



The staff for Term 4, 2021 include

- Anne Whittleston (Director: Education + Care)
- Jen Reid (Assistant Director)
- Nathan McGuinness (Community Development Coordinator)
- Tamara Hall (Speech Pathologist)
- Sarah Harry (Occupational Therapist)
- Janet Hazel (Educator)
- Roshni Amroliwala (Educator)
- Michelle Cullen (Educator)
- Adrienne Hicks (Educator)
- Le-arna Rathjen (Educator)
- Magdaline Saredakis (Educator)
- Lisa Chalmers (Educator)
- Lisa Mildrum (Educator)
- Jodie Murray (Educator)
- Andrea Randell (Educator)
- Coby Romano (Educator)
- Julia Tilley (Educator)
- Iona Angely (Educator)
- Yogini Patel (Educator)
- Noella Saad (Educator)
- Loretta Dixey (Educator)
- Cathy Mazzarolo (Admin Officer)
- Jo Oliver (Cook / Educator)
- Nobuko Nakajima (Cook / Educator)
- Rinjani Bonavidi (Educator)
- Mayuko Mulholland (Educator)
- Zahra Zahra (Educator)
- Lorrae Head (Educator)
- Yan Chen (Educator)
- Kylie Webster (Finance Officer)
- Simon Costello (Grounds person)

Walks to Neighbouring Keithcot Farm Primary School



The Department for Education have requested that each day children visit Keithcot Farm Primary School to either

- ✓ Use the Library / Resource Centre.
- ✓ Attend assemblies.
- ✓ Visit class rooms
- ✓ Play on the big climbing equipment.
- ✓ Play on the Oval.

The parent must provide consent on the day.

Some days the visit to the school are spontaneous. For the remainder of the year we will trial parents providing consent on a **daily basis via the sign in sheets**.

Curriculum



Children who will transition to Keithcot Farm Primary School for next year will have additional visits to classrooms this term. The school will provide more information very soon. Those children who will transition to other local schools in 2022, will be contacted by their schools with regard to the transitions visits to these schools.

At Keithcot Farm Children's Centre each child has a portfolio which is an interactive way to share our understanding of your child's learning and development. We record "Learning Stories", jottings, photos and anecdotes about your child's experiences in our program in relation to The Early Years Learning Framework which capture important milestones; interests; noticing's and achievements. You could share some stories/photos about your child at home and the things you think are important and add it to your child's portfolio. That way we can *together* create a lasting record of your child's learning at home, in the community and in our program. Please take the portfolio home to read with your family but ensure it returns so we can add more stories!

Vacancies



We have vacancies in our Preschool Program for next year. Please encourage family and friends to enrol their child if they are eligible for Preschool in 2022.

A number of vacancies will arise in our Long Day Care program at the end of the year as a result of families no longer needing this program as their child is accessing Preschool or have transitioned to School.

Please encourage friends and families to give us a call so we can organise a visit to our Centre and consider a program to meet the needs of their child.

2022 Fees

On 20 September our Governing Councils reviewed and updated 2022 Preschool fees as well as Childcare fees associated with the preschool program.

Preschool Fees for 2022 are as follows:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Preschool | \$480/year |
| Lunch and Afternoon Care (in conjunction with Preschool) | \$62 |
| Before Preschool Care | \$23 |
| After Preschool Care | \$28 |
| Between Session Care (in conjunction with Preschool) | \$20 |

The Childcare Governing Council are currently reviewing our Childcare fees and will be making a formal decision at our next meeting scheduled for Monday 25 October, 6.30pm at the Centre.

Preschool Information Nights

Wednesday 3 November @ 6pm For existing families. Crèche will be provided.

Wednesday 10 November @ 6pm for families *new* to Keithcot Farm Children's Centre. Crèche will be provided.

Information Packs will be distributed to all families who have enrolled their children for the 2022 Preschool Program.

Family Christmas Celebration



Tuesday 30 November @ 6.30pm.

At Golden Grove High School.

More details of this event will be sent home as soon as they are confirmed

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting is planned for

Monday 6 December @ 6.30pm.

We have 2 Governing Councils

1. Preschool + Allied Health + Community Development.
2. Childcare.

Membership of both Governing Councils consist of parents and community members elected at the Annual General Meeting and the staff leadership team.

Reports will be available outlining accomplishments achieved at the Children's Centre through 2021.

