

Rose Park Community Childcare

Newsletter

Term 1 2022

Welcome Back for 2022

We trust that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Here we are back for another year, starting again with COVID restrictions. Thank you all for your understanding and patience as we navigate through the daily changes that arise. We are doing our best at keeping everyone as safe as possible and will keep you up to date with changes we implement as soon as possible. We understand it is hard to drop off at the gate, but the less people we have inside the service, we lessen the risks for close/casual contacts.

Welcome Jacinta and Masuma

We would like to welcome Jacinta to the service in the role of Early Childhood Teacher in the Kangaroos. Jacinta previously worked at the centre from 2017-2020 as a casual educator after she had completed a student placement with us. Once she finished her studies she was the Early Childhood Teacher at another service before returning to us in January. When you get the chance, please welcome her. There is a photo of her and a bio in this newsletter.

We would also like to announce that Masuma, one of our long-term regular casual educators will be starting full time, working permanently with the under 2 children. This will start from 21st February. *Congratulations and welcome Jacinta and Masuma!*

Water Bottles

A reminder that you will need to take your child's bottle home each evening to wash and refill. Don't forget to return it with your child the next day they are in.



Availability of Spaces for this year

We currently only have available spaces for on-going/permanent care on Fridays. If you are requiring different days this year and haven't already let us know, please contact Sarah or Lisa in the office. We are able to put you on an internal waitlist and will let you know if anything becomes available. Due to the centre being full on the other 4 days, we can not promise that we will be able to offer casual/swap of days throughout the year, so if you know ahead of time that your child will not be in, please let us know so we can do our best to accommodate everyone's needs.

Community Library

As most of you already know, we have a Community Library Box set up in between the



two entrance gates of the Centre. In the future, when we begin to allow adults into the service grounds again, we encourage the use of this to

increase the use of literacy in the children's lives.

The idea of the community library is to 'Take a Book' and 'Give a Book', or alternatively, 'Borrow a Book' and 'Return a Book'.

We have noticed recently that there are not many books in the Library Box. If you have taken a book recently, we ask that you replace it with another book that your child no longer reads at home or bring the book back once you have read it with your child. The box is there for the service community to use and we ask that you respect the concept of it.

Immunisation

Thank you to all that continue to forward us your child's Immunisation History Statement after they have had an update of their child's scheduled immunisations.

We are required by law to have up to date records of each child's immunisation status, which can only be in the form of their History Statement. You can access this on your MyGov account.

If you fail to do this, you will automatically receive an email from our booking and billing system saying that you have not supplied this to us.

Once you have forwarded it to us, we can enter in the updates.

We keep our own records of who is due, so we may also email individually. If they are not received within a couple of months of when the immunisation is due, your Child Care Subsidy may be suspended until the Statement is entered. Children who are not immunised are **not able** to attend any childcare service, unless they have a legal exemption.

Scheduled immunisations are due at 2, 4, 6, 12 and 18 months of age, then again between 3 and a half years and 4 and a half years of age.

See SA Health website for more details.

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/immunisation/immunisation+programs/childhood+immunisation+program/childhood+immunisation+program>

Hat orders



We are currently taking orders for wide brim hats with the centre logo, please check your emails for an order form. They are \$14 each and the cost will be added to your account if you choose to purchase.

Wet Bags

We are starting to introduce Wet Bags at the service. New families will be needing to purchase one through us at enrolment and current families can order via email. They are \$20 each and come in 3 designs, Bees, Rainbows and an Aboriginal design (see pictures below), patterns are subject to availability.

Each bag is 30cm X 40cm, cotton outer, waterproof liner, clip band to attach to backpack and zipper closure.

These are locally handmade.

Please send us an email if you would like to purchase and we can add the cost to your account.



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.

All children need to wear an approved sun protective hat, preferably a legionnaires or broad brim type style hat that will adequately protect them from the sun. **We also ask that hats do not have a solid cord that is placed under the chin to hold the hat on.** Always check that chin straps or cords and toggles have a safety snap or a safety release clip or Velcro to ensure that, in the case of the hat becoming caught on play equipment or other objects, it comes easily away and does not pose a choking hazard to the child. Other options are to remove any straps entirely or look for hats that can be adjusted at the crown.

