

Reynella Community Children's Centre Inc.

65 Concord Drive, Reynella S.A. 5161 Phone: 8381 3699 Email: admin@reynellacc.com.au



Newsletter—April 2018

Directors News

Hi Families,

I would like to give a big welcome to the new families who have started care at our Centre over the past month.

Sara, our Educator from our Baby Room, offered to be our Easter Chicken this year. On Thursday 29th March, we had a morning tea picnic in the park and our Easter Chicken visited us and handed out Easter eggs to all of the children. Thank you, Sara for volunteering for this role.

Our Committee has been working hard on developing a new and easy to read Rules of Association for our Centre. Once completed it will be emailed to families for feedback. We would appreciate your comments on this document and we will be voting on the new Rules of Association at our Annual General Meeting. A big thank you to our Treasurer, Selina, **who has worked extra hard on our Rules of Association and our Centre's** policy reviews over the last few months.

We are planning our Annual General Meeting for Monday 21st May. We will provide a crèche, pizza dinner and drinks on the night. Invitations will be sent out to families shortly. If you are interested in nominating for our Management Committee, or would like more information, please contact me.

Our Centre has been trialling a new Child Care software program called KidsXap, which came highly recommended from other Centres. Unfortunately, we have had many billing issues with this program and we apologise for any inconvenience this has caused our families. Our Committee has agreed to cancel our subscription to KidsXap and I am looking into alternative software programs for our Centre. I will keep you informed of these changes and if you have any questions or concerns about your invoices, please see me or Kylee.

On Friday 20th April, we will have a police car visit and the police officer will talk to our Kindy Room children about safety. On Thursday 26th April, we are hosting a Dress Up day. We are looking forward to seeing our children, and hopefully some staff, in their favourite costumes.

If you have any suggestions or questions about our Centre, please feel free to contact me or Kylee.

Thank you for supporting our Centre.

Simone

Diary Dates

April

Fri 20th: Police Visit

Wed 25th: Anzac Day

Thurs 26th: Dress Up

Day

May

Mon 7th: CFS Fire Truck visit

Sun 13th: Mother's Day

Our Centre will be closed on Wednesday 25th April for the ANZAC Day public Holiday

Account Enquiries:

Phone:

8381 3699

Email:

admin@reynellacc.com.au

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/
ReynellaCommunity
Childrens CentreInc

If your child will be absent from care, please phone or email the centre to advise.

Families with access to the KidsXap Smartphone App can notify of absences via KidsXap.

We welcome all feedback and enquiries regarding KidsXap. Please feel free to contact the centre or come and see one of our office staff.

Baby Room

Hello Families,

It has been another busy month in the Baby Room. We have welcomed some new children into our group and everyone seems to be settling in well.

The Easter Chicken came to visit us on the Thursday before the Easter long weekend. We took a group of our older babies to the park to join the Toddlers and Kindy Room children for a picnic. The Easter Chicken arrived and gave us all an Easter Egg. Some of the Babies were a little unsure until it was revealed that Sara was just playing dress ups. The Easter Chicken also visited the Baby Room, with mixed emotions from the babies.

We have had many creative moments over the past month. We have made play dough, which we all seemed to enjoy playing with, some of us even moulding it with our feet. We did leaf painting to incorporate nature into our creations and some of the babies had the chance to do some body painting, which they seemed to love. The children have been very interested in the dress up costumes. We were excited for the children to take home their Easter gifts to give to their families.

The children have been enjoying the new sand in the sand pit. On warmer days we like to use water in the sandpit for a different sensory experience, or we set up an obstacle course for the children to climb and explore.

As the weather starts to cool down, we would like to remind families to pack a warm jumper or jacket so we can still enjoy time outdoors.

If you have any questions about the Baby Room, please come and see one of our Educators.

Thank you,
Caitlin, Sara and Angie



Toddler Room



Hello Families

Once again the weeks have flown past and we have been busy building on our social and gross-motor skills through lots of running, riding, jumping & climbing together. Some of the children explored making **'caves' with the mats outside and we looked at what animals might live in a cave** - some said birds, others said people. We found a bat in one of our animal books and talked together about bats living in caves too.

