

Rose Park Community Childcare Newsletter

Term 3 2023

From our Educational and Quality Improvement Leader

Before every newsletter column entry, I reflect on what topics I may want to cover. I think about ways in which I can share knowledge of the early years sector and showcase the many achievements of our practice. Sharing our pedagogy with you all and hopefully giving you an insight into, not only the requirements of our profession, but also how hard the team works to ensure that your children are receiving the highest quality of care.

In the previous newsletter, I wrote about the changes to the Early Years Learning Framework and how it guides practice. I wanted to focus on the introduction of a term from the Framework, that educators have been incorporating into their professional language, that is "Place-based pedagogy".

Place-based pedagogy refers to an understanding that educator's knowledge of the setting (where we are located as a service) or context will influence how educators plan and practice (Reference ACECQA).

Our place encapsulates the environment, the community, our families, the children and Service Team. Also, the diverse cultures, and connections to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives. For our service situated on the Adelaide Plains, the focus is on the connections to Kaurna Land and culture. At RPCC our practice and curriculum design encompass all of this. It is visceral as we feel deeply connected to place, to each other, to the community and to the land. Place based pedagogy creates opportunities to become deeply immersed in learning and being present in the world around us. Observing the happenings of the outdoor environment, being present and looking at learning holistically in which not all learning is planned, it is emergent and meaningful and relatable to the children's individuality.

Examples include spontaneous walks in our community looking at what is occurring or collecting natural resources that have fallen or finding an insect in our outdoor play space which leads to inquiry play or observing animals that come and visit our yard. Recently, we have had a pirlta (possum in Kaurna) visit the service. Children came and sat quietly to observe it eating our pomegranate leaves and communicated their awe and wonder. Moments like this are unplanned, but so valuable. Place-based pedagogy also includes noticing weather patterns and referencing the Kaurna calendar (found on the bom.gov.au website, Indigenous weather knowledge) for embedded knowledge of cultural practice, using fire to cook with, embedding different ways of being and doing, using the wind to fly kites and planes, splashing in puddles from the rain, sharing joyful moments with friends. It is the stories that we read, the mark makings that we draw, and the conversations we have together. This is all belonging to place. Whilst to the untrained eye place-based pedagogy looks like "just play", we as educators know that in these moments of connection, the children learn more than what we can plan for. Our role as educators is to extend their knowledge and thought processes, challenge their thinking, ask questions, incorporate mathematical and scientific concepts and literacy, all the while allowing the child to lead their learning. We also know that play is essential to the early years, it forms the foundation to the knowledge they will need to function in this world. To quote Lev Vygotsky (a socio-cultural theorists) "A child's greatest achievements are possible in play, achievements that tomorrow will become her basic level of real action".

When your child is in your community context, observe how they connect to place. You will find that the depth of attachment they have to their environment is something we can all observe and learn from. That in itself is magical!

Kylie

Contact Details

Please keep us up to date of any contact details that have changed. Whether it be your address, phone number or other people authorised to collect your child, including first and last names and telephone numbers, so they can use the sign in/out devices. We can not allow children to leave the service with anyone who is not listed, and that we have not checked for ID. If you are sending someone to pick up your child for the first time, please let us know and ask that person to bring their ID, so that we can verify who they are.

Important Dates for your Calendars

The Board have set the date for this year's AGM, **Wednesday 20th September** during the evening.

It is an important part of the Service's year to hear what we have achieved, what we plan to do in the near future and the financial position we are in. We will also be asking for nominations to join the Board, at least 3 of our current Board members will be stepping down as their children are due to start school next year. More information, including nomination forms and agenda items will be out soon.

The Board have also set the dates for our closure period for Christmas/New Year 2023/24. **We will close at 1pm on Friday 22nd December and then re-open 7:30am on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.** Tuesday 2nd January will be an Educator Team Day comprising of Team Meetings, Professional Development and setting up the rooms to welcome children the following day.

Please Note: Fees will not be charged for the afternoon of 22nd December through to the 2nd January inclusive.

Wet Bags

As previously advertised, you can order wet bags through us via email. They are \$20 each, which can be billed to your account. They come in Bees, Rainbows and an Aboriginal design (we have examples in the office to see them). 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.

