

Early Learning Centre Update November 2018

388 Montague Road Para Vista SA 5093
PO Box 121 Modbury North SA 5092
T 08 8264 7966 F 08 8396 4799
admin@gspv.sa.edu.au
www.gspv.sa.edu.au

Dear parents, carers and friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran School,

In cooperation with Endeavour College Mawson Lakes, we currently provide a seamless Foundation to Year 12 learning journey for the students in our care. Good Shepherd Lutheran School, with ongoing encouragement from the local community, has for some time dreamed of enriching and extending this learning journey through the establishment of an Early Learning Community in support of children (birth to school age) and their families.

The commitment of many sees our dream tracking towards reality in 2020 when exciting new facilities will open and unique learning programs launched. Expanded playgroup opportunities will exist for children from birth to age 3. Children aged 3-4 will experience **CURIOSITY**, Good Shepherd's Early Learning experience.

This communication shares commencement of the final stage in a lengthy and thorough process which has involved extensive methodological research and planning to ensure our service is uniquely 'Good Shepherd' in its purpose, vision, values and principles of learning. Our commitment is to provide exceptional learning opportunities for children birth to age 4, serving to best-prepare these pre-schoolers for their transition to primary school. Equally important is a centre that has its focus on family connections and support through fostering a strong sense of family and community. As you read on, you'll appreciate that **CURIOSITY** is much more than an Early Learning and Long Day Care Centre

The final step in our viability study involves seeking your commitment to enrol. To date, the number of expressions of interest has been extraordinary. Now, an accurate picture of enrolments will allow us to move forward and fully resource the project and finalise our planning for long term success in this exciting and bold venture.

Existing Good Shepherd families and those already enrolled for school into the future will be offered priority entry through the enrolment process, with the balance of places then being opened to the wider community. As places are limited, you are encouraged to read on, be inspired by our vision and if moved to do so, act to secure your place immediately.

I commend **CURIOSITY** to you. God bless your consideration of this unique opportunity.

David Wilksch
Principal





CURIOSITY core beliefs

ACTIVE

From birth, children are wired to inquire and explore. They have a unique voice to share with the world. Through purposeful and inspired play and discovery, our children have opportunity to make sense of their world. They are driven by their interests to know and learn more. Good Shepherd educators learn, research alongside, guide our young learners and model lifelong learning. Parents are critical participants in the dialogue and learning of their children. We value parent insights and the gifts they are to our community.

CONNECTED...

Children are members in a range of communities that shape and mould them. The relationships that are central to a child's family and culture promote inclusive and positive growth and self-esteem. We connect with the world through the lens of Christianity as we respect individuals and the environment God created us to care for. Children are valued as collaborators.

GROWING FOR LIFE...

There is a unique spirit in our learning environment which invites love, creativity and optimism. The learning spaces are purposely designed around light, beauty and nature. Through a growing awareness of communication, language is developed and helps our children reflect, problem find and problem solve. They are encouraged to show their understanding and express their thoughts in many different ways.

The **wider** the range
of **possibilities**
we offer **children**,
the more **INTENSE** will be
their **MOTIVATIONS**
and the **RICHER** their
EXPERIENCES

Loris Malaguzzi

The Good Shepherd Lutheran School learning environment has been positively transformed over recent years. Learning spaces are agile and flexible to stimulate creativity and innovation. We believe strongly that the Early Learning environment should be no different. Integrated indoor and outdoor learning settings will support a variety of learning experiences and opportunities for children, their families, educators and members of the Good Shepherd and wider community.



CURIOSITY more than a pre-school

The Good Shepherd Early Learning Community Centre will ...

- be a centre that is welcoming of children, families and the wider community;
- be a supportive and caring learning environment for local families with birth to school aged children;
- provide a variety of settings that foster play based learning environments as outlined in *Belonging, Being and Becoming – the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*;
- provide facilities for long day care with an integrated Early Learning program for 3 to 4 year olds;
- utilise agile/flexible rooms with adjunct spaces both indoor and outdoor to cater for flexible learning, socialisation, food preparation, personal care, professional support and planned rituals that build a sense of belonging;
- enjoy deep covered outdoor areas that extend indoor spaces and blur thresholds between indoor and outdoor settings;
- provide landscaped outdoor areas that offer a variety of 'fast' and 'slow' settings for energetic and passive/focused play;
- provide opportunities for social, emotional and cognitive development through nature play, and other experiential learning activities;
- provide family and community facilities e.g. multipurpose room(s) for playgroup (chat and stay), long day care and adult education classes e.g. wellbeing, parenting, ministry, pastoral counselling and support;
- incorporate flexible spaces for Allied Health service provision and small group meetings;
- ensure welcoming and safe pedestrian access and standards compliant parking;
- provide architecturally significant buildings that convey the existing vision, values and principles of learning of Good Shepherd Lutheran School; and
- be affordable, with costs mirroring other local ELC and long day care providers.

