



Community  
Children's Centres  
LEARNING TOGETHER. EVERY DAY.

## Newsletter - May 2016

### Mother's Day Morning Tea

A huge thankyou to all the special ladies who came along and shared the Mother's Day morning tea with us.

### Natural Play Spaces

The staff have been brainstorming ideas of some new and exciting natural play spaces for our outdoor environment.

We have had some pallets kindly donated by Mitre 10 - Barrow and Bench in Unley which we are looking to turn into an outdoor relaxation and rest area, an outdoor bus and a few tepee's.

We have also had come recycled tyres donated which we will be using in our outdoor play to support the children's development by allowing them to balance on them, practice gross motor skills and to create their own play spaces and use their imagination.

Research shows that the nature of children's play has changed dramatically over the last 2 decades. Unstructured free play in nature benefits our children in many ways. Nature play improves health and wellbeing and enhances intellectual development.

More information and ideas on things to do outdoors with your child, local playgrounds and play spaces can be found at

[www.natureplay.org.au](http://www.natureplay.org.au)



The staff team are really excited about incorporating these spaces into their programmes and we welcome your feedback or any ideas you may have.

Thank you to all of the families that have donated items to the centre to contribute to our new play areas outside.

### Late Fee Policy

We have made some changes to our fee policy (please see attached). A charge of \$2 per minute will be added to your account for collection of a child after the centre's closing time of 6pm, with a minimum charge of \$10. This charge does not attract child care benefit or child care rebate and will be charged to your account. We understand that sometimes there may be circumstances beyond your control, however we are required to pay staff the applicable penalty rates and this amount has been set to cover this cost.

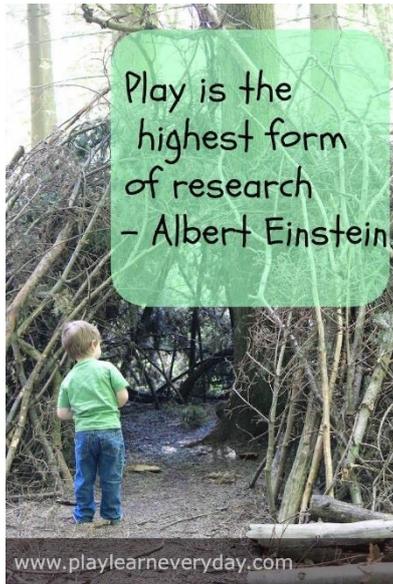
### Cooler Weather

Now that the cooler weather is upon us please remember to pack warmer clothes for outside play. Parents may wish to pack winter jackets/parkas and gumboots for children to change into for outside play.



## International Children's Day

The Centre will be celebrating International Children's Day on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. To celebrate this special occasion, staff and children will be having a teddy bear pyjama party with lots of special activities throughout the day. We encourage families to send children in their pyjamas and pack their favourite teddy or doll (labelled).



## New and Returning Staff

We welcome back Kirsten Orchard from maternity leave. She has recently re-joined the team at Unley on a casual basis and you will see her

around covering lunch breaks or staff programming.

Please also welcome Melanie Newstead to the team at Unley. She is a new qualified teacher who will be assisting Unley on a casual basis.

## New Families

We would like to give a warm welcome to Sophie Little who has joined us in the Baby room and Tex Robertson who has recently joined the Toddler room.

There are also a few children beginning their transition visits and graduating to new rooms shortly. We wish them all the best with their visits.



## In Baby Room this Month .....

This month in the baby room the educators have re arranged the front room to allow for

open shelves and provide children with free choice activities. The educators have been encouraging children to make choices about their play and focusing on learning how to pack up their play spaces. The children have been really enjoying group imaginative play especially outside in the outdoor kitchen. They have also continued incorporating nature play into their daily activities.

From Sylvia and Alice xxx



## In the Toddler Room this Month.....

In the Toddler room this month children started

learning about bees and how they make honey. Then they incorporated all different bugs and insects into

the program. The Toddler room has also been focusing on germs and how to protect themselves and each other from germs by covering their faces when they sneeze or cough and remembering to wash their hands.





From Claire, Tash and Ally

xx

**In the Kindy Room this Month.....**

This month in the kindy room the children have been learning about their bodies. They traced around their bodies and then practiced labelling where their body parts were. They



have also been learning about healthy eating and what is sometimes and all the time food. This is in preparation for the Lift the Lip visit on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May.

From Tiarna xxx



**Family Assistance Office and EOFY**

A reminder to families as we approach the end of financial year to check their accounts on a regular basis. Child care rebate covers up to 50% of your out of pocket childcare expense, but has an annual cap of \$7,500 for each child. We have had a few families reach the cap without realising and are now required to pay the full fee until the end of financial year. For further information please follow the link below.

