

MEDIA RELEASE

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Learning disguised as good times

Being a child should be fun; it is a time of discovery, where even little things like playing in the sand pit or using your fingers to paint is a big adventure.

Early childhood is an important stage in a child's education and an early childhood program promotes inquiring minds, a love of learning and encourages children to become competent life long learners.

Churches of Christ Care Parklands Early Childhood Centre Service Manager Robyn Pointing said children just want to have fun, but in that fun should be opportunities to learn valuable skills.

"The day at childcare should be about having fun, but while they are kicking a ball to their friend or singing a song, something happens – they learn important social and development skills," she said.

"They may not realise it or understand it, but by the time they are ready to go to Prep, most children have develop essential social skills and other basic skills that prepare them for formal education and they have done that through playing."

Robyn said play fuels all aspects of healthy development. "Running, kicking and throwing balls helps children develop balance and coordination. Singing and rhyming games help with language development.

"Puzzles and problem solving games help children's intellectual development. And turn-taking and sharing in play help develop important relationship skills and self-control."

Most childcare centres use an open learning program, developed by a qualified and experienced team of early childhood professionals.

Robyn said children learn through play by exploring, experimenting and discovering their environment.

"And this learning and development should occur through the collaboration of children, families and staff."

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About Churches of Christ Care

Established in 1930, today Churches of Christ Care is the largest, most diverse not-for-profit organisation in Australia.

Churches of Christ Care, a division of Churches of Christ in Queensland and working with Churches of Christ Vic/Tas, provides a range of care services to vulnerable persons at different stages of their life journey.

Churches of Christ Care is active in the areas of early childhood services, child protection, community and affordable housing, retirement living, community aged care, and residential aged care. We operate more than 140 services throughout Queensland and Melbourne, Victoria with the support of more than 3,000 staff and over 700 volunteers.

Services provided by Churches of Christ Care are funded by a mix of government subsidies, grants, fees and charges for our services such as early childhood services and residential aged care, and through fundraising activities.

Our services are offered to all those in need regardless of religious background. 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.