

MEDIA RELEASE



7 October 2010

The importance of reading

Sharing the joy of books with your child is one of the best gifts you can give them, and there is proven educational benefits brought about by reading aloud to children. Reading aloud is the best way to prepare children for learning to read and helps develop vocabulary and listening skills. It also creates a special bond and provides intense enjoyment.

Language acquisition occurs most readily in the first five years of life and is determined by many interrelating factors such as environment, appropriate role modelling and supported opportunities to practise and develop skills.

Reading and storytelling are an integral part of the Kallangur Community Early Childhood Centre program. Reading aloud to children helps to encourage active listening skills. At Kallangur children are also invited to tell their stories and write them down so they can be shared with peers and families.

Kallangur Community Early Childhood Centre currently runs a play-based, open learning program offering children their choice of activities indoors and outdoors. Children are given uninterrupted time to complete tasks and activities to develop their skills. Each child is provided with opportunities to access all learning experiences and staff have ongoing improvement plans to ensure children are developing in all areas.

Kallangur Community Early Childhood Centre offers a warm and friendly environment and staff always use positive language when speaking to the children. Staff communicate with each child by calling them by name, getting down to their level and showing an interest in their conversations and play.

At Kallangur Community Early Childhood Centre, we have a vision for children's learning whereby all children experience learning that is engaging and builds success for life. This is implemented at the centre through the Early Years Learning Framework, of which concepts of belonging, being and becoming are introduced as fundamental. From before birth, children are connected to family, community, culture and place. As children participate in everyday life, they develop interests and construct their own identities and understandings of their world.

- Belonging – knowing where and with whom you belong – is integral to human existence. In early childhood and throughout life, relationships are crucial to a sense of belonging.
- Being – childhood is a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world. It is about the present and them knowing themselves, building and maintaining relationships with others, engaging with life's joys and complexities and meeting challenges in everyday life.
- Becoming – children's identities, knowledge, understandings, skills and relationships change during childhood. Becoming reflects this process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn and grow.

Operated by Churches of Christ Care, Kallangur Community Early Childhood Centre is a not-for-profit, community-based, long day care centre where children are given the opportunity to

MEDIA RELEASE



socialise with other children of a similar age group, as well as children of mixed ages, in a safe setting where they learn through play. The centre will continue to develop their staff and programs to ensure that the children are provided the best start in life while in their care.

Kallangur Community Early Childhood Centre will be commemorating their 25th birthday on 6 November between 10am and 2pm. The free event is open to the public, and celebrations will be happening throughout the day at the centre with entertainment, kid's activities, food and music.

Kallangur Community Early Childhood Centre is located at 116 Ann Street Kallangur and is currently taking enrolments for 2011. For more information about the centre, or to enrol your child, phone (07) 3204 6000.

ENDS

For further information, please contact:

Ashleigh James
Communications Coordinator
Ph: (07) 3327 1747

Desley Millwood
Communications Manager
Ph: (07) 3327 1692 or 0419 486 943

About Churches of Christ Care

Churches of Christ Care is a division of Churches of Christ in Queensland—a group of churches that are part of the worldwide Christian church.

We strive to create an inclusive, caring, compassionate environment that meets its clients' needs without discrimination or prejudice. Everyone is welcome to call on our help regardless of their religious background.

Churches of Christ Care is one of Queensland's leading providers of early childhood, child protection, affordable housing, retirement living and aged care services. We are a not-for-profit organisation that supports more than 27,000 clients each year in urban, rural and remote areas.

We operate 137 services throughout Queensland with the support of more than 2,800 staff and over 700 volunteers.

Churches of Christ Care is built on a foundation of Christian values, commitment to quality care, and trust and respect for clients and the community.