



NEWSLETTER



HACKHAM WEST CHILDREN'S CENTRE

7.3.17 (Week 6), Term One 2017

New Look Newsletter

We are excited to begin the new year with a new look newsletter. Many thanks to Hackham West R-7 School for sharing their template with us. We hope to make sure we communicate all the news about our Centre and the Community in a clear and regular way.

Please give us some feedback.

Learning Is Everywhere

Have you had a look in the Over 3 and Under 3 rooms lately? Lots of examples of our children's work are on display, as well as photos and prompts for children to look at. If you want to know more about your child's learning and development, or the focus of the room, there are a few things you can do:

- Look at the displays on the wall
- Look at the Learning Program of activities
- Look in your child's Learning Portfolio (ask an educator to show you if you haven't seen it lately)
- Talk to an educator about the goals for the group, or your child's personal goals
- Come a little early, or stay a while, and watch your child in play.
- Talk to your child about their day- we can help you with hints or clues to get the chatting going
- Read the newsletter
- Look at the Facebook page

We know you will see some fantastic learning going on!

Centre Facebook Page

If you haven't already, please check out our Hackham West Children's Centre Facebook Page. We post reminders about events, photos of children learning and updates about our Community Programs.



DIARY DATES

Fees for Kindy are now due

Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

Monday 13th March

Family BBQ and Learning Night

Thursday 6th April

Kindy Term Finishes & Easter Long Weekend

Thursday 13th April

Hackham West Children's Centre

Children's Centre
9 Vintners Walk, Hackham West
Phone 8382 6161

Children's Centre Unit:
Within Hackham West R-7 School
Glynville Dve, Hackham West
Phone 8382 0955

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From our Family Support Team

Hi,

I'm Bronwen, the Family Services Coordinator at the centre and have recently returned from Maternity Leave. I'm available on Tuesdays, Thursdays and alternate Wednesdays.

I run parenting programs at the Children's Centre Unit and can offer brief counselling and support with accessing other services in the community for you or your family. Feel free to contact me on 0437 460 027 or talk with the staff at the centre about making time to meet with me. I look forward to getting to know the children and families in our centre!

Food, Food, Food

Please remember to bring a piece of fruit EVERY DAY for your child

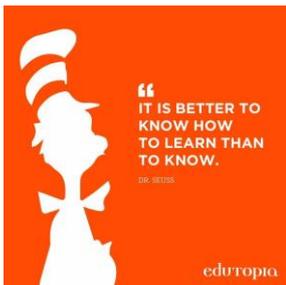
Under 3 room: it goes **in the basket** in the kitchen.

Over 3's: it stays **in the child's bag** to access it on their own at fruit time.

Kindy Lunch: We have created a lunch box ideas sheet for all our Kindy Families to help with lunch ideas (great for everyone who needs ideas at home too) and to help you pack food which is appropriate for kindy. Check your note tube for this.



Quotable quotes



One of our Priorities at our Centre, and of the Education Dept, is to help children **learn to learn**. By doing this they take control of their lives, get a really strong sense of ownership and achievement and can see multiple options for the future. It motivates them for future learning. They become resilient.

At 2 this might mean we help them learn to solve simple every day problems on their own, like putting away their own plate, or finding their hat- independence- and as they learn the steps alongside a supportive adult, they can use that in other more academic situations.

When a child is 4 this may mean thinking through how you might solve a building or construction problem that just isn't working. Learning to use trial and error, reading the instructions, watching others or asking someone who just did it are all important learning skills for the future.

When we don't always give the children the answers it helps them learn more. When we don't always DO it for children it allows them to feel a sense of accomplishment and pride.

From the Under 3's

Its all about independence and building those self-help skills for our Under 3's at the moment. Building independence takes time and it's the small steps along the way which make a difference in the long run.

Julieanne, Kathee and the team have some simple "jobs" for children to learn to do (which they love) that will build the hand-eye coordination, fine motor control, strength and planning skills needed for later learning in life. For now, it helps them to manage themselves and do a few more things on their own.



It also, importantly, helps build their self confidence and independence at daily tasks. They might soon all be able to put on their own socks (or other peoples- see the sock basket to know more). Check out this display in the room or ask an educator what it's all about for YOUR child.

In the Over 3's

Block city... the Doctors.... home corner play....group time.... a dolls world.....plastic world.....sandpit kitchen and an ice-cream shop. These are all the role play experiences planned for children in the Over 3's. It's not all that happens either, there is much more planned and offered too.

As children come to these role play areas there are ways to play that stretch the social skills, thinking skills and most importantly imagination of our children. It's where a more competent child can model for the younger ones, where you can be a leader and where a child's own experiences meld with those of others to become more sophisticated.

