

VOL. 2, ISSUE 2

THE INSIDER

by Woden Valley



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Mid-Year Survey

BY KATE KAYLOCK (PRESIDENT)

The parent-run Management Committee has recently sent out a link to this year's Parent and Community Survey. As part of being a member of a community-run centre, you get a say. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Doing so will benefit you and your children as you get the opportunity to have a say, provide us with feedback, help, guidance, and/or suggestions on what we do well or need to improve. Submissions go only to the President, who formulates a de-identified report to provide to the Director. Confidentiality will be upheld, so please feel comfortable in providing honest responses. Thank you in advance for your participation!





Outdoor Program

BY TRACEY-LEE ELLISS

Our Outdoor Programs are an extension of our indoor environments and are programmed for focusing on our curriculum objectives. The children's access to the outdoor environment generally occurs simultaneously throughout the day which supports both their physical and mental needs.

To add some structure to this program we have introduced 'zones' across the learning spaces to support effective supervision and interaction strategies.

Red Zones require an Educator to be always present and active when children are in these spaces, Yellow Zones require regular contact and check in's, while Green Zones promote full child led engagement and only require Educator engagement if needed, or the children ask them to engage. Educator's and children make intentional and deliberate decisions within our Outdoor Program as we recognise the need to have access to nature as a holistic approach to health and early learning development.



Coming Up

14.06 - PUBLIC HOLIDAY

18.06 - CANBERRA THEATER EXCURSION

26.06 - WORKING BEE (8.30AM - 12 PM)

4-11.07 - NAIDOC WEEK

**9.07 - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
(CENTRE CLOSED)**

9.08 - PINK FORMS / 2022 ENROLLMENTS

Teaching children how to play with neurodiverse peers

BY WVCCC PEDAGOGICAL TEAM

There is a lot of variety in human brains, just like there is in human bodies. Neurodiversity refers to the reason for these differences, and includes Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADD, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Aphasia and other things that can affect a child's learning style.

Neurodiversity is a biological fact. It can be defined as: "the diversity of human brains and minds - the infinite variation in neurocognitive functioning within our species." - (neurocosmopolitanism.com/neurodiversity-some-basic-terms-definitions/).

The word Neurodiversity is also often used as an umbrella term for a group of particular differences in a human's neurological development and make up, differences such as the words listed above, like Autism and ADHD, or other sensory processing differences.

At WVCCC we aim to create an environment that is inclusive of the neurodiversity in all the children at our Centre. Acknowledging and embracing neurodivergent people in our immediate community is a way we can share and demonstrate respect for diversity with our children. The Early Education and Care setting provides a crucial step in neurodiverse children's educational and social journey. By understanding more about neurodiversity we can strengthen a child's self-esteem and resilience, and set them on a positive learning path for life.

Educators think critically about opportunities and dilemmas that can arise from diversity and take action to address unfairness and bias. They provide opportunities to learn about similarities and difference and about interdependence and how we can learn to live together.

All children - typical and atypical - learn differently. By listening and watching closely to how they play, communicate and interact with their peers and Educators, we can adapt our teaching styles and learning environments to enhance each child's strengths and provide the best possible chance for future learning success.

How to teach your child to be inclusive:

- use positive language, such as neurodiverse (no, the child is not 'sick' or 'not normal', as this is a very commonly used word in our society - These words are subjective (what one person thinks is normal could be abnormal to another person), and are taught that normal means "good")
- explain to your child how the neurodiverse child may think or play; be honest (e.g. "Samantha thinks differently or sees things differently than you...")
- teach and role model patience and empathy
- we are not all friends, and its ok to acknowledge that, but we all must interact with mutual respect and kindness to each other

THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICE OFFERS SPEECH PATHOLOGIST, PHYSIOTHERAPIST OR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST DROP IN CLINICS.

THESE DROP IN CLINICS PROVIDE PARENTS IN THE ACT WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT WITH A QUALIFIED ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT INTAKE ON (02) 6207 8884 / CHILD.DEVELOPMENT@ACT.GOV.AU TO DISCUSS ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT.