Together with Good Shepherd Lutheran School, **CURIOSITY** will provide an innovative, nurturing and family focused environment in which we all have opportunity to be ...

Active and connected, growing for LIFE.



CURIOSITY solid foundations

As a school constantly striving for educational excellence, Good Shepherd has built a reputation for the development of an approach to learning that is future focused whilst also anchored on rock solid foundations. We value our Lutheran heritage and appreciate that Lutheran education is known and respected across Australia.

Lutheran schools and early childhood services are part of the mission of the Lutheran church. As such, they are...

- communities of worship and service, sharing and living the good news of Jesus Christ;
- communities which acknowledge God as creator and join in the ongoing creation and care of the world and all people;
- communities that recognise that God has intentionally created each person and that each person is uniquely gifted to live in relationship with God and others;
- communities where grace abounds. While recognising the brokenness of humanity, they reflect the unconditional love of the Father, revealed through the saving work of his Son, Jesus;
- communities open to the influence of the Holy Spirit, who invites and equips us for a life of worship, learning and service;
- communities that value learning as God's gift to people for their wonder, growth, and to inspire them to respond to the needs of the world; and
- communities of hope, nurtured by the promises of God's word, love and forgiveness which empower staff and students to embrace the future with confidence.

CURIOSITY world class, globally inspired

Our Early Learning Community Centre, **CURIOSITY**, is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach to early year's education. Created by inspirational Educator Loris Malaguzzi in the 1940's, the approach is an educational philosophy of worldwide acclaim, based on the image of the child as capable, curious and full of potential, as a subject with rights, and who learns and grows through relationships with others. Shaped by our Vision, Values and Learning Principles, we believe this dynamic environment gives our uniquely created children, inspiration to flourish along their learning journey which began at birth.

Community is the essence of **CURIOSITY**. Children in our centre will experience a rich community of learning. Active learning creates possibilities for children to immerse themselves in nature, language, experiential play and the opportunity to build their own story.





Image of the child

Children attending the Good Shepherd Lutheran Early Learning Community Centre are considered central to our community. The image of the child is supported by the belief that children learn best by hands on experiences. It is through these experiences that relationships grow and the right of the child in God's creation is explored. Emerging from taking risks, testing and attempting new things; skills are learnt and experiences support the development of the whole child.

An emergent learning process

We value children as uniquely created by God. Their voice is encouraged, invited and supported through creativity and experiential play. By fostering a sense of self-worth and belief, creative endeavours are supported as children blossom on their learning journey. As we walk alongside our children, co-learning and supporting, they construct meaning from tangible and interactive experiences.

The environment as the third teacher

Children are given opportunities to take ownership of their space, their choices, and experiences offered by educators. The environment is often referred to as 'the third teacher'. Through the conscious use of space, design, colour, light, nature, the display of children's accomplishments and attention to detail, the indoor and outdoor environments encourage communication, inquiry, research and the exploration of new experiences.

Documentation

Documentation which makes learning visible provides children with a strong sense of being and belonging, and a deeper connection to their learning environment. Documentation allows children to re-visit their experiences, reflect on them and extend their learning.

The role of parents

Playing an active role in educating their child, parents contribute richly to the culture of learning. Powerful and genuine partnerships are built and new opportunities to learn are created. We walk alongside parents and families as children share and learn openly, taking pride in their accomplishments and actively seeking to learn more.

Children are connected

Children experience great joy through their connection with the community. Building relationships with our local and global community broadens perspectives and fosters inclusivity. Children become collaborative, cooperative and supportive of others. We acknowledge that learning does not happen in isolation, and rich connections inspire us. A beautiful connection with Good Shepherd Lutheran School offers opportunities for broadened experiences and a variety of pathways to further learning.



CURIOSITY a focus on rich learning

Australian Early Years Learning Framework

The key components of the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) are outlined by the objectives of Belonging, Being and Becoming. Our vision for **CURIOSITY** closely aligns with and supports the framework.

Belonging

Experiencing belonging. Knowing where and with whom you belong is integral to human existence. Children belong first to a family, a cultural group, a neighbourhood and a wider community. Belonging acknowledges interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identity. In early childhood, and throughout life, relationships are crucial to this sense of belonging. Belonging is central to being and becoming in that it shapes who children are and who they can become.

Being

Childhood is a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world. Being recognises the significance of the here and now in children's lives. It is about the present and them knowing themselves in the present; building and maintaining relationships with others; engaging in life's joys and complexities and meeting everyday life challenges. The early childhood years are not solely preparation for the future, but also about the present.

Becoming

Children's identities, knowledge, understandings, capacities, skills and relationships change during childhood. They are shaped by many different events and circumstances. Becoming reflects this process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn and grow. It emphasises learning to participate fully and actively in society.