Role of the Governing Councils

- ✚ To support the implementation and management of the integrated Long Day Care; Department for Education Preschool Program; Allied Health and Community Development Programs.
- ✚ To develop and review policies and directions which will ensure a supportive learning environment for all children and their families.
- ✚ To identify strategic directions in the form of a Preschool Quality Improvement Plan (PQIP) along with the Centre Leadership team.
- ✚ To use human resources flexibly, effectively and efficiently.
- ✚ To raise funds to enable the purchase of resources and the maintenance of facilities
- ✚ To work collaboratively with Community Groups to strengthen community partnerships.

Governing Council meetings are both informal and informative – a great way to get to know other parents, talk to staff in a more "relaxed" atmosphere, and for you to have a positive, productive say in the future directions of your child's Children's Centre.

The Governing Councils meet apx. twice per school term (apx every 6 weeks).

In terms One + Four we meet Face to Face and in Terms Two and Three we meet via ZOOM online meetings.

Dental Health



Dental care is FREE for ALL babies, preschool and most children under 18 years at School Dental Service clinics. SA Dental Service have specially trained staff to provide comprehensive dental care to help prevent pain and tooth decay. They will talk to parents / carers about what the child needs before providing any treatment. SA Dental Service have been a trusted government dental service for children since 1969 and bulk bill under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

Our local clinic is: Modbury GP Plus Super Clinic
Phone: 7425 8700 or use the link on their website to ask them to contact you.

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/dentalappointment

Sun Safety

Sunscreen must be applied by parents/ caregivers to all exposed skin **before** arrival at the Centre. Our Educators will reapply sunscreen through the day in line with the current Cancer Council recommendations when the UV Rating is 3 or above.

If you do not want your child to receive sunscreen- please put your request in writing and it will be filed with your child's confidential documentation.

Please do not send children with exposed shoulders/ backs. These children will be asked to put on a t-shirt or will be required to spend all day inside as sunscreen alone is not an acceptable means of protection for these body parts during the hot summer months.

Please ensure your child has a **named broad brimmed hat** with no drawstring or toggles.

Please provide a named cup in your child's bag. Our Educators ensure that all children have a drink of water with fruit in the morning and in the afternoon as well as a drinks of water and milk at lunch time. We ensure that fresh water is easily accessible for children to independently access using **their own cups**. We discourage the use of drink bottles in case they accidentally contain drinks other than water which could be harmful for many children.

Community Development

We have continued to promote programs and activities with families through our Facebook page. Very soon our new **Website** will be active and provide another opportunity to promote what is happening at the Centre and also in the community. John Saredakis has done a great job in creating the new Website.

This term we have expanded our partnership with the **Northern Area Midwifery Group**. We will be running a pilot program where 3-6 Midwives will meet with 10-20 Pregnant Women 3 or 4 times over the term to catch up as a support group.

Sarah, our Occupational Therapist will be running a Parenting information session for "**Separation Anxiety**". *More information will be provided very soon.*

Sarah will also facilitate a "**Toilet Training**" workshop on 18 November. *More information will be provided very soon.*

Parenting SA will be running a pilot program **Growing and Learning in the Family-Connecting with your Child through Play.**

This will be a two-week program that will run on consecutive Thursday evenings. *More information will be provided very soon.*

Play in the Park will be a 5 week program at 5 different parks around the local area. This program will run on a different day each week to try and cater to a larger demographic of families from the Centre and the community. It provides our Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist and Community Development Coordinator the opportunity to promote programs and the role of our Multidisciplinary team.

Christmas Raffle

The Governing Council are in the process of organising a Christmas Raffle- donations of non-perishable foods; new toys; books; gift vouchers; baskets etc are needed.

Books of 10 raffle tickets @ 50 cents will be given to all families and staff – additional books are available on request.



Parent Complaint Policy

We all expect quality and expert care and teaching for children in order that they achieve their potential. We also recognise that at times things may go wrong. If you have a concern or a complaint, we want you to let us know. It's important to learn from mistakes or misunderstandings so that we can improve your child's experience and learning, and also improve processes where possible.

A complaint may be made by a parent if they think that the Children's Centre has, for example:

- ✦ done something wrong
- ✦ failed to do something it should have done

- ✦ acted unfairly or impolitely.
- Your concern or complaint may be about:
- ✦ the type, level or quality of services
 - ✦ the behaviour and decisions of staff
 - ✦ a policy, procedure or practice.

Sometimes a complaint is about something we have to do because of State or Federal law. In such cases we are able to talk to you about the matter and help you understand the requirements and why they exist.

