

FORBES CHILDREN'S CENTRE NEWSLETTER TERM 1 2024

Term 1 already?!

Welcome to Term 1! It's hard to believe we are already in 2024. Term 1 is usually the most eventful term of the year, with lots of new faces to welcome to our space and exciting things happening. If you are new to the centre, we hope you have enjoyed your first few weeks at Forbes and have had a chance to connect in with your primary carers to set some goals to work towards throughout the term. Your child's primary care giver and the team leader are key contacts for discussions about supporting your child's successful transition into care, or their new rooms. Feel free to chat with the staff, or book in a time to have a more detailed conversation about support strategies.

We use multiple forms of assessment to report on and plan children's learning. This includes learning stories, learning moments captured on Xap, individual learning plans, portfolios and more. You can find more specific information about the room's routines and documentation expectations in the welcome packs, just ask the room for a copy if you haven't received one!

We hope to have a wonderful term together!

Regards, Ros, Amy and the Forbes team.

Diary Dates:

Lunar New Year:

Saturday 10th February

Governing Council Meeting:

Wednesday 21st February

Preschool Health Checks:

Thursday 22nd February

Ramadan begins:

Sunday 10th March

Adelaide Cup Day (Public Holiday):

Monday 11th March

Harmony Day:

Thursday 21st March

Preschool Closure Day:

Friday 22nd March

Governing Council Meeting:

Wednesday 27th March

Good Friday (Public Holiday):

Friday 29th March

Easter Monday (Public Holiday):

Monday 1st April

End of Ramadan:

Monday 8th April

River Room Learning Journey:

To be confirmed

Last day of Term 1:

Friday 12th April

Term 2 begins:

Monday 29th April

"Children need the freedom and time to play. Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity"
-Kay Redfield Jamison

Primary Care Groups:

Nest Room

Team leader: Madi

Orange Group: Lauren & Kiran

Red Group: Rachna & Mara

Purple Group: Saima & Meighan

Reeds Room

Team leader: Lizzy

Orange Group: Veronika & Mark

Red Group: Kelly & Samantha

Purple Group: Thamasha & Kate

River Room

Team leader: Georgia

Orange Group: Georgia & Kamal

Green Group: Anneliese & Julie

Yellow Group: Shannon & Angela



Being Environmentally Responsible

Sustainability is more than gardening, worm farms or composting. As educators, we have to think beyond these green activities. Sustainability has shifted away from being just about environmental education to thinking about it as education for sustainability (Davis, 2010). Although both education threads are separate, they are certainly not isolated. Education for sustainability is about linking the 'about' with the 'doing'. - Yvonne Paujik Curriculum Lead Teacher Campus Kindergarten University of Queensland

Within our Service children:

- **Connect with the natural world** Children use their senses to explore their surroundings through free play and guided discovery.
- **Learn to care for the environment through** Play and directed activities. This may be sorting items into their correct bins, caring for 'injured' wildlife, planting gardens, observing wildlife.
- **Observe sustainable practise** through modelling from our educators and daily practise.

Being environmentally responsible is neither a subject nor an 'add on', it is a way of thinking, a way of practice. Education for sustainability is interdisciplinary and involves different members of the community with different expertise and knowledge collaborating together to tackle issues that affect sustainability.

We hope children think of sustainability as being broader than the environment, to thinking about how people and change can influence every living thing. Encourage and support your child and the next generation at home by being environmentally responsible in every possible way.

National Quality Framework | Quality Area 3:
Physical Environment Element 3.2.3 Environmentally responsible

Not feeling well?

If your child is unwell and can't make it to the Centre, please let us know. You can use Xap to mark your child as absent or notify us by sending an email to info.forbeschildrenscentre854@schools.sa.edu.au. Alternatively, you can call to speak with one of our friendly administration staff after 9am.

Reminders

Each child will have their own Forbes Children's Centre hat to wear during outside play. We also encourage families to support their child to apply sunscreen each morning using the stations at each room door before entering the rooms.

With school starting, lots of families have multiple drop offs and collections to do but please do not leave children unattended in the car. On a 35°C day, a parked car in direct sunlight can reach up to 30°C hotter within an hour – far too hot for small children. If you need help getting children in or out of the car, please speak with the educators in your child's room.