Preschool Intake

BY PAULINA JAGUS

In the ACT, if your child turns four on or before 30 April, they can start preschool the first day of term 1 that year. All four-year-old ACT children are guaranteed a place in a public preschool. However, you are not guaranteed a place at the preschool site of your preference, due to capacity constraints at some sites. Government preschools fall under the same regulatory authority and curriculum as early learning centres.

Government preschools attached to public schools are free and can provide care up to 30 hours per week. The opening hours are 9 AM to 3 PM, with an alternative or half Wednesday. If you require before or after school care you must pre-book it. It is usually run by an independent organisation.

Private or Catholic schools often offer longer hours and full-time care, but daily fees apply. The food is not provided and you will need to pack your child lunch.

School holidays occur every 10 weeks, for two weeks and you need to pre-book school holidays care or find an alternative for your child.

Can I claim CCS? Yes, you can claim child care subsidy for preschool, as well as before and after school care.

Can I attend both government preschool and child care centre? Yes. In fact, many families do that to ensure the family can continue working full time. Alternative Wednesdays may be also considered by the Centre, while school holiday bookings are subject to availability.



PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

[HTTPS://WWW.EDUCATION.ACT.GOV.AU/PUBLIC-SCHOOL-LIFE/ENROLLING-IN-A-PUBLIC-SCHOOL/ENROLLING-IN-PRESCHOOL](https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/enrolling-in-a-public-school/enrolling-in-preschool)

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

[HTTPS://CG.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU/PARENTS/ENROLMENT/ACT-SCHOOL-ENROLMENT/](https://cg.catholic.edu.au/parents/enrolment/act-school-enrolment/)

ENROLMENTS FOR 2022 ARE NOW OPEN!

Child Care Subsidy

As per the Family Assistance Law every family receiving family assistance payments including Family Tax Benefit or/and Child Care Subsidy must update their income estimate by 14th of June 2021.

A family income estimate is used to work out how much CCS your family will receive. Having an accurate income estimate will reduce your risk of being overpaid or underpaid by family assistance.

The hours of subsidised care for CCS are based on your and your partner's hours of recognised activity(work/study/volunteer work).

What you need to do?

Update your family income estimate for the 2021-2022 financial year via myGov app, Express Plus Centrelink mobile app or calling 136 240.

Balancing the payments:

Centrelink will balance the family assistance you received by comparing your estimated family income to your actual family income when it has been confirmed. You can confirm your income by lodging a tax return with ATO or advising Centrelink you are not required to lodge it.

New Staff Representative

Almost unanimously, WVCCC employees voted Lisa Pianca as our new staff representative. Lisa will be the voice of staff in addressing any general issues to management and committee. I am pleased to announce that Lisa has accepted the position and will start her new role as of June, with Sandra supporting her during that first month.

We thank Sandra for being the staff representative for an extended period of time.

Thank you to all who voted, and congratulations to Lisa!



Working Bee

Working Bee is a group of volunteers (parents, grandparents, uncles etc.) who come to the Centre on a dedicated weekend day to help with general building & garden maintenance.

Why do we do that?

As a community-based Centre, we value strong partnerships with families. Children need the security of strong connections between their homes and their school. Although it's not only through these links that we can truly support each other. Working in harmony with families is a bedrock principle of our Service. The involvement of families in their children's education and environment plays a significant part in building a strong sense of belonging and pride.

SATURDAY
26.06
8.30 AM - 12 PM

TCH Master Plan

BY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Within the TCH Master Plan, the site the Service is sitting on is being proposed for redevelopment. Woden Valley Child Care Association (WVCCA) has occupied the current building since it was opened in 1992, but it is uncertain if WVCCA would occupy the new childcare building if/when it is built. It is also uncertain where the new location would be. The timeframe for this redevelopment is unknown. The development team want to hear from the community about the service the WVCCA provides and the benefits we bring to the community, and the care provided to the hospital staff and their children, over other organisations.

This is in view of making a recommendation to the government that we occupy the new building and continue to provide service as opposed to it being taken over by a larger organisation such as Guardian. You can also provide suggestions for new locations. The committee has drafted a letter if that is of use to you. Please see Paulina for a copy. You have until Friday 18 June, 2021 to make a submission.

Please see the website for more information -
www.yoursay.act.gov.au/canberra-hospital-master-plan.