We ask that children come to the service wearing sunscreen and then we will reapply after lunch or sleep time. We use the Cancer Council brand of sun screen. If your child requires a different type due to skin allergies, please speak to the educators in your child's room and supply your own, labelled with the child's name and in the original container.

We also ask that children are sent in tops/dresses that have protection over their shoulders. If they arrive at care with sleeveless tops, we will have to either change them or add a t-shirt underneath to cover their shoulders.

**Name:**

Jess

Role at RPCC and how long have you worked here:

Educator in the Wallaby Room, just over 10 years.

Who lives at your house?

My dogs, Ava and Mia and part-time my boyfriend Gabe and his daughters Annabelle (12) and Lilly (10).

Favourite TV show/movies:

One Tree Hill, Charmed (old and new), White Collar. Melissa McCarthy movies, Spy, The Heat, The Greatest Showman, Cruella.

Current favourite artist:

Paul Dempsey and Amy Shark.

Likes:

Arts and Crafts, chocolate, beach walks with my dogs.

Dislikes:

Olives and unkindness.

Favourite part of my job:

Watching the children grow and develop from babies to school – the joy on their faces as they discover new things – the trust they feel and the attachments they form.

If I won a million Dollars:

Donate to charities and buy a house.

**Name:**

Em

Role at RPCC and how long have you worked here:

Team Leader of the Babies and I've been here 11 years.

Who lives at your house?

My husband Marc, my two boys Angus (17 years old), Lachlan (14 years old, our dog Archie (a Jack Russell cross chihuahua – who has small dog issues) and my unhealthy obsession with indoor plants.

Favourite TV show / movie:

We tend to watch documentaries on Netflix.

Current favourite Artist/Music:

I enjoy a variety of genres – from 80's music, Flume, Hermitude, Alice Wonderland, Rufus Du Sol, Pete Murray.

Likes:

Reading books, going for walks, spending time with family, being at the beach, upcycling and creating things.

Dislikes:

Cruelty to animals.

Favourite part of my job:

The amazing people I work with, having the most supportive and caring boss, being able to connect, educate and care for special little humans.

If I won a million Dollars:

Ensure my family's needs would be met first, then I'd love to travel around Australia and donate money to RSB, RSPCA and to Cancer Council.



Name:

Jacinta

Role at RPCC and how long have you worked here:

Teacher in the Kangaroos, since 17th January 2022, but was here previously as a casual from 2017-2020.

Who lives at your house?

My housemate Nick and my pet fish Percy.

Favourite TV show/movies:

My favourites always change at the moment is The Great and Spiderman – No Way Home.

Current favourite artist:

Spacey Jane.

Likes:

Singing, musicals, dogs, winery's outdoor walks, picnics, summer.

Dislikes:

Wind Turbines, (they freak me out).

Favourite part of my job:

Forming relationships with children. Working and collaborating with my team.

If I won a million Dollars:

Aside from saving it up for a house etc., I would spend it on a trip around Europe, when COVID allows it!



Name:

Kim

Role at RPCC and how long have you worked here:

Kitchen Manager – just over 17 years (WOW!)

Who lives at your house?

Myself and my 5 kids (2 rescue staffies, a husband and 2 adult sons).

Favourite TV show / movie:

I don't watch much TV, do watch MKR and Master Chef each season.

Current favourite Artist/Music:

No current favourite, but give me anything from the 80's.

Likes:

Transparency and honesty, responsibility, emotional expression.

Dislikes:

Being the centre of attention, self centreness, self-pity, narcissists and judgmental people..

Favourite part of my job:

Interactions with the kids.

If I won a million Dollars:

Donate to the Animal Welfare. Pay off ours and my kids debts. If a million dollars could find a cure for cancer, then I would have to consider that first.

Cook's Corner

A nutritious diet is essential for the growth and development of young children. By providing healthy meals at our Service, not only does it set the foundation for future healthy eating habits for your child, but it addresses the requirements of the NQS which states "Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child".

Moroccan Chicken and Cous Cous

8 chicken thighs

1 tsp crushed garlic

1 tbsp Moroccan seasoning

1 tsp cumin

800gr diced tomatoes

1 red capsicum chopped

½ butternut pumpkin – 2cm diced

400gr chickpeas, drained

Heat oil, add chicken – cook till golden. Set aside. Add garlic and cook for 3 minutes.