The first step in working through a complaint is to talk to your child's Primary Educator. (If you do not know who this is – please ask Anne or Jen or give us a call on 82512700). If you still are not satisfied then please refer the concern to the **Director – Education and Care : Anne Whittleston**. Ask at the front office for a copy of the **Parent Complaint Policy - Guide to Raising a Concern or Complaint**. Steps guiding how complaints should be made are explained in the Policy. Use this guide to help you think through what you are concerned about and how to resolve the matter respectfully and effectively.



Dates to Remember

Mon 11 October: Preschool program recommences.

Thursday 21 October: CAFHS Preschool Health checks.

Bookings Essential.

Wednesday 3 November @ 6.00pm:

2022 Preschool Information Night for existing LDC Families.

Wednesday 10 November @ 6.00pm:

2022 Preschool Information Night for families.

who are new to Keithcot Farm Children's Centre.

Tuesday 30 November @ 6.30pm: Family Christmas celebration @ Golden Grove High School.

More details coming soon

Monday 6 December: Drawing of the Christmas Raffle.

Monday 6 December: Annual General Meeting @ 6.30pm

Friday 10 December: Centre closes @ 12:30pm.



Monday 3 January 2022 Centre reopens for LDC.

Monday 31 January Preschool commences for 2022.

Supporting language skills development in young children



by Maria Kyrgias

Research has shown that language and literacy acquisition happens best in the context of caring attentive relationships. The biggest influence on children's early language development is the home. The best context for learning to take place is a language rich environment, where parents communicate and interact with their children, engage them in reading and storytelling activities and actively involve them in daily household routines.

Some children commence kindergarten with a vocabulary of more than 3000 words while others may have a vocabulary of fewer than 1000 words. While these differences may be due to underlying developmental, speech or hearing problems (which may require specialist intervention) they can also be due to differences in the child's environment.

A child who is rarely read to, sung to, or talked with, will not develop language at the same rate as the child actively immersed in a language rich environment.

A few ways we can encourage language and development

Encourage a talking environment. Talk about anything and everything throughout the day.

Recognise that every situation is a chance to encourage language. Talk about colour, texture, size, number and use opportunities to develop spatial concepts such as: up, down, over, under, into.

Read stories and nursery rhymes and play word games. Reading should be a daily occurrence, and don't worry if the child chooses the same story time and time again. Repetition is necessary for children to learn new language. Nursery rhymes and songs allow children to hear the flow and rhythm of language. Through stories, rhymes and songs, we can expose children to much rich and varied language.

Encourage him/her to express views,

feelings and ideas. "Do you think he liked that?"; "What do you think may happen next?"

Use opportunities to extend the child's emotional vocabulary. Include words beyond happy and sad, for example, joyful, excited, frustrated, and disappointed.

Allow the child to be the storyteller. They will often want to 'read' to you. Pre-reading for a child takes many forms; sometimes they are making up their own story; other times they are recounting a story you have read, and other times they are telling a story prompted by pictures.

Be a listener. A child needs to know that you are valuing and respecting what he/she is saying. Maintain eye contact and use positive body language, smiles and nods to communicate that you are listening. This in turn, will help your child to develop the crucial listening skills required for successful learning.

Effective listening involves you hearing the meanings and feelings of your child, and allows you the opportunity to rephrase and re-state in different words what your child has said. This affirms the child and shows that you understand the message. It is also a very positive way to model correct speech and to extend the child's vocabulary.

Model correct language structure. Use complete sentences and pronounce words properly, avoid using slang and baby talk. You can also extend the

child's language by adding to their incomplete sentences.

For example:

Child: 'Bike'


Parent: 'Yes, there is a bike outside. What colour is the bike?'

Child: 'Red.'

Parent: 'Yes. That is a red bike. How many wheels does it have?'

By adding vocabulary and concepts you are expanding and scaffolding the child's understanding and experience.

Avoid correcting all the time. Instead, restate their words modelling correct form and pronunciation. Constant correction will create a sense of failure and discourage attempts.

Provide and encourage opportunities for imaginative play and creative expression. Encourage role-play, drawing and dance, and provide toys, materials and equipment that promote creativity and expression. A dress up box can be a world of wonder for a small child. Provide opportunities for interaction and play with other children. Most importantly, have fun communicating with your child. Enjoy his/her development and celebrate every small achievement. 

Maria Kyrgias has many years of teaching experience, including positions as Assistant Principal in the primary sector. She has also taught in the middle school sector and in the Education faculty of a tertiary institution.

For more information visit:
www.earlylife.com.au