



# MODBURY COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE

## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Families,

What a response we had to our community initiative! On behalf of all the educators we would like to thank you all for the amazing support we received from our first Community initiative which was helping <http://backpacks4sakids.org/> Backpacks 4 SA kids. We have had over 170 pyjamas donated by our families and educators. We hope the children enjoyed coming to the centre in their pyjamas as much as the educators and I did. We will be arranging to drop off the pyjamas over the next couple of weeks.

Next year we are discussing supporting animal's i.e. animal welfare league – as most of the educators have their own pets plus the homeless.

Our Outdoor nature play environment is taking shape and we look forward to showing this space to you in the coming months. The landscapers are still working on the play side of our environment and shortly you will see the slippery dip, stepping stones and climbing log moving into the space. The landscapers will then move to the opposite side of the environment to rip up the soft fall and replace it with natural grass and plant various trees. We are hoping to have the space finished by the end of August. Our baby room will also be having their sandpit area re-development.

This year the centre will be turning 30 and we are in the midst of planning the birthday celebrations. Once we have a confirmed date we will let you know further details of the celebration.

The Child Care Subsidy has been implemented and we continue to experience some teething issues. I would like to thank all our families for their support as we have transitioned from the old system. The subsidy payments have recently been credited to your account and we expect to have numerous questions in relation to this. You can check your weekly subsidised amount through your mygov Account – *Go to Centrelink, Menu, Child care Subsidy, Child Care Subsidy Summary and View Details* This will show you your weekly entitlement.

In the foyer we have our Quality Improvement Plan on display, please have a look and I'd love to hear your feedback on the centre's strengths and key priorities. They are located in the A3 white frames near the Kindy room entry.

Please feel free to call, email or make an appointment if you would like to provide feedback or ideas about our centre or if there are any issues or concerns that you may have. My email address is [sharon@modburyccc.org.au](mailto:sharon@modburyccc.org.au).

*Sharon - Director*

## REMINDERS

- **When paying your fees please place your child's name as the reference and your name as the payee.**
- If you are having financial difficulties please see Sharon or Rachel to discuss further as this may result in a reduction of days if you have not made an arrangement to reduce your debt.
- **If your child will be absent from the centre we ask that you either call the centre by 10am or advise us through Kids XAP app.**
- **Breakfast finishes at 7:15am**
- Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing to suit the weather. We also ask that you check your child's change of clothes in their bag.
- For Kindy room families please ensure you remember to take your containers and clothes.
- If you have any unwanted clothing items at home we would love any donations for children's clothing so we have a supply of spare clothes or adults clothing for children to dress up in.

# NEWS FROM OUR ROOMS

## BABY ROOM

Welcome to winter!! We can't believe it's the middle of the year already, time is flying by.

Over the last few months the baby room has been busy focusing on sensory play. We have been doing play dough, clay, fluffy snow, edible paint, water beads and much more. The children have really been enjoying the different experiences we have been providing for them to explore.

With the wet cold weather upon us we have been trying to take the children outside as much as we can, but if the weather hasn't permitted we have been bringing the outside in such as a small sandpit and the soft climbing equipment.

Over the next couple of months the baby room will be having their sandpit area redesigned and upgraded which is very exciting. There will be some large rocks and water features, as well as utilising the space behind the sandpit.

As educators, we are excited as we understand the value of nature play and the children already love the sand and water play which with the upgrades this area will be more aesthetically pleasing for our children. We cannot wait to see the finished product and know this new area will provide so many learning opportunities for the babies.

Just a couple of gentle reminders; please bring labelled spare clothes each day for your child and a jacket for outside play.

Over the next couple of months we look forward to welcoming some new children to our room, most of which are siblings from existing families.

Until next time,  
*From Gail, Rachel, Victoria, Lucy and Natasha*



## TODDLER ROOM

Hello from all the Toddler Room Educators and a big welcome all our new families.

As always, it has been a very busy, but exciting past couple of months. One highlight would have to be our excursion to see Grug at the Festival Theatre. The children were extremely excited about catching a bus and even more excited when the show started. Having lunch in the nearby Botanical Gardens was also wonderful.



We continue to have a song of the week. So far we have had Cuddly Koala's, Sleeping bunnies, Baby crocodile, The dingle dangle scarecrow and Build a House. We were disappointed we were unable to upload videos through the app, but we are always willing to sing it for you if you ask. If there is a song that your child sings at home, and you are unfamiliar with it, feel free to ask one of the Educators for clarity and we can hopefully help you identify the song, and make it our next song of the week. Don't forget you can find all the words to the songs for you to take home on our song of the week board located under our program.