CURIOSITY a focus on rich learning

Good Shepherd Lutheran School Learning Principles

We are effective and successful learners when:

1. The learning environment is a safe and supportive place to build self, social, emotional and spiritual capacity.
2. Learning is attuned to be engaging, developmental, personalised and differentiated to meet individual need.
3. Learners are enabled to be resourceful, innovative and persistent and to use initiative.
4. Learners are active and informed citizens, connecting strongly with communities and practice beyond the classroom.
5. Learning capacity to think deeply, critically and creatively is enhanced through active and purposeful inquiry, question posing and problem solving.
6. Learners master the essential skills in literacy and numeracy and are creative and productive users of information communication technologies.
7. Learners reflect and receive regular, timely and targeted feedback in order to understand, monitor and adjust learning goals for rigorous learning and to meet high standards.
8. Quality assessment practices are an integral part of teaching and learning.

“Our task is to
HELP children
communicate
with the **WORLD**
using all their
potential, **STRENGTHS**
and languages,
and to overcome
any **OBSTACLE**
presented
by our culture”

Loris Malaguzzi





Good Shepherd
Lutheran School | P...ista

CURIOSITY programs and fees

Acknowledging that families are becoming increasingly busy, Good Shepherd Early Learning Community Centre is planned to provide all care and educational needs in one location. Long Day Care, Holiday Care, Early Learning, Playgroup and also access to Allied Health Professionals.

The Good Shepherd Early Learning Community Centre will likely open from approximately 8.00am until 5.00pm Monday – Friday, for 48-50 weeks of the year. We are committed to the constant review of daily opening times based on demand and present the following range of services to cater for the diversity of family needs.

Good Shepherd Early Learning Community Centre is a registered childcare provider. Eligible families will claim a rebate after payment of fees for the ELC programs. For further details about the rebate, search 'Child Care Subsidy' using your preferred internet browser to locate the Australian Government Department of Human Services. Alternatively please contact Good Shepherd for direction / support.

Please note: Service fees **are an estimate at this time**. Our firm commitment is to mirror the fees of alternate local service providers, ensuring inclusivity and affordability for all.

Early Learning Program (4 year olds)

9.00am - 3:00pm

The 4 year old program requires a minimum commitment of 30 hours (5 days) per fortnight, during school term time.

\$85 per day

Early Learning Program (3 year olds)

9.00am - 3:00pm

½ Day

The 3 year old program is available during school term time on any day, provided spaces are available. ('Available spaces' is determined by enrolment demand and our efforts to ensure a balanced enrolment number across both the 3 and 4 year old programs.)

\$85 per day
\$50

Long Day Care (3-5 year olds)

8.00am - 9.00am

3.00pm - 5.00pm

To cater for the busy family, we offer Long Day Care hours to supplement the Early Learning Program for 3 and 4 year olds.

\$15
\$25

Holiday Program

8.00am - 5.00pm

½ Day

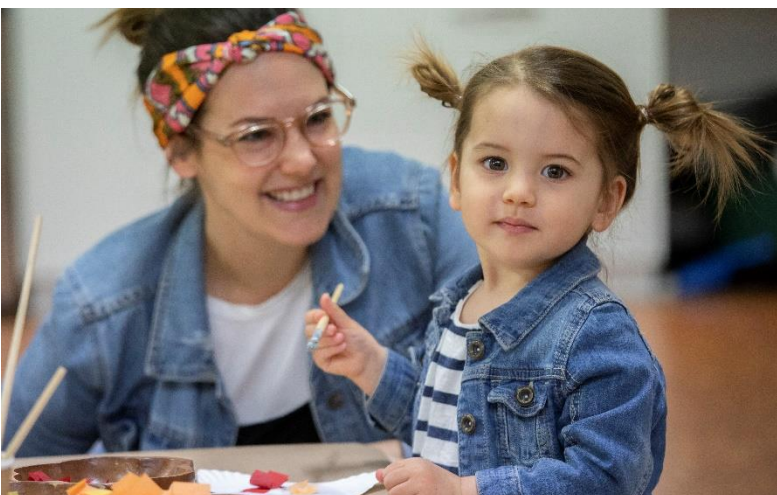
All school holiday periods excluding two weeks following Christmas and public holidays.

\$90
\$45

Playgroup

2 mornings available per week during school term time

\$5 per session



CURIOSITY enroll now for the 3-4 year old programs

Steps to secure your place

- Due January 2019: Complete an enrolment form being sure to complete the preferred year and program of entry.
- Alternatively, if an enrolment form has already been lodged for school, please contact the school and advise your preferred year of entry to **CURIOSITY**
- February 2019: Enrolment conversations will take place with the Principal
- March 2019: **CURIOSITY** places will be offered for existing Good Shepherd families.
- April 2019: Acceptance of offers by Good Shepherd families.
Remaining vacancies offered to wider community.

"The wider the range of possibilities we offer children, the more intense will be their motivations and the richer their experiences."

Loris Malaguzzi - Reggio Emilia founder