Availability of spaces

Currently we are just about full throughout the week for the last half of the year, unless you, our current families have any changes to your care coming up. If your care needs are changing, please let us know. Due to us being close to full most days, the ability to swap days or get additional days may be limited, so please let us know if you are going to be away, as this could help another family needing an extra booking.

If you have recently had a baby or are pregnant, please fill in a waitlist form and return it to us, so that we are aware of your family's needs. We try our best to offer our current families care first, but if you do not let us know you need the care, then it makes it tricky for us to squeeze you in with minimal notice. Let us know if you would like a waiting list form emailed to you or printed out.

Sun Protection and Winter Clothing



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. This means as of next week, your child is required to have wear a hat and sunscreen each day. Please make sure that they have a hat in their bag and send them with sunscreen applied in the morning. If your child has an allergy to sunscreen, please supply a sunscreen that they can have applied – it must have a chemist label attached to it.

At this time of year, even on cold days, the children are still outside enjoying our outdoor environment. Please ensure that your child has a jacket to wear (or a Wet weather Onesie), and plenty of changes of clothes in case items get wet and they need changing. If you haven't got a Wet Bag, please see below. These save us in using plastic bags for wet and soiled clothing.

Social & Fundraising Committee

If you would like to join the Service's Social & Fundraising committee, who plan family events or have new and exciting ideas for fundraising, please email or speak to Sarah or Lisa.

We have recently asked families what your child's favourite park or playground is, as we are trying to organise our next family get together.

The committee is also starting to organise an event at the Service for parents to attend to meet other families in a relaxed, child free atmosphere.

Your committee currently consists of Sarah R, Jess, Maddy, Alice, Jacinta and a parent, Sarah S.

Community Library

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



entrance gates of the Service, (Close Street side). We encourage the use of this to expose the children to more literacy. The idea of the

Community Library is to 'Take a Book' and 'Give a Book', or alternatively, 'Borrow a Book' and 'Return a Book'.

Water Bottles and Nappies

A reminder to please take your child's bottle home each evening to wash and refill. Please don't forget to return it with your child the next day they are in and make sure their name is clearly marked on it.

Just a reminder, we do not supply nappies for the children who require them. Please make sure there are at least 4-5 nappies in your child's bag each day they attend. You can always bring in a bag of nappies for us to store here and use for your child to save you bringing them in each day.

We are happy for families to use either disposable or cloth nappies. If using cloth nappies, we ask you bring in more to last the day and that a wet bag is provided. If you need to purchase one, just let us know, as we can provide you one for a cost of \$20.

Immunisation

Thanks to all that continue to forward us your child's Immunisation History Statement, after they have had an update of their 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 Immunisation History Statement. You can access this through 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 and you will stop receiving reminder emails.

We keep our own records of who is due when, so we may also email you 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 provided and is entered into our computer system. 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>

Adult immunisation recommendations include the following:

- Yearly Influenza vaccinations
- A COVID booster.
- When around babies and children, it is also recommended for updates of Pertussis (Whooping Cough, Diphtheria/Tetanus), MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), Varicella (if you haven't had Chicken Pox) and Hepatitis A.

Check your MyGov for your own Immunisation History Statement or speak to your Doctor/Health Professional regarding what you may need to stay healthy.

**Name:**

Em

Role at RPCC and how long have you worked here:

Team Leader in the Under 2's, I've been here for just over 12 years.

Who lives at your house?

My husband, Marc, my eldest son Angus (18 years), and Lachlan who is 16 years – and our trusty and loyal dog Archie.

Favourite TV show / movie:

I enjoy watching documentaries of a variety of genres – true crime, history and culture.

Current favourite Artist/Music:

Love listening to Flume, Rufus, Gangs of Youth and Australian Artists.

Likes:

Reading, being out in nature, walking and taking photos, spending time with family.

Dislikes:

Being cold!

Favourite part of my job:

Helping support families and children, setting up inviting and aesthetically pleasing provocations

If I won a million Dollars:

I would help my family members and buy a shack on the esplanade at Aldinga, where I'd sit and watch the weather change and the waves roll into the shore.

**Name:**

Rachel

Role at RPCC and how long have you worked here:

Childcare Educator in the Kangaroos, for over 20 years

Favourite TV show/movies:

My husband Mark and a group of crazy native animals such as koalas, blue tongue lizards, bat, owls, rainbow lorikeets, rosellas, kangaroos, possums and foxes.