Our new outdoor environment has commenced and it has already provided many learning opportunities for our children even though we have yet to use it. We have had many discussions about the various equipment that is being used and what it is used for. The workers have been wonderful at interacting with the children and answering any questions they may have. It is a very exciting time and we look forward to being able to play and learn in stage 1 shortly.

Pyjama week was so much fun and we have been overwhelmed at the response by you parents who have brought in so many pairs of pyjamas. I know that Backpack for SA kids will also be so grateful for your generosity.

From the 9-13 July, we had a multicultural cooking week. We made Lassi, Speculaas, Puto, Lemon Myrtle biscuits and Fried Rice. Cooking is always an

amazing hands-on learning experience, and we look forward to it.

We are continuing to focus on the children building their self-help skills and independence.

Several weeks ago we introduced the children to setting up their own space at lunchtime.



Following washing their hands, they are responsible for going to the trolley and collecting their own bowl, cup and fork or spoon (depending what they would like).



They then choose where they wish to sit. Once all the children are seated, they then proceed to serve themselves lunch.

When they have finished eating, they take their bowl and cup back to the trolley, where they scrape their leftovers and empty their cup. You would be so proud of your children, they are such competent and capable children.

We also encourage the children to put their belongings into their locker throughout the day, so please ensure at the end of the day you are checking in their locker for their belongings, not just taking their bag, because, at times, there are treasures hiding behind your child's bag.

Some children have started to take our multicultural dolls home and have thoroughly enjoyed sharing with us their adventures at their house. If you would like your child to take one home, please don't hesitate to ask.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support and filling out the necessary documents which allow us to continue to support and develop your child's interest, strengths and needs.

If you have anything you would like to share with us about our room, your child or our program, please speak to any of the Toddler Room Educators.

*From Emma, Julia, Michelle, Rizza and Karen*

## KINDY ROOM

Welcome to our second newsletter of the year. We are excited to share with you, the learning experiences we have enjoyed this term.

Firstly, I would like to welcome our new children and their families to our room. We look forward to watching the children grow, and sharing with you a journey of fun, learning and discoveries.

I would also like to welcome Justine to the team. Justine was the successful applicant for permanent part time position; and will be working in the room on Thursday and Fridays. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank Jane for taking on the role for the Past 6 months and for her valuable contribution to the kindy room, our families, children and team. Jane will continue to be one of our relief educators.

The current learning cycle focuses on the following learning outcomes:

- **Support children's language and communication skills:**  
We plan to achieve this outcome by engaging children in literacy rich environment to allow them to express themselves confidently and extend their vocabulary.
- **Help children develop a strong sense of identity:**  
We plan to achieve this outcome, by providing opportunities for children to make choices and decisions.
- **Help children develop a sense of belonging to the community:**  
We plan to achieve this outcome by engaging children in conversations and small group excursions into the local community, to broaden their understanding of the world in which they live.

During this term we have participated in a range of celebrations such as: Reconciliation week, Naidoc Week and Pyjama week.

In the past three months, all kindy children had an opportunity to share a favourite book from home. The experience helped to further develop children's confidence as well as their language and vocabulary. This was successful and we have read nearly 40 different books in total!

Our Excursion to the "Grug and the Rainbow" was a great success, we extended children's learning by providing a variety of story related activities (e.g. acting the story out, re call the story, rainbow colours hunt and painting own rainbows)

Cooking week was also a great success. The kindy children helped prepare their own morning tea over a week. We had a range of inviting experiences each day that aimed to make routine time more positive interactive experience.

Educators have also implemented a personal safety program over two weeks, to increase children's awareness of their body safety. It also helped children recognise early warning signs and to develop a safety network.

The 5 body safety rules children explored were:

1. My Body is my body
2. Safety network
3. Early warning signs
4. Private parts
5. No secrets

*(Resources are available for families to borrow.)*

If you have any queries regarding our program or have any concern regarding your child's development and care, please don't hesitate to speak to one of our kindy room educators.

*From Mira, Jo, Gemma, Justine and Jane*

# Union Report

Dear Families,

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July the new childcare subsidy has been introduced, so allow me to share the educator's thoughts. While we are still unsure of the full impact of the new childcare subsidy system on our families, we believe the system is broken. The system is broken because it has failed to address educator's low wages and undervalued role.

