the flowers as well as how caterpillars eat our leaves and when they are bigger, grow into butterflies. The children have tried our pineberries and are waiting for the strawberries to ripen. The children are learning how food grows and how to care for their natural environment. We recently upcycled hessian bags that we got from a coffee shop and planted our potatoes. We will be planting some summer vegetables and fruit soon.



We have extended this learning with the children making the connection with 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' book. This led to us making our own caterpillars and everything he ate through. Our very hungry caterpillar is 'walking' around the Wallaby room. The children regularly share the story verbally with their peers and educators. Developing early literacy skills through expressive verbal language.

The Wallaby children have also been learning key sign language. Educators have been including it into the routine and songs. This provides children with multiple ways to communicate with their peers and educators.

We continue to explore our community and go for walks to the playground as well as on nature hunts/what can we find. This helps the children to develop road safety knowledge as well as making connections with the world they live in.

We look forward to the future learning and explorations

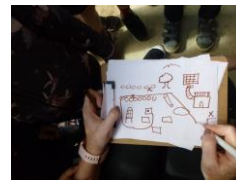
Sarah, Tracey, Vic and Deb

Kangaroos

A warm welcome to all the new Kangaroo friends and their families. We sincerely hope that our new friends enjoy an amazing learning adventure in the Kangaroos. Over the past term the children have been co-constructing a very rich and creative program based on the holistic educational approach we have been adopting.



Our current program has seen a strong focus on literacy development. Educators understand that literacy is the basis for every Kangaroo child to be able to read, draw, write, communicate and socialise. Educators have been providing varied learning opportunities for the children to enhance their literacy skills and socialisation. For example, we set up office play provocations using keyboards, telephones, paper and pencils.



We also provide shop play spaces for children to create their own grocery list and shop signs. We read books, sing songs and play rhymes and word games with the children every day. We also teach children *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* in their home languages including English, French, Mandarin, Hindu and Russian. In each group time, we invite five different Kangaroo leaders to lead the Nina Marni Song in Karna language. We also encourage children to tell their own stories, share their holiday experiences, raise critical questions and voice their own opinions in group time. There are a huge range of learning materials accessible to all the Kangaroos, such as alphabet puzzles, letter tracing board, chalkboard drawing and writing, sign-in sheet and literacy games. We have also adopted the "talking while doing" pedagogy, which is embedded in every learning experience the children are engaged in including numeracy, STEM, Arts, technology, or learning about physical wellbeing.

Educators will continue to reflect on our educational philosophy and practice. We look forward to receiving feedback or comments from all families.

Maggie, Rachel and Karilyn