Favourite things to watch:

YouTube and Podcasts

Current favourite Music:

I enjoy a mixture of music, especially Second Wind Ensemble, and supporting Community Bands around SA.

Likes:

I enjoy overlanding 4x4 travelling and exploring around Australia in our Trayvon Camper – enjoy walking/hiking and photography and flying the Drone out in nature

Dislikes:

Flies and mosquitos

Favourite part of my job:

The smiles, laughter, stories and ideas the children come up with. Everyday is different. Watching them grow in the community over the last 20 years.

If I won a million Dollars:

Buying our ultimate travel vehicle and traveling. Doing volunteer work for charity.

**Name:**

Jess

Role at RPCC and how long have you worked here:

Educator in the Wallabies, 12 years at the Service.

Who lives at your house?

My partner Gabe, step daughters Annabelle (13) and Lilly (11) – part-time and my dogs Ava and Mia.

Favourite Movie/TV Show:

One Tree, Charmed, CSI/NCIS Crime Shows. The Greatest Showman, Cruella, Birds of Prey.

Current favourite Artist:

Pink, Delta Goodrum, Ed Sheeran, Dean Lewis.

Likes:

Arts and crafts, music, reading, chocolate and kindness.

Dislikes:

Olives, inequality and bullying.

Favourite part of my job:

Connecting with the children, watching them grow, encouraging them to thrive – providing a safe space that feels like home.

If I won a million Dollars:

Buy a house, travel, help my family and donate to local charities.

**Name:**

Kylie

Role at RPCC and how long have you worked here:

Educational and Quality Improvement Leader

Who lives at your house?

My husband Ryan, and 3 children (teenagers 😊), Kirra, Asher and Jevan. And a menagerie of animals.

Favourite TV shows:

I recently finished watching Alone Australia and am interested in documentaries based on culture and different ways of living, social justice and the natural world

Current favourite Music:

Bon Iver, Gang of Youths, South Summit to Hayden James, Pearl Jam, Flume, Gurrumul – music is my soul food and I find something captivating in most genres of music except pop (haha).

Likes:

Nature adventures – going 'home' to the Southern York Peninsula to connect and ground. Ocean surfs and swims, playing football, friends and family

Dislikes:

Bias and inequality, judgement, closed minded thinking

Favourite part of my job:

Lifting the Service to become the best we can be. Helping to raise empathetic citizens that value each other and the natural world. My heart sings when I see kindness amongst others.

If I won a million Dollars:

Pay off mortgage and the rest of our school fees for the coming years. Invest time in discovering the natural wonders that Australia has to offer. Buy a caravan and travel, swim and surf the country.

From your Kitchen Manager.....

Kim, our wonderful and talented Kitchen Manager has kindly shared 2 more recipes for you to try at home.

If you ever have any questions about what your child eats here, allergy concerns or another recipe, feel free to pop to the kitchen to see Kim. She is here every day 7:45-1:30pm.

More recipes also feature on our website. We upload each newsletter to the website as well and there are usually a couple of recipes featured each time.

Coconut Macaroons

Ingredients

4 eggs whites
½ cup granulated sugar
4 cups coconut
¼ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla essence

Method

In a bowl, add egg whites, sugar, salt, vanilla essence and beat until thick and frothy. Add coconut and combine gently. Spoon into ball and onto a lined baking tray. Bake 180C for 20-25 minutes, until golden.



Lemon Myrtle Butter Biscuits

Ingredients

250 grams self-raising flour
100 grams butter (softened)
1 beaten egg
1 teaspoon dried lemon myrtle powder
125 grams sugar
Pre Heat oven to 180C

Method

Sift flour and lemon myrtle into a bowl
Rub in butter until it resembles fine bread crumbs
Add sugar and egg, mix to soft dough
Turn onto floured board and knead gently until smooth
Wrap in plastic wrap and chill for approx. 30 minutes

Roll out onto floured board, to 5mm thick, should make around 30 biscuits using a biscuit cutter

Place onto greased baking tray and bake for 12-15 minutes.



Cook Book

If you haven't purchased one already, please let us know if you would like a copy of the Rose Park Community Cook Book. Great value for **\$15**. It includes many of Kim's, our Kitchen Manger, recipes that the children love, as well as family and educator's home recipes. Please email the office if you would like a copy and we can add the amount to your account.