The current government has failed to commit to funding the National Quality Partnership <http://www.education.gov.au/national-partnership-agreements>

Statement from the National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care

"The Commonwealth and States and Territories are committed to increasing their focus on the early years to ensure the wellbeing of children throughout their lives, and to deliver the vision of the *Early Childhood Development Strategy* (ECDS) endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in July 2009, that 'by 2020 all children have the best start in life to create a better future for themselves, and for the nation'"

By the Government not committing to the partnership agreement, this will mean the Government will no longer be committing to fund or to ensure that childcare centres are implementing the National Quality Framework, and the Governing body will no longer be able to assess and rate centres against the National Quality Standards.

Another concern is the new childcare system has failed to address children's rights to education!! "Education is not a Parental right, it is a child's right as a citizen" (Dunning P, 2018, Why are we missing the point in the childcare debate, Cited in the Sydney Morning Herald), "Children have the right to an education." (Article 28, United Nations conventions, the rights of the child).

Today, we ask you to take the time to think about the disadvantaged families and the most vulnerable children in our community and consider the impact of the changes. The children who have been denied their rights to education and care, the right to a better start to life, simply because their parents didn't meet the new activity test set by the Government. It is essential for educators and families to continue to advocate for The Early Childhood Education and care as 80% of a child's brain forms by the age of three and 90% by the age of five.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>2018, 61 centres in SA and more than 6500 educators across the country walked off the Job demanding equal pay. They also pledged to take the fight to the next election.

Our educators will continue lobbying politicians, engaging with the community and building support networks. We are also planning to organise a wobble board activity on Main North Road with educators from Lurra Community children's centre.

Your support is crucial to our campaign success, so if you would have any suggestions or ideas on how to engage the families or the local community, or if you would like to participate in the actions, please see Mira or Rachel. Stay tuned for further information and updates.

Kind Regards  
Mira Ghamrawi  
Union Representative



### Special Thanks

- To all the parents who volunteered to help in our excursion to the “Grug and the Rainbow” at the Adelaide festival centre.
- To Sue for helping to organise our morning tea and modifying the menu to fit in our cooking week.

### Reminders

- Please make sure your child clothes and belongings are labeled.
- Please remember to collect your child’s drink bottle and jacket at the end of the day.
- Please write your child’s name on the laminated sheet as we use it during emergency drills.
- If your child is unwell, have been administered medication or had temperature please refer to our exclusion policy or if you’re not sure please give us a call.

### Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting  
Monday 10 September

## RAP NEWS

NAIDOC week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous Communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. We celebrated NAIDOC week at the centre through a variety of art, music and literature with the children. We hope you enjoyed our display in the foyer and seeing some of the resources/toys the RAP committee has purchased for all the rooms to see.

*From the RAP committee*



## CASUAL VACANCIES

During the course of the year, we occasionally have casual days available. Should you be interested in a casual day this information will now be available on our website.

At the home page move your cursor to “Our centre” and open availability. This will have what days are available for the following week. If you are interested in a casual day please feel free to email Rachel, Holly or myself or to call us to confirm you would like a day.

## LATE COLLECTION FEE

Please remember to be on the premises 5-10 minutes prior to 6:00 pm to collect your child.

After 6:00 pm the centre is not covered by our Insurer.

**Families who arrive after 6:00 pm will be asked to sign a Late Collection of Child Form and a charge of \$5.00 per minute will apply.**

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Bunnings Sausage Sizzle – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August
- School Photos – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September
- Christmas Closure - Our last day will be Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of December.

Our Educators will be returning on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January for a Professional Development day.

We will re-open for families on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of January.**

*The centre will be closed on the following public holidays*

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October - Labour Day

## STAFF ANNUAL LEAVE

Baby Room – Victoria – 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 12<sup>th</sup> September  
Rachel – 13<sup>th</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> September

Toddler Room – Julia – 17<sup>th</sup> September to 18<sup>th</sup> September  
Rizza – 10<sup>th</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> October

Kindy Room - Jo-Anne – 9<sup>th</sup> August to 13<sup>th</sup> August  
Justine – 27<sup>th</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> August

Office - Holly – 2<sup>nd</sup> October



Modbury  
Community  
Children's Centre  
LEARNING TOGETHER, EVERY DAY.

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