Preschool Closure

Please note - there will be no DECD preschool on Friday 8 July (last day of term 2).

Long Day Care will be available to families who have children with a regular LDC booking each Friday. Our core Educators from across our site will spend the day reviewing our Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing Policies and Procedures; monitoring the progress of our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and the use of our LCD board – as we improve our ICT skills!

Please note - there will be no DECD preschool on Monday 25 July (first day of term 3).

Long Day Care will be available to families who have children with a regular LDC booking each Monday. Our core Educators from across our site will be working with Educators across the Golden Way Partnership at Literacy and Numeracy priorities.

Curriculum

Numeracy is the capacity, confidence and disposition to use mathematics in daily life.

Both literacy and numeracy are forms of communication; representing and sharing information with others.

They are also essential life skills and children need opportunities to use them during play-based play as well as see them being used in everyday life situations. We have been looking at 'opportunising numeracy' during play and routines to assist children in increasing their language or to introduce new concepts and to stretch children's thinking.

eg, when playing with cars, we talk with the children about

✓ The placement of cars, 1st,2nd, last,
✓ The colour of the cars,
✓ Measuring the speed of the cars,
✓ Predicting which car will be the fastest,
✓ Predicting why the same car is always the fastest
✓ Recording a tally of which cars come first,
✓ Problem solving ideas on how to make their car move faster.

Trent Hill from 'Indigenous Culture for Kids' is an Indigenous story teller and educator who will be visiting on the 14th June. He will share a Dreaming Story through storytelling, drawing animal tracks, signs and symbols as well as discussing the morals within story.

The Preschool children have been very successful at moving through the various movements of the Move to Learn Program. We have moved from rolling to gliding (aka the banana or superman) and some children are also onto the next move 'Unilateral flip flops'.

Why not ask your child to demonstrate for you!

This term we are discussing relationships as part of our Child Protection curriculum, in particular, ‘identity and relationships’, ‘fair and unfair’ and ‘trust and networks’.

You are welcome to discuss any aspect of your child’s learning and development with your child’s Primary Educator at any time, or you could ring to negotiate a mutually convenient time to either meet with your child’s Primary Educator or have a phone conversation. If you do not know who your child’s Primary Educator is, please see Anne or Jenny in the office.

Please ensure your child's regular attendance!

Please phone us and let us know if your child is not attending for the day.

Please note : It is a Licensing requirement that children are signed in and signed out when both arriving and departing each day.

Please ensure that while your child is at the Children's Centre that you are contactable via your phone. Please make every effort to respond to messages left on your phone as soon as possible.
We’ve had a fantastic start to Term 2, with many families attending our Toilet Training information session with Daniela, our DECD Occupational Therapist. The session was very well attended, with the view to plan for a subsequent session in the near future. If you missed out this time around and would still like to attend in the future please let us know.

Next week Tamara Hall, our DECD Speech Pathologist will be facilitating a session for parents who want to know more about the stages of speech development and strategies for promoting this learning at home. This session will be ideal for any parents of children who require additional speech support, but also those who just want to know more about how to best support their children’s developing speech and language skills.

**SPEECH & LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:** Wednesday 8th June 6:30pm.

**Additional evening sessions coming up in Term 2 will include:**

**FIRST AID FOR PARENTS & CARERS:** Wednesday 15th June 2016, 6:30pm
Cost: $20/ person or $35/couple
Provided by St. John Ambulance

**ME TIME & PARENTING:** Tuesday 28th June 2016, 6:30pm
Free session. How do you find more ‘Me Time’ as a parent? A supportive session for those parents looking to create a greater sense of balance in their life.

All evening information sessions will also have a crèche available, with bookings needed in advance. Families who don’t attend our Children’s Centre are also more than welcome to these sessions.