Add Moroccan spice and cumin, cook – further 1 minute. Return chicken to pan, add tomatoes, capsicum, pumpkin and chick peas. Allow to simmer for 40 minutes or until vegies are tender. Serve with couscous and top with natural yoghurt if desired.

Bubble 'n' Squeak

Serves 8

1 medium shredded zucchini

1 shredded carrot

1 cup frozen peas

½ cup corn kernels

1/1 tsp crushed garlic

8 cherry tomatoes (cut in halves)

1 tbsp water

4 spring onions chopped

½ cup grated cheese

1/3 cup feta cheese – crumbled

4 eggs lightly beaten

¼ cup milk

½ cup SR flour

Heat a nonstick pan, add shredded vegies with the water and cook until softened. Cool.

Combine cooked vegies, spring onions, cheddar, feta, eggs, milk, flour and a little seasoning. Spoon into a lined pan.

Arrange tomatoes on top of mixture and bake 180C for 35 minutes (until golden and cooked)

Rest for 10-15 minutes, slice into small squares to serve.

Tip: add diced bacon for non-vegetarian.

News from the rooms.....

Babies/Toddlers

Hi Families and welcome to the new year. What a different start it has been for many, with the ever-changing ways of COVID. I like to focus on the positives during this time. I feel that we are blessed to still have the opportunity to learn and grow with your children, as they continue to come to care. Providing "normalcy" in whatever way that looks these days, is important for your child during this time. Childcare can provide that. Whilst they are at care they are able to play, connect, learn and socialize with others in a safe environment. Educators continue to implement health and safety procedures to ensure that we keep you and your child as safe as possible during this time. Not to continuously dwell on the COVID situation, I wanted to briefly let you (our under 2 families) know that we have changed our basket system. Educators decided that we will no longer be using baskets to store your child's belongings/nappies in during the gate drop-off (potentially even after). Having to pack and unpack bags and go to the hallway for changes of clothes, isn't a sustainable practice for the energy of educators.



We ask that if your child hasn't already got a bag, would you mind finding one please and bringing it to care each day that your child is booked in. In the bathroom, we have labelled the shelving which will be used to place your child's bag onto. Thank you for your understanding. Educators have had a strong focus with reconnecting with the children in our care, over the last month. We believe that without connection there is no relationship and without a relationship the child's sense of belonging can be affected. We connect through meaningful moments. Talking with families about holiday experiences and

recreating those experiences in provocations - this has seen beaches being formed in our play environment. Native small worlds, areas to take risks and explore trajectory and games. Games that involve others providing opportunities for social development and for the joy of simply being with together. With the month having passed, educators are now able to form the educational program. This is based on family conversation, noticing's of children's individual and group interests in play, celebrating significant cultural events, inquiry based play and incorporating elements and strategies that will help children reach their developmental needs/milestones (a very broad use of the words "milestones" as every child develops at a different rate "comparison is the thief of joy" 😊). The planned (intentional) program will emerge as the children lead the way in their learning. The educator's role is to facilitate their interests so that the child will have the space and time to learn more about their world, and in turn, themselves.

Educators look forward to the year ahead and the many reflective conversations that may unfold. The beginning of this is already in play, as we begin to unpack our philosophy, look deeply into Aboriginal perspectives and our representation and role in the implementation of this and to continue to improve areas of sustainability and knowledge. We look forward to sharing our learning journey with you all.

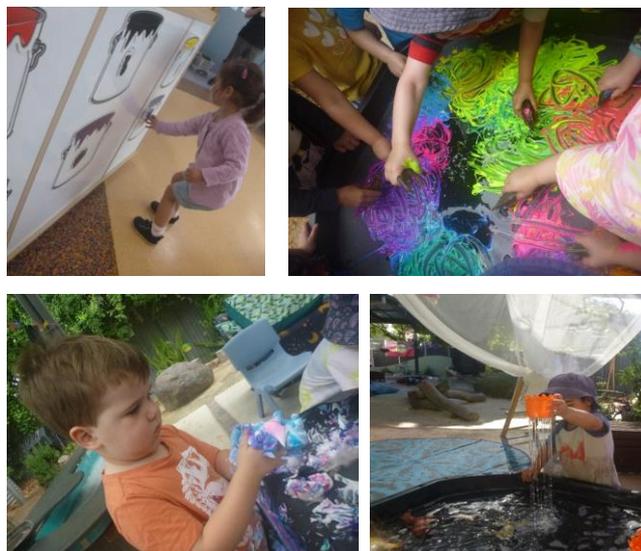


Happy learning, Kylie, Em, Ama, Maddy and Masuma

Wallabies

Welcome back to a new year. We would like to welcome all our new Wallabies. We hope that everyone had a great break. The Wallaby children have been learning and exploring scientific concepts and ideas. This has included seeing how the heat from their hands make liquid boil in the hand boilers, as well as observing how aqua

