Welcome to Parents, Family, Friends and Staff of C.a.F.E. Enfield Children's Centre. C.a.F.E. is an acronym for Children and Families Everywhere, a name coined by the founding community members back in 2004. It is with pride that we continue to provide our excellent services under this banner. The overall structure of C.a.F.E. Enfield Children's Centre has many components; including our integrated Community Childcare Centre and Department of education and Child Development (DECD) Preschool program. Together these 2 programs have a licensed capacity of 84 children. Each week during 2011 we saw an average of 166 children and 110 families. Other programs that provide services here at C.a.F.E. Enfield are

- Child Youth and Women's Health Services, providing Health and Child Development support and screening services.
- Learning Together, and Learning Together at Home, offering supported playgroups with a focus on attachment and literacy.
- Valley View High School auspice accredited adult education, through SACE and Cert 111 in Community Services
- Family Day Care
- Enfield Primary School

The focus for the Childcare and Preschool programs is the education and care for children from 6 weeks to school age.

During 2011 we have continued to engage in a number of projects aimed at our vision for continuous improvement of programs

1. **Father Inclusive Practice**
   Programs and activities were set up to raise the profile of fathers across the site. Giving notice to the evidence that actively engaged fathers in the lives of their children can have positive benefits for children’s learning outcomes and overall development (Cabrera et al 2007) We reviewed organisational practices to address the barriers that make it difficult for fathers to become involved.
2. **OPAL**

Is a program that’s about everyone in our community working together to create all kinds of ways to enjoy healthy eating and to have fun being active.

Giving recognition to the importance of
- Good Nutrition
- The benefits of Physical Activity

3. **Uni Aspirations**

**Question:** How can educators develop deeper engagement with families, mothers, fathers, caregivers to improve literacy understandings and outcomes in the Early Years.

We presented different pathways to learning to read with a focus on parents and reading which may include reading using new technologies and print based forms of literacy.

4. **AEDI Grant money**

- Build community capacity by supporting fathers to actively engage with and influence children services
- Improve learning and developmental outcomes for children by supporting families to
  - Recognise the important role and influence they have in their children’s learning
  - To engage in play experiences with their children and begin to notice and name aspects of their child’s development
- Developing a sense of wellbeing
- Building a sense of belonging
- Leading to community Engagement

5. **Engaging Young Minds**

An 18-month project that promoted understandings of educators to examine the possibilities for learning for young children birth to 3 years. The focus was on creating spaces and opportunities for children under 3 to engage with the outdoor environment. This work was an extension of the work begun during the trial of the Early Years Learning Framework in 2009. Investigations by educators will continue to deepen our understandings of the outdoor spaces and promote our imaginations to keep dreaming of what could be possible.
6. Finding the magic through Learning Stories with Wendy Lee
   This was an Early Years Practitioner Inquiry Project that provided an opportunity for educators to explore the power of narrative assessment.
   We are continuing to review our practices to strengthen these areas
   • Documenting children’s learning in play environments
   • Assessment for learning
   • Data informing practice
   • Sharing assessment with families

We used a number of events to share these learnings with our families.
• Box Car 500
• Enfield Regatta
• Kite flying day
• Celebrations
These events were well attended with approximately 723 attendances by children and their families.

The Management Committee for 2011 was
Liam Fudali* Chairperson
Maud Giles* Correspondence Secretary
Naomi Barrett* Treasurer
Alf Ramos* Member
Sarah Afshinpour* Member
Scott Dolman* Member, Public Officer
Jane Robinson Staff Representative
Joan Gilbert* Member, Director
Jaime Gardner Member
* denotes members who have served 2 years or more on the committee
Thank you to this team of people for your commitment to this centre during 2011. Parental involvement is a key element to the success of our programs. Strong partnerships with parents can only result in good outcomes for the children as the people in their lives work together.

During 2011 the Management Committee has continued to support the ongoing professional development of our staff team. The quality of our programs is only as good as the educators employed to implement them. A number of our team is currently continuing to maintain and upgrade their professional knowledge through accredited and awarded programs.

- Jane Robinson  Bachelor of Early Childhood - continuing
- Marika Glouftsis  Bachelor of Early Childhood - continuing
- Paul Smith  Bachelor of Teaching - continuing
- Tom Bertosa  Bachelor of Early Childhood - continuing
- Kylie Baxter  Diploma of Children’s services - completed
- Natalie Gallace  Diploma of children’s services - completed
- Sam Chiu tale  Diploma of Children’s Services - completed
- Joan Gilbert  Post Graduate Certificate in Neuroscience - completed
- LeeAnne Strawbridge  Certificate IV Frontline Management - continuing

New learnings bring about healthy debates and understandings for not only the staff participating in the study but for the whole team.

The centre closure days continue to provide valuable opportunities for whole staff development. During 2011 the topics have been facilitated by a mixture of presentations from site professionals and professionals from outside agencies. The mornings are generally dedicated to presentations, with the afternoons devoted to exploring ways that this information impacts on our service and how we will use the information in everyday situations.

**January**

New national curriculum - **Early Years Learning Framework**
Presentation by Sara Richardson, Gowrie Training Centre
Linking Early Years Learning Framework with our centre philosophy
Presented by Joan Gilbert

**April**

The closure day was cancelled due to the number of public holidays during the school holiday period.

**July**

**The social/emotional environment**
Presented by Tracey Alexander, Centacare
Environments for children
Presented by Emma Beare
Sharing learnings from Projects
Lycia, Jane, Julie and Amber

**October**

**Sensory behaviours and impacts on the environment**
Presented by Emma Beare
Data is collected from staff each session to use for planning successive sessions. Comments from staff include:

- Very useful and informative day that broadened my knowledge and understanding of my role when working with children and our day to day interactions.
- The session helped me a great deal to understand children’s behaviours and explore ways in which we can respond.
- Sessions were informative and subsequent discussions were helpful.
- Great to have extended time to have professional discussions.

Overwhelmingly educators indicate that the sessions deepen and strengthen their knowledge of young children. Further, the professional conversations fuel their enthusiasm for their work with children and their families.

Congratulations to a team of educators who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to work towards the continuous improvement of the programs we offer. Thank you to the educational leaders on this site for the mentoring you have provided to others and your support to our program. I would like to thank the staff team for their dedication to their work with the children. The major contributor to a quality program is the quality of its staff and we have winners - each and every one of them!

To our beautiful children who provide us with the inspiration to respond to their eagerness for learning, on behalf of all the staff team I thank you. Thank you also to the parents and families who trust in us to be a part of this important precious time in your child’s life. I welcome your comments, feedback, challenges and support to bring about a dynamic program that is responsive to our community.

Joan Gilbert
Director Early Childhood Education and Care