To book please give me a call: 8251 2700 or email: laura.francis@sa.gov.au

**Parent Engagement Group:**

Are you a parent who values a strong sense of Community for your family? Do you enjoy the opportunity to connect with other parents living within our neighbourhood? Would you like to contribute to the planning of social connection events for our Keithcot Farm families? Then I need you. **If you are interested in joining our brand new Parent Engagement Group please let me know.**

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**July School holiday activities:**
A range of options will be available for families throughout the upcoming July School Holidays, including those offered in collaboration with Tea Tree Gully Council. Details will be provided closer to the end of school term.

**Upcoming group sessions (offered in collaboration with TTG Council):**

**MY BABY (Term 3):** for first time parents. A 6 week program, Thursday mornings.

**MUCKY DUCKS (Term 3):** a 6 week interactive art/craft program for parents/carers to enjoy with their child. Suited for 2-5 year olds. Wednesday mornings.

To register your interest for either of these group sessions please phone: 8397 7422

If at any stage you are looking for extra information about child development related topics or parenting please touch base. We have a range of brochures and resources within our parent library that you are welcome to borrow at any time.

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**Audits**

The National Quality Framework – **Quality Area 2:**
*Children’s Health and Safety* states that to minimise risks to children, an Education and Care Service must implement:
- Adequate health and hygiene practices.
- Safe practices for handling and storing food
- Ensure that policies and procedures are in place about these practices
- Comply with food safety legislation.

The TTG Council conducts an annual Food Safety Audit to ensure that there are minimal risks to children and staff.

Our site did exceptionally well – which affirms the high quality of food handling, preparation, monitoring and storage – *thank you especially to Jen, Jo, Nobuko and Sally!*

**Quality Area 7:** *Leadership and Service Management* states that “well documented policies and procedures; well maintained records and administrative systems are established and maintained. This ensures the effective operation of the Centre and contributes to the quality environments for children’s learning and development”. An annual Finance Audit was conducted by external Audit authorised by DECD - Bentleys SA on 10 May. Overall the Auditors were very satisfied with the financial management of our centre.

They acknowledged that our Centre is complex because of the range of funding sources from both Commonwealth and State Governments including Allied Health and Community Development as well as parent contributions – *thank you especially to Carolyn, Sue and John.*
Building Redevelopment
The South Australian Government is committed to expand the range of services within Keithcot Farm Children’s Centre to ensure children and parents get the early childhood development support they are entitled to! Plans have been approved and signed off and now The Department of Planning, Transport & Infrastructure (DPTI) and the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) are in the process of tendering for the approved builders!

A copy of the approved plans are on display on the noticeboard adjacent to the Office.
We are not predicting any interruptions to our daily programs, however there will be changes to where staff and children enter the building while the work is in progress. At this stage construction will commence in August and we will keep you up to date with the temporary changes.
The redevelopment will greatly expand our Centre so we can bring together Education and Care, family support, community development and early childhood health services through Allied Health.

Allied Health is a program that helps to identify, intervene and minimise developmental delays before children start school. We are extremely fortunate to be working with Daniela (Occupational Therapist) and Tamara (Speech Pathologist) The increased early childhood Allied Health services in speech pathology and occupational therapy allow for higher prevention and early detection of developmental concerns in our children. Tamara and Daniela work from a primary prevention and early intervention approach to build the capacity of our team of Educators and parents to support children’s optimal development.
Activities include developmental screening, staff development sessions, parent consultation, parent and child group programs, short term intervention for children and development of referral processes and resource packages.
This addresses developmental needs prior to children commencing school.

Community Development/parenting programs will continue in the evening and will also be available during the day!
We are planning on establishing opportunities for possible anti-natal classes; My Baby and My Toddler groups! We are also planning the reintroduction of playgroups which will link to Community Development programs as well as our Allied Health programs.

Exciting times are ahead for our community!

Health
If your child is showing signs of being unwell before coming to the Children’s Centre, it is important to keep him/her home for the day, and ring the Centre to inform of your child’s absence.
Correct hand washing is one of the most effective ways to help prevent the spread of colds and influenza. Common cold viruses can get on our hands when we touch infected hands, surfaces and objects. When we put our unwashed hands in our mouth or rub our eyes and nose with them we can infect ourselves with a cold virus. Wash hands thoroughly, especially before eating food and after blowing the nose, coughing or sneezing.