phobic sand stays dry even when placed in water. The children also often revisit early mathematical concepts of volume and capacity during dramatic play and in the sandpit, transferring water and sand. During the warmer days the children have explored water in its liquid and solid state. Children continue to make connections and expand their knowledge through open ended learning and through sharing knowledge with their peers and educators. Colour is all around us. The children continue to notice, match and explore colour mixing. We have been matching colours with the magnetic paint pots, mixing paint with cars and creating new colours, as well as seeing what happens when food colouring and shaving foam mix (different shades and texture of paint).



Children regularly, creatively explore these ideas, both as a group and individually. Meal times are a time where the children share about their day, as well as what fruits and vegetables they can see. Educators have been extending their knowledge of fruits and vegetables through stories, dramatic play as well as identifying pictures and conversations about healthy foods. A friendly reminder with the warmer weather, please can you make sure that there is appropriate clothing in your child's bag. Also, sunscreen and hats are now required. Please double check that your child has a hat in the room and that it fits their head. Transitions are continuing to occur with children moving from Toddlers to Wallabies as

well as Wallabies up to Kangaroos. We look forward to meeting our new Wallabies and building relationships with them as well as supporting all children, so that they all continue to feel safe, secure and connected. During COVID this looks a bit different.

We look forward to all the future learning and investigations.

Thanks Sarah, Tracey, Vic and Jess

Kangaroos

Families of the Kangaroo room, welcome to the new year! Already there has been changes made in our very busy January with children leaving for school, some starting Kindy, new children moving up from Wallabies and also welcoming Jacinta the newest member and Team Leader of the Kangaroo room. As you are aware, pick up and drops off have been different and new restrictions and rules have been put into place to ensure the safety of the staff, families and children of Rose Park regarding the pandemic. These changes, whilst essential, can certainly change how children behave and adjust to these changes. This is why it is extremely crucial to be understanding about how your child may be feeling at this time.

The link below identifies some strategies on how to help your child/ren cope with these changes, specifically throughout this pandemic and its unpredictable nature. You may not even recognise your child being affected by these changes, but all children process things differently (same as adults) which means it's important that both educators and families are checking-in on how the children may be feeling.

<https://www.primroseschools.com/blog/tips-for-helping-your-child-adapt-to-change/>

In regard to the room and what to expect for the term, we are hoping to undergo some new changes in the physical environment of the Kangaroo room. These changes include benefits to the children's learning and emotional regulation. We hope to include a space in our environment called the 'quiet space' where it allows the children to calm their bodies down or take a break from the busy environment they are constantly in. We also hope to include a 'construction area' where children can build, create and explore

building and constructing. This will hopefully give them the freedom to build for as little or as long as they like. It will provide a space for them to put their construction aside in case they want to come back later and keep building. This will provide the children the choice and give them creative control on their work which builds their minds and their imaginations. By changing and enhancing the environment to suit the children's needs, the children can feel a sense of being and becoming in the room and in turn, quiet their minds and focus on the important parts of their learning and development.

One of our other goals this term is to continue to strengthen our relationship with the families here at Rose Park. Given the circumstances, building the relationships right now with all of you has been difficult and I'm sure you're feeling a bit the same. That is why it will also be our goal to communicate with you as effectively as possible. We are hoping that this will include finding out about what you did on the weekend, who's in your family, your culture, your interests etc. We would like to make a start at this by first asking if you could bring in a photo of your child and their family.



If they have more than 1 feel free to bring in

multiple, the more the merrier. We would like to then display these photos somewhere in the room for the children to see, to feel connected and a sense of belonging within the room.

If you could email these to the centre for us to print off or bring in a photo for your child to give to us, that will be great!

We're excited to see how this term will unfold, for now, welcome to the new families and friends here at Rose Park. We're excited to get to know you and your child and start building that strong foundation of friendship that is critical for your child's development. Jacinta, Rachel and Karilyn