We have been working on a number of craft activities where we have used leaves from our garden, celery leaves and lemons that had fallen off Kathryn's lemon tree, to create with paint, glue and gloop. We also **squeezed some of the lemons and saw how much 'lemon juice' comes out.** We took turns smelling the juice and a few of the children dipped their finger in and had a taste, much to their 'disgust'. They pulled some very funny faces during their explorations. We worked together to make **some 'celery eggs' for Easter.** We painted with the celery leaves on black paper and cut out the eggs. We will be exploring more with the celery stalks in the coming weeks.



We had a short 'excursion' to the park next to the Centre with all of the Kindy and some Baby Room children for our Easter morning tea. We were very excited to have a visit from the Easter Chicken who gave us **a 'special' treat of a little chocolate egg to enjoy after our fruit.**



We have begun our new theme for this quarter and with the theme **being "Families" we are creating a 'photo wall'.** We will be making picture frames so we can display photos the children bring from home. Some of you may have already read the request for a casual family photo on our last program, if not, it would be wonderful if you could have your child bring one in for the wall and we could share it at group time. Photos can also be emailed through.



With the cooler weather now heading our way, we would like to ask that the children have warmer clothes for our outside play, along with closed in shoes to keep their feet warm. We do have a small supply of spare cloths but most of the children prefer to wear their own cloths where possible.

If at any time you have any questions, thoughts, concerns or input regarding your child or the Toddler Room, please see Kathryn, Karen or Kylie in the room or email us at admin@reynellaccc.com.au



Thank you

From Kathryn, Karen & Kylie

Kindy Room



Hello families,

We have had a busy month, with one of the highlights being the Amanda Rishworth Kindy Art Show. Congratulations to all of the children involved—your art work looked amazing. The children also traced their names all by themselves, which was displayed, along with photos of them creating the art and the next to the finished product. Thank you to all of the parents who came along. It was great to see a strong turn out.



Harmony day was on March 21st. We enjoyed hand painting with orange paint on the large sheet hanging on the fence. We also traced around our bodies.



On the Thursday before Easter, we had a visit from the Easter Chicken, who gave the children an Easter Egg during our morning tea picnic in the park. The children created lots of Easter themed art work, including potato printing, sun catchers, fork painting and Easter Bunny silhouettes. We were excited to hear all of the stories from the children about what they did with their families over the long weekend.



We started our visits to the Reynella Primary School library on Monday mornings during term one. The children seem to really enjoy their time there, listening to the librarian read a story and then doing an activity to match the theme. We currently have a display in the front office from their last visit, where they read **'I'm a Dirty Dinosaur'** and used pencils and crepe paper to decorate their own dinosaur.



Our new focus for this month are:

- Letters G and H
- Numbers 7 and 8
- Colour Green
- Shape—Rectangle

The children have also been learning some sign language, starting with the letters of the alphabet.



We would like to remind families to please pack a warm jumper or jacket so we can still go out in the yard to play in the fresh air, even as the weather gets colder.

Thank you,
Lucy, Brooke, Ashleigh and Amanda

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all of our families who participated in our Easter Fundraising. We are pleased to announce the total raised was \$ 1,142.00, which will be used to improve the Kindy Yard.

Congratulations to all of our raffle winners.

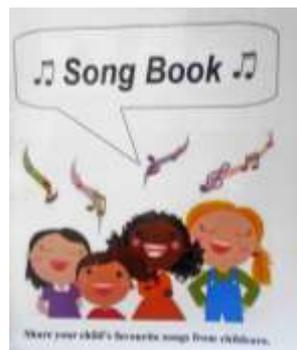
Kiddies Food Cutters



Kiddies Food Cutters are safety knives and peelers to allow your child to safely help out in the kitchen. Packs consist of 2 knives and a peeler and are \$20.00 per pack. Available from our front office.

Song Books

Sing along with your little one with our Song Book, full of **some of our Centre's** favourite songs. Only \$5.00 each and available from our front office.