<https://www.mychild.gov.au/childcare-information/rebate>

**Events Calendar**

We have recently updated our events calendar to include a range of cultural celebrations and events we will celebrate within the centre. In October we are planning to hold parent caregiver interviews after hours where you will have an opportunity to book a time to meet with your child's care giver to discuss the programme, development and any other questions you may have. More details will be available and time slots can be booked from September.

If you have any ideas of events you would like to see included, please see Lauren or Nica ☺

**Professional Development**

Unley Community Child Care Centre places the utmost importance on ensuring our staff team are equipped with the latest skills and knowledge to support us in caring for your child/ren.

Recently Tash and Tiarna attended a session on bringing sustainability into the classroom, which was hosted by Adelaide

and Mt Lofty Ranges natural resources management board.

Tiarna will be attending a PD session titled 'The artist within' at Tandanya on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Our whole staff team will also all be involved in a CPR refresher course at our August staff meeting.

### Waiting list

Unley Community Child Care Centre is a very small boutique centre, licensed for 30 children a day. We have filled most of our permanent vacancies from July 2016, meaning minimal room for current families to pick up permanent additional days or to 'swap' permanent days.

We will endeavour to do our best to meet your care needs, however may not be able to accommodate requests due to our licensed capacity.

We ask that if you do require changes to your booking, you notify us well in advance as we have well over 50 families on our waiting list and must follow the priority of access guidelines in place by the department of Education and Training.

When we are notified of children who will be absent, we will do our best to offer these once off casual vacancies to our existing families via email on a first in best dressed basis.

We thank you in advance for your understanding.

### Illness

With the cold and flu season approaching we ask families to be vigilant to ensure your children are well when they attend the centre.

If your child has had a temperature, vomited, diarrhoea or conjunctivitis in the 24 hours leading up to care please keep them at home.

If you are ever unsure please do not hesitate to call us. This is to ensure the health of our educators and children.

### Allergy, Anaphylaxis and Asthma action plans

If your child has an action plan we ask that be aware of when these plans expire.

Generally each plan is valid for 12 months, thereafter if we do not have a current plan we will be unable to administer any medications your child may need.

If you are not sure when your child's plan runs out please come and speak to Lauren or Nica.

### From the Directors Desk

Thank you to all of the staff, children and families who have made me feel so welcome at UCCC over the past 4 weeks. It already feels like my second family.

If I haven't yet had the chance to meet you, please feel free to pop by the office or yard and say 'hi'.

I'm always keen for a chat about the centre, your child or the AFL!

Lauren xxx

## SAVE THE DATE!!



Friday August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

6-8pm

**ART GALLERY AND TAPAS FUNDRAISING  
EVENING**

Come along to the centre between 6-8pm to view and purchase if you wish, various forms of ART created by your talented little people.

Our fabulous cook Anne will have an assortment of Tapas and wine will be available to purchase on the evening.

Family, friends and children welcome.

Here at the centre - 42 Arthur Street,  
Unley

## UPCOMING FUN @

UCCC



**NEXT WEDNESDAY JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

**WE WILL BE CELEBRATING  
INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY BY  
HAVING A PYJAMA PARTY - TEDDY  
BEARS PICNIC.**

**CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO WEAR THEIR  
PYJAMAS ON THE DAY AND BRING IN A  
LABELLED TEDDY OR DOLL TO JOIN IN  
THE PICNIC FUN! ANNE OUR COOK WILL  
BE MAKING A DELICIOUS PICNIC LUNCH  
AND WE WILL BE CELEBRATING BY  
JOINING IN MANY FUN EXPERIENCES  
THROUGHOUT THE DAY.**

## Theatre Performance – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2016



As part of our Kindy and Toddler programmes recently, we have been incorporating discussions around healthy eating, health and hygiene and learning what various parts of the body are called and what their function is.

To extend on from these discussions and the experiences we have been offering within the programme, we have organised **'Inspector Hector and the case of the vanishing vegetables'** theatre show to **come into the centre** and perform on **Monday May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 10.30am.**

As this is forming part of the children's programme, the centre will be covering the cost of the performance.

We look forward to learning more about healthy eating, the 5 food groups and sharing what we learn with you!

If you have any questions regarding the show, please feel free to speak to Nica or Lauren.

### FROM THE KITCHEN

#### Empanada's (Spanish pasties)

##### Ingredients

- Shortcrust pastry thawed, 6 sheets
- 500g beef mince
- 2 hardboiled eggs
- 2 tbsp. finely chopped green olives
- 2 tbsp. raisins chopped
- 2 red onions finely diced
- 2 cloves of garlic chopped
- 1 can crushed tomatoes
- 2 tsp. cumin, coriander and dried oregano

##### Method

1. Pre heat oven till 180
2. Fry onions and garlic in a little olive oil until soft
3. Add the mince and brown
4. Add spices, raisins and tomatoes
5. Cook for 15 minutes then stir through chopped boiled eggs and olives
6. Cut rounds from pastry and fill with 1 Tbsp. of mixture fold round over to enclose filling and bake at 180 till golden

