C.a.F.E. Enfield Children’s Centre
Centre number: 5363
DECS Region: Northern Adelaide Region

Context Statement
February 2013

Director Education and Care: Joan Gilbert
Postal Address: 17a Wilkins Street, Enfield
Location Address: Pateela Street, Enfield
Telephone: 8342 3329
Fax number: 8342 3309
Preschool email address: dl.5363_administration@schools.sa.edu.au
Introduction
Welcome to C.a.F.E. Enfield Children's Centre. C.a.F.E. is an acronym for Children and Families Everywhere, A name that was devised and agreed upon by the founding members of community in 2002. C.a.F.E. Enfield Children's Centre is a community based childcare centre integrated with a Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) funded preschool with a licensed capacity of 84 children. It is part of an overall organisation provides Education, Health and Community Engagement.

Contextual influences
Our centre is located in an area of high proportion of public-housing tenants, a significant number of indigenous families and increasing number of new arrivals in the country. Historically DECS and Health have provided separate services to communities. However, recent research has identified the benefits to both children and their families if these services are integrated and provided in a holistic manner. Our key focus is to continue to develop flexible, high quality programs and services to meet the needs of families. Our purpose was to engage every child so that they could achieve at the highest possible level of their learning and wellbeing, through quality education and care programs.

Meeting South Australian Strategy Plan Target(s)
Department of Education and Children's Services' Strategic Plan for Public Education and Care 2012-2016

Public education is made up of more than 1,000 local school, Preschool and are communities that are open to all. These communities provide quality care and education so that every young person has the opportunity to be a successful learner, a confident and creative individual, and an active and informed citizen. It is our aspiration that all of our schools and preschools should respond quickly to make good provision for tomorrow's world for today's students.

Strategic Directions:
1. Every child achieves their potential.
2. Excellence in education and care
3. Connect with communities
4. A successful and sustainable organisation

C.a.F.E. Enfield Children's Centre's purpose is to engage every child so that they achieve at the highest possible level of their learning and wellbeing capabilities, through the provision of quality education and care services provided in an integrated manner and in partnership with families.
Services available at the C.a.F.E. Enfield site

- Community Childcare for children 6 weeks to school age, 7:30am-6:00pm, 50 weeks of the year
- Preschool program, DECS funded
- Learning to Together, a program for parents and children birth to 4 years, focussing on attachment and literacy
- Children and Family Health Services (CAFHS) drop in services, breast feeding support groups, hearing tests and a number of specialists such as medical, speech therapist, physiotherapist.
- Community Playgroups
- Parental Courses and information sessions
- Adult education programs
- SACE in partnership with Enfield High School
- TafeSA certificate III in Community Services Work
- Crèche facilities to support participation in programs on site.
- Craft Groups

Services Offered in the Children’s Centre, Education and Care

- Sessional preschool:
  - 4-5 year olds, for 4 terms prior to starting school for up to 5 sessions per week (15 hours in total)
  - 3 year old aboriginal children and children under the guardianship of the minister for up to 8 terms prior to starting school for up to 5 sessions per week (15 hours in total).
Early Entry or extension of time

- 3.5 year olds with additional and/or diverse needs, one session per week for one term, then 2 sessions per week for another term before beginning their 4 terms prior to starting school. This program is offered in consultation with the Director, Parents and if needed District Support Staff.

Pre-entry:

- A non-funded program offered at the discretion of the Director - general to children 1 term prior to their 4 terms prior to starting school. Children are generally 3 years 9 months.

Child Care

- The Centre is licensed for a total of 84 children at any one time - this includes the Sessional Preschool and crèche children.
  - There are 12 under 2 places
  - The long day care child care program has 3 rooms
    - The under 2’s
    - The over 2’s - the children are aged between 2 and 4 years of age
    - The 4 years olds - integrated with the DECS Preschool program.

Crèche

- Care is provided for children whose parents or primary carers are attending on site information sessions, courses or study. Care is usually provided in 3 hour blocks. Parents and/or Carers must remain on site.

Emergency Care

- Is offered to support families in times of need. It is at the discretion of the Director with consideration of resources available.
Staff in the Children’s Centre, Education and Care (2011)

Preschool component of the Children’s Centre currently operates with an entitlement of 2.5 full time staff positions. These positions are currently filled with the

- Director, Education and Care: Joan Gilbert
- Teachers: Alison Cookesley and Gayle Mills
- Preschool Support Worker: Sangeetha Ramesh
- Bilingual Worker: Mitra Golbaghi

This team is supported with Childcare funded professionals, Kate Martin and Sarah Fennell.

Community Childcare staffing is funded via ‘user pays’ fees paid by parents and where eligible, Childcare Benefit.

- Assistant Director: Lee Jones

Team Leaders
- Under 2’s: Julie Norris
- Over 2’s: Dayna Nation
- Childcare Professionals: Sarah Tompkins, Kylie Baxter, Natalie Gallace and Sam Chiutale.
- Cook: Lisa Grimwade
- Administration assistants: LeeAnne Strawbridge, Sarah Philippou and Natasha Tunney
- Grounds person: David Cutajar

Crèche staffing is also funded via ‘user pays’ fees paid by parents and where eligible, Childcare Benefit – additional assistance is sought through a scholarship arrangement. Community Childcare also supports this component.

- Team Leader: Vivien Prigent

The above programs are supported by a number of part time and casual childcare assistants and volunteers.

Performance Management Program
This is an ongoing process whereby we continually strive to provide quality programs for our children and their families. Our staff team numbers 38, this includes full time, part time and casual staff. We meet regularly as a leadership team and as a
staff team to ensure that we have a strong direction and as an effective means to communicate with each other. Staff wellbeing is valued and strategies are in place to monitor inclusivity for all staff.

Other
As a Children's Centre we have a Community Development Coordinator, Jill Meldrum, a Family Services Coordinator, Anushia Rajasegaran, an Occupational Therapist, Emma Wright and Allied Health. These professionals work across the programs on site providing support for families and children.

Curriculum
During 2009, our site was a trial site for the new National Curriculum document, the Early Years Learning Framework. We continue to use the new framework as the basis for planning, monitoring and reporting on the children's learning and development. The Children's learning program is a holistic one with consultation and input from the child's family and primary carers. The environment is carefully considered and arranged to support group and individual children's learning.

Our programs are relationship based. Attachment theory underpins our daily practice with Primary Caregiving principles in place. Children and their families are assigned a primary caregiver who works with parents to establish a warm, secure relationship with the child. Through a partnership with families the primary caregiver ensures the child's care and education needs are met as strong links between the centre and home culture are nurtured and encouraged.

Play is the central in the provision of learning and the experiences and materials provided are developed to contribute to the achievement of successful learning outcomes for all children in all areas of development. We have a particular focus on supporting and extending early numeracy and literacy across the site, working closely with Enfield Primary School to ensure consistency.

We have a large spacious outdoor play area. We continue to develop the area with designated areas for specific play situations. The staff team plan play experiences that will encourage children to engage in a play episode for extended periods of time and will return over a period of days to continue the play theme. Targeted physical skill development is planned through explicit teaching strategies and is incorporated into everyday play situations. We view the outdoor play space as an extremely valuable learning area.