EASTER EGGS AT DISCOUNTED PRICES

We still have stock of Fundraising Easter Eggs to clear at cost price.
\$2.50 per bag

Entertainment Books

Discover thousands of valuable 2-for-1 offers and Up to 50% OFF for many of the best restaurants, cafés, arts, attractions, hotels, travel, shopping and much more Entertainment Books have arrived and are available to purchase from our front office. If you prefer a digital membership to ensure you always have it with you, please use the link

www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/161b358



Cadbury Boxes

Our Cadbury Fundraising chocolate boxes are back. Choose from the Goody Box or the Freddo Box. These are a great addition to any workplace lunch room and no money is required up front. Please see our office staff if you can assist us by selling a box.



We welcome all suggestions for fundraising. If you have an idea you would like to share, please see one of our front office staff. Thank you for your continued support.

AGM



We wish to advise families that our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 21st May at 7pm.

Crèche will be available for your children, with fun, supervised activities planned, and a Pizza dinner will be supplied after the meeting formalities.

The AGM gives families the opportunity to discover more about the Centre's operations and financial position. It allows for discussion based on agenda items and a look at the goals for our future.

If you are interested in joining our Management Committee or would like further information, please feel free to contact Simone or Kylee.

Invitations will be forwarded to families very soon. We look forward to seeing many families there.



Sustainability in our Centre

"Sustainability: avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance".

We have been investigating ways of improving our daily practices to become a more sustainable Centre.

Our priority is to appoint a staff member to the role of Sustainability Officer, who will research ways we can be more environmentally friendly and implement more sustainable work practices into our daily routines.

We welcome all feedback from families and this can be passed onto your **child's room's Team Leader or to our front office staff.**

Hello Families,

My name is Michelle. I have been lucky enough to have been an employee of this wonderful centre for 3 years. I am finishing my Diploma and I would like to share with you my journey in regards to my Quality Improvement Plan, which I have been developing over the last 4 weeks of placement at the Centre.

I have had wonderful support from families and staff who have assisted me by answering questions that I have asked. I handed out questionnaires for a research project that I was able to do on sustainability. This has enabled me to gather some information on how I can assist to improve this quality area in our centre.

I noticed we could improve our waste management and we are able to do this by increasing the composting of food scraps and watering the gardens with left over water from our drink bottles. I was able to purchase a Bokashi compost bin for us to trial at the Centre and organise with the council for a Sustainability Consultant to come to the Centre and talk about composting and worm farming with our Kindy Room children.

I am very grateful for the support I have received from families, Educators and Management, who allowed me to gather the information I needed to be able to write a quality improvement for the centre on a subject that is important to our children's future.

Thank you once again for your support and help.

Michelle Edwards.





Family Transition Fast Facts

In April 2018 all families currently in receipt of Child Care Benefit and/or Child Care Rebate for approved care will receive a Centrelink letter about transition to Child Care Subsidy.

Families should follow the instructions in their Centrelink letter and go online to complete their Child Care Subsidy assessment or claim for Child Care Subsidy as soon as possible.

From April 2018

Families who currently receive **Child Care Benefit** or **Child Care Rebate as a fee reduction** for approved care will need to complete a streamlined online Child Care Subsidy assessment by providing their 2018-19 family income estimate, their activity details and confirming their child's enrolment. These details can be provided through their Centrelink online account via **my.gov.au** or through the Express Plus Centrelink mobile App.

Grandparent Child Care Benefit recipients will receive the April 2018 Centrelink letter. They will need to go online to provide their Child Care Subsidy information and claim for Additional Child Care Subsidy (grandparent) – this will require documentary evidence.

JETCCFA recipients will receive a Centrelink letter about Child Care Subsidy in April 2018 and a letter about Additional Child Care Subsidy (transition to work) in June 2018. They will need to provide their Child Care Subsidy details and then claim for Additional Child Care Subsidy (transition to work) from June 2018 after they receive their second Centrelink letter.

