

# MEDIA RELEASE



17 August 2010

## **Introducing the Pre-Prep room at Withcott Early Childhood centre**

In the pre-prep room at Withcott Early Childhood Centre, Kim is the team leader. Kim holds a Diploma in Children's Services and is studying for her Advanced Diploma. Lisa and Teresa are the team members and they each hold a Certificate III in Children's Services; Teresa is also studying for her Diploma. Sandra works with the pre-prep children on Mondays, and holds an Advanced Diploma.

In the pre-prep years we see incredible growth and development. Parents and staff work together to help the children develop the necessary skills that will enable them to settle smoothly into school and become happy, adjusted, confident and involved learners.

Children aged three to five years need to develop a large range of social skills to help them create good relationships and become connected with, and contribute to their world. These skills include communication, listening and sharing thoughts, taking turns, developing problem solving techniques, following instructions, maintaining concentration and completing tasks, and understanding what is and what is not, socially acceptable. Some of these skills may be taken for granted as we grow older, but for a young child, mastering these skills may take a lot of practice.

Through our play based program at Withcott Early Childhood Centre, our young adventurers are provided with rich and changing environments to explore and extend their level of ability. They will experience growth in language, thinking and reasoning, physical mastery, and social and emotional confidence.

The children enjoy creating friendships that will carry over when they start school. When a young child races with excitement to greet a friend, we all feel a sense of pleasure as we see the joy and confidence gained from their friendship. Their worlds are becoming broader and they are reaching out. These skills are the foundations from which learning can be built on when starting school.

A socially well adapted child can take in new situations and information, focus on the right things, and settle quickly with new people. We all take in information much more quickly and effectively when we are happy being with the people we are with, and in the environment around us.

Through the pre-prep process, children will develop many pre-reading and writing skills. They will understand basic numeracy and literacy which will be built on throughout their school years. Children's pre-prep years are important and at the Withcott Early Childhood Centre we love supporting our families through these years.

If you would like more information about Withcott Early Childhood Centre, please phone 4630 3722 or drop in to see us at 42 Biggs Road.

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For further information, please contact:

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