Role play promotes so many skills and is a fundamental part of the early years curriculum. While role -playing children will write, or draw, to show what they mean- like a doctor's waiting list (literacy), they may count out the money or add up the number of something that is needed (numeracy). They may plan out the storyline, talk with each other about it and negotiate (thinking skills, social skills, problem solving). They will then act it out (creativity)!

Most importantly role play is **MOTIVATING** for the child so they want to persist and do more. Speak to Bec, Elise and their team if you want to know more.



Life lessons.

Learning at child care, kindy or in life is about doing the best you can *at that moment*. In our Centre everyone has their own way of doing this, some find getting along with others develops easily and some need extra help to learn this. Our Centre has a long history of helping *all* children and families who come through our doors, especially those who struggle in life. We want to offer all we can to everyone.

Sometimes you might see children struggling at our Centre. They are learning, just like other children, but it might be harder for them at the moment. The behaviours you might see are them communicating with others how they are struggling. Some children withdraw, some might get really big, some just get overwhelmed, but they are all just showing us how they are feeling through their behaviour and language.

Sometimes this is confronting for other children and in our programs we spend time supporting all children to understand that difference is good, how to be understanding, kind and helpful to those who need it and to show empathy and compassion. We also show children how to keep themselves safe and to think about what's happening around them..... a skill they will continue to use for the rest of their lives. Often it's the group of children who help a child who is struggling the most.

Challenging, big or rough behaviours can be viewed as a child being naughty or not disciplined, but this is not the case. These children are on a journey to learn better ways to communicate with others and they have our support to do this. You can help us by remembering that all children are just kids, they are all equal and they are all learning.

You can talk to your child, explaining that some children are still learning to be safe/ friendly/ part of a group, but they *will* learn it. You can show them who is there to help them from the staff team (although they will probably already know this!) You can also show empathy yourself and support a parent who is struggling with this by not judging them or their child. A smile, an offer to hold the door as they leave, or a kind word to their child helps. You can also talk to Maddy, Bec, Jo, Rachel, Kathee or Julieanne (all team leaders) about this at any time for ideas/ strategies or just more information. We want our place to be safe for everyone.

This term we have had a number of groups on offer. There is still an option to join the following groups.

MONDAY: Sing and move, 10am, at the Centre. Maddy and Jo run a music and movement group for the youngies.

MONDAY: Energize and unwind: Walking and coffee and chat group run by Tara and Huong (from our Centre). Starts at 9.30 from the Hackham West R-7 school office.

TUESDAY: Mytime. 9.30-11.30. A group for parents with children with a disability or chronic health concern. A group focused on time *just for you*. Crèche avail.

THURSDAY : Family Friendly Fitness: bootcamp for free 9.30 . Kids accommodated within /along side the group. Meet at the school for this one.

FRIDAY: School playgroup: 9- 10.30. Meet parents who have kids at HWR7 school, the local area or our Centre.

SATURDAY: Family Playgroup at the Centre. 10-11.30. All welcome. Any family with a child Under 5 can come along, bring siblings and friends. Morning tea is provided and Julieanne, Kathee and Maddy regularly run this one with Tara, Huong and Milan.

Other groups run at the start of each month- including Feeling Connected and SASDN

CIRCLE OF SECURITY parenting group is now closed. If you want to find out more about our parenting groups talk to Maddy, Bronwen or Karen and we can let you know what they are about. We will be running Circle of Security again in Term 2.

FOODIES group is also full- however we are running another similar group next term so let us know if you are interested.

Got an idea for a group?: tell us and we can see about making it happen.

Governing Council

We are happy to announce the new governing Council for our Centre. Thank you in advance for your support in the decision making for our Centre and helping to make sure we have the best place possible for our children and families to learn.

Everyone is welcome to contribute to this group. If you have an idea or concern we can put your idea/note their name pocket or directed you to them in the Centre.

Members from our community are Sara de Vries, Hayley Stanton, Dan Stanton, Lydia Bawden, Rebecca Woodley, Gail Ward and Kelly Farrant.

Curriculum in action.



Take home work from the Over 3's
Look for your child's name peg. Please leave the pegs!



Art works on display in the Over 3 and Under 3's!



We are all learning a SIGN OF THE WEEK to help out our children who have communication difficulties. All staff and children are encouraged to use a sign as well as talking to help children get their message across. This helps EVERY child learn how symbols (eg a hand gesture) are linked to words and this is a beginning skill for learning to read and write.

WE CAN ONLY PRINT PHOTOS WE HAVE PERMISSION TO SHARE. LET AN EDUCATOR KNOW IF YOU ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOUR CHILD APPEAR IN OUR NEWSLETTER.