Special Child Care Benefit recipients will receive the April 2018 Centrelink letter and will need to complete their online Child Care Subsidy assessment.

Families currently receiving **Child Care Benefit as a lump sum** will need to complete a full Child Care Subsidy claim online. If eligible and entitled, their Child Care Subsidy will commence on 2 July 2018 and will be paid directly to provider/s. These families will need to go to **my.gov.au** and use their Centrelink online account to claim. If they don't already have a myGov account, they can create one at **my.gov.au** and link it to their Centrelink online account.

- ▷ Centrelink will send families an assessment of their Child Care Subsidy eligibility and entitlement after they complete their Child Care Subsidy assessment or Child Care Subsidy claim online. Child Care Subsidy will be paid directly to provider/s on behalf of these families from 2 July 2018.

New families

- ▷ **New families starting approved child care from April 2018** will be able to complete a combined online Child Care Benefit and Child Care Subsidy claim from April 2018. If assessed as eligible and entitled for both they will receive Child Care Benefit until 1 July 2018 and then Child Care Subsidy from 2 July 2018.
- ▷ **New families starting approved child care from 2 July 2018** will be able to claim for new Child Care Subsidy online from April 2018 and if assessed as eligible and entitled Child Care Subsidy will be paid on their behalf to their approved provider from 2 July 2018.
- ▷ Information about **Child Care Subsidy for new families** can be found at <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/subjects/assistance-child-care-fees#newccca>



Family Transition Checklist

Families currently receiving Child Care Benefit and/or Child Care Rebate will need to:

- Create a myGov account if they don't already have one by going to my.gov.au and then linking it to their Centrelink online account.
- Check for their Centrelink letters from April 2018 onwards.
- Follow the instructions in their Centrelink letter and go online as soon as possible via my.gov.au and complete their Child Care Subsidy assessment or their Child Care Subsidy claim.
- Do this as soon as possible after they receive their Centrelink letter.

Important points to note:

- ▷ Child Care Subsidy cannot be paid to providers on behalf of families who have not completed their Child Care Subsidy assessment or claim and been assessed as eligible and entitled.
- ▷ In May and June 2018 Centrelink will send reminders to families who have not completed their Child Care Subsidy streamlined assessment or claim.
- ▷ From April 2018 **new families** starting child care before 2 July 2018 can claim for Child Care Benefit and Child Care Subsidy in one step. They will receive Child Care Benefit until the Child Care Subsidy starts on 2 July 2018.
- ▷ From April 2018 new families **planning to use approved care for the first time in early July 2018** can claim for Child Care Subsidy. This includes families starting in outside school hours care for the first time in July 2018. These claims will be assessed by Centrelink to take effect from 2 July 2018.
- ▷ Families can provide their Child Care Subsidy information to Centrelink verbally from April 2018 if they cannot provide it online. Information on this can be found at: www.humanservices.gov.au/childcaresubsidy

Additional Child Care Subsidy (temporary financial hardship) and (child wellbeing)

- ▷ In May 2018 the Department of Education and Training will write to providers about Additional Child Care Subsidy (child wellbeing). From 2 July 2018 providers can give a certificate for Additional Child Care Subsidy (child wellbeing) for an initial period of six weeks.
- ▷ Providers can then apply to Centrelink for further periods. Where a child is at risk of serious abuse or neglect and an eligible adult cannot be identified an 'Additional Child Care Subsidy (child wellbeing) provider eligible arrangement' may be considered.
- ▷ From 2 July 2018 families can apply to Centrelink for Additional Child Care Subsidy (temporary financial hardship) – after they have been assessed as eligible for Child Care Subsidy.

Important points to note:

- ✓ Families must complete a Child Care Subsidy assessment or Child Care Subsidy claim and be assessed as eligible before a claim can be made for any element of the Additional Child Care Subsidy.
- ✓ Information about Additional Child Care Subsidy for families can be found at <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/additional-child-care-subsidy>
- ✓ Information about Additional Child Care Subsidy (child wellbeing) for providers can be found at <https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-safety-net-2>