Children who have diarrhoea or are vomiting must be kept home for 24 hours after the last episode.
Please notify staff immediately should your child contract an infectious disease. Should any child become unwell at the Children’s Centre, parents or contacts nominated by parents on their child’s enrolment form, will be contacted and requested that they be collected as soon as possible or within one hour to reduce the possibility of the illness spreading to other children and staff.
In some instances when a Doctor has recommended that a child stay home, a Doctor’s clearance that it is OK for your child to return to our Centre, may be required.

Please note: in the event of an Outbreak of a communicable disease, families of “non-immunised” children will be asked to exclude their child from the Children’s Centre for the relevant period.

Now that we are heading into winter, could you please provide a warm named beanie and a named rain jacket for your child to wear outdoors? This also supports the implementation of our Nature Play Curriculum. We have a large covered outdoor area, but sometimes children get caught in the rain if there is a sudden downpour, leaving the rest of their clothes wet. A warm rain jacket that can be independently removed and hang up to dry will reduce the problem of wet clothes in winter.

Dental Clinics
All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend the School Dental Service. Dental care is FREE for most school-aged children and ALL preschool children.
SA Dental Service participates in the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. A small fee may apply for children who are not eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. To locate your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, please phone 8222 8222 or visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au
Social Media and Cyber Safety.

Governing Council approved a new Policy on 23 May 2016
SOCIAL MEDIA AND CYBER SAFETY POLICY
“Keeping our children safe in a connected world”
Please read this Policy carefully – if you require further clarification – please contact Anne or Jen.

At Keithcot Farm Children’s Centre we promote the safe use of Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) to provide a rich learning environment for our children and to engage and communicate with our community.

This policy is intended to support staff and families in the provision of good cyber safety practices. It also covers our requirements to minimise risks to children’s safety. This policy is applicable to all Staff, volunteers and contractors, children and their parents and the Children’s Centre community. It applies to activities related to accessing online services either on our premises or at an off-site location.

In order to protect the children and respect the wishes of all members of our community, we ask that these security guidelines be followed by all staff, parents, caregivers and community members when using personal social media such as Facebook, Flickr, Twitter and others.

Guidelines for families:
You are most welcome to photograph or record your child while at the Children’s Centre or engaging in Children’s Centre activities off site.

Please consider the angle of your photo so that other children are not included and that you may need to crop your photo prior to uploading.

HOWEVER!!
If your photographs or video-recordings contain the image of children other than your own these must not be uploaded to any websites eg Facebook, emailed to third parties or reproduced/printed and used outside of your home (note: at times there may be children enrolled whose parents have not granted permission for their child’s image to be recorded or published outside of the Children’s Centre.)

Please do show others the learning experiences documented within your child’s Portfolio however please do not photocopy/scan and share with third parties any photographs containing the image of children other than your own.

Guidelines for staff:
Obtain signed consent via DECD Talent Release form from families before displaying their children’s images in any advertising brochures; or articles that may appear on our website / or on television.

Children will be closely supervised when using all ICT devices Internet sites will be only used for learning related activities and will be thoroughly supervised by staff. Websites will be previewed to ensure the content is age-appropriate and does not contain inappropriate material

CREATED : May 2016
TO BE REVIEWED: September 2016 (in line with WH&S Policies.)
Office for the Children’s eSafety Commissioner

National Quality Framework:
QA2 –Children’s Health and Safety.
2.3.2 – Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm.
QA6 – Collaborative Partnerships with families and communities.

Long Day Care continues through the July School Holidays

Mon 25 July:
DECD Preschool closure
Normal Monday LDC Program.

Tuesday 26 July:
Term 3 recommences for the DECD Preschool Program.

Monday 15 August:
Governing Council Meeting @ 6.45pm