When arriving at and leaving the site, there are lots of other families with young children entering and exiting various rooms. Ensure you are closing doors behind you and no children are going through doors or gates unsupervised – it's very easy for children to get separated from their families and this can be quite dangerous with such a busy road nearby. The keypad for the foyer is for adult use only – if children know the code, they are able to leave the site themselves which poses a risk to their safety.

What to pack in my child's bag:

- A drink bottle and labelled bottles of milk, if needed.
- Multiple spare clothes, suitable for outdoor play in hot & cold weather and for messy play.
- Change of underwear, if toilet training and/or Pull-ups if your child requires these.
- Special comforter (blankie, dummy etc).
- Any creams your child requires (nappy cream, moisturiser etc).

All items should be labelled with your child's name so nothing special gets misplaced. Any medications should be handed to staff upon arrival – we require medical paperwork to be completed for any medications to be given on-site.

What can I leave at home?

Food. We ask that you do not bring any food from home to minimise the risk of contamination to those with allergies. All meals and snacks are prepared by our trained chef, Mayumi.

Toys (except special comforters). We have lots of wonderful resources to play with and this ensures no favourite toys become lost or broken.

If you have any questions about packing your child's bag, please speak with the educators in your child's room.

YOUR CHILDREN, YOUR CENTRE! Join the Governing Council...

The Governing Council is a group of parents and staff who meet eight times a year to discuss the management of the site. They oversee discussion around changes to policies and procedures and some of the site's financial decisions. The meetings are always on Wednesdays and usually run from 6:30pm to around 7:30pm.

We are looking for people interested in joining the Council and acting as representatives for families at the Centre. This is a great way to get involved and have your voice heard during site decision making. If you would like to attend the Governing Council meeting as a guest, to get an idea of how the meetings are run, **the next meeting is Wednesday 21st February from 6:30pm.**

Please let the front desk know via email or phone if you would like to be part of the meeting!

The Art of Creating

The process of creating and making art is natural to children, as they engage all their senses to explore the world around them. The arts enable children to use their whole bodies for learning and create endless opportunities for imagining and creating.

Children as young as 20 months can assign imaginative meaning to their playful mark making, art is a way to make their ideas, thoughts and imaginations visible.

Encouraging and engaging with children in art is essential in early development, with process art the preferred method for children to explore imaginative creation without direction, no right or wrong, and fun, pure, play. Allowing time as well is really important and the benefits are huge with creative exploration having many positive impacts on the development of your child.

Some benefits of art for children include

Relaxation: kids learn to focus and can explore feelings at their own pace, without interference

Communication: art encourages language, as they discuss what they are seeing, feeling, wondering, evaluating

Imagination: as they imagine and explore ideas, they will focus and concentrate, question and empathise

Skill: children learn to predict, plan, problem solve as well as all the fine motor skills such as cutting, drawing, painting, printing.

Children feel a sense of emotional satisfaction when they are involved in making art, whether they are modelling with clay, drawing with crayons, or making a collage from recycled scraps. This satisfaction comes from the control children have over the materials they use and the autonomy they have in the decisions they make.

When creating an artwork, children make decisions and continue to self-evaluate as they go. They decide what they will create, how they will create, mood, colour, form, who or what. As children grow and develop, their art-making activities move beyond exploring with their senses and begin to involve the use of symbols. Drawings move from scribbles to symbols, and all have meaning. Children begin to represent real objects, events, and feelings in their artwork. Drawing, in particular, becomes an activity that allows them to symbolise what they know and feel. It also helps children to make sense of the world, and visually step out what they are experiencing or feeling.



Encouragement is key

- Have a genuine interest in what they are doing and listen to their meanings.
- Provide quality materials that spark joy (rather than cheaper paint colours that always end up icky brown)
- Give them plenty of time, and let them return to works in process, let them decide when an artwork is complete
- Having a permanent space for children to create is also important and can also keep the creative projects in one designated area
- Most importantly, share their delight in discovery, what they have created. This encourages feelings of self-worth and opens up communication channels. Art can be the place where you are able to chat openly together, and as they grow, continue to develop that link together

Allowing art making at home is the first step to developing the whole child through art experiences. Child friendly materials are easily accessible these days, and there are so many how-to inspirations for adults on the internet. Approach with open ended play, provide materials and invitations to play, as well as parental involvement without interference. Let it be a joyful experience!

Source: Boyd, Janine. (2022, July 04). **The ART of creating.**

Retrieved from kiddomag.com.au

