

CURiosity

Early Learning Centre

Active and connected, growing for LIFE



Frequently Asked Questions September 2022

LOVEOPTIMISMCREATIVITY



GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Mrs Jacqui Gliddon



It is a privilege to present CURIOSITY Early Learning Centre to your family as a place where love, creativity and optimism are at the forefront of our thinking as we provide a nurturing and family focused environment for our community.

The word 'curiosity' means... *to desire and be eager to learn or know anything*. What an inspirational word! From the beginning stages of developing the Early Learning Centre at Good Shepherd Lutheran School, the vision has been to create a learning environment that is more than a pre-school; more a place where children are welcome to explore their curiosities in a space where they are acknowledged and respected as being capable and full of potential. Our goal is to see each child's own natural desire to learn ignited, with the freedom to then use the infinite resources within themselves, and the endless creative opportunities there are to develop their curiosities further.

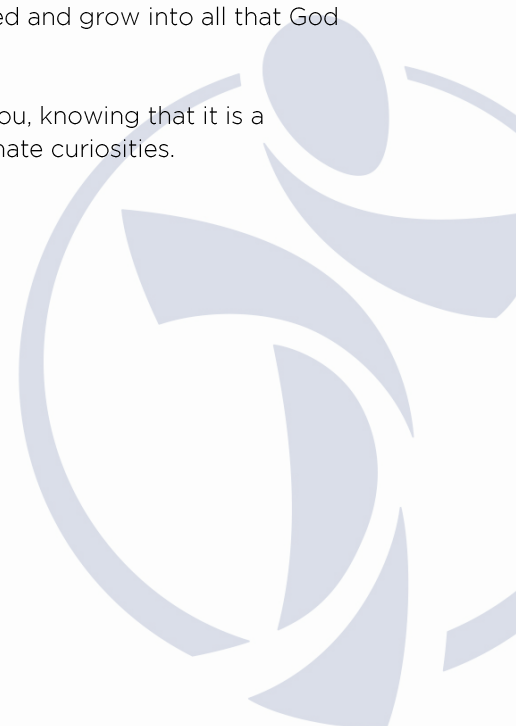
Community is the essence of CURIOSITY. Your family will find itself within a community where no-one is a stranger and everyone is welcome! It is within this collective of people that your child will flourish as they actively explore this world and learn alongside others. We believe that each child is unique, with their own intricate personalities, talents and questions about this place they call 'home'. Your child will have a voice that is heard to ensure that a sense of self-worth and belief is established, to propel them towards a positive mindset about education.

Our staff team at CURIOSITY bring a rich collective of experience and expertise in the areas of the practices and principles Reggio Emilia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, international languages including AUSLAN, and the Creative Arts. We have a passion for seeing each child as the unique individual that they bring and are convicted to work for the inclusion of all children.

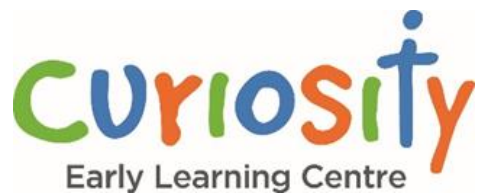
Nelson Mandela is famously quoted for saying, *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* At CURIOSITY, we know this to be true and look forward to your child becoming an active member of our community where they feel connected and grow into all that God has purposed for them to accomplish here on earth.

We count it a privilege to present CURIOSITY Early Learning Centre to you, knowing that it is a wonderful place where children are inspired to learn and explore their innate curiosities.

Warm regards,
Jacqui



What is CURIOSITY'S Statement of Philosophy?



Active and connected, growing for LIFE

OUR VISION

CURIOSITY Early Learning Centre is a place where our children and their families are, 'Active, Connected and Growing for LIFE'. Our philosophy speaks into our School's core values of Love, Optimism and Creativity, rooted in a deep understanding that because of God's love for the world and his heart for community, we are made 'one in Christ'. We value each child as equal citizens in our community, appreciating the unique differences found within each child.

Our learning environments and projects are designed to promote each child's curiosities and wonders in an inclusive space where they are supported to become confident, independent and active problem solvers with the understanding that they are valued contributors to society.

ACTIVE

We believe that a fun, safe and supportive learning environment promotes the development of self-identity, social and emotional wellbeing and spiritual awakening.

We believe that children have the capacity to think deeply, critically and creatively which is enhanced through active and purposeful inquiry, question posing and problem solving.

CONNECTED

We believe that children are resourceful, innovative and have the right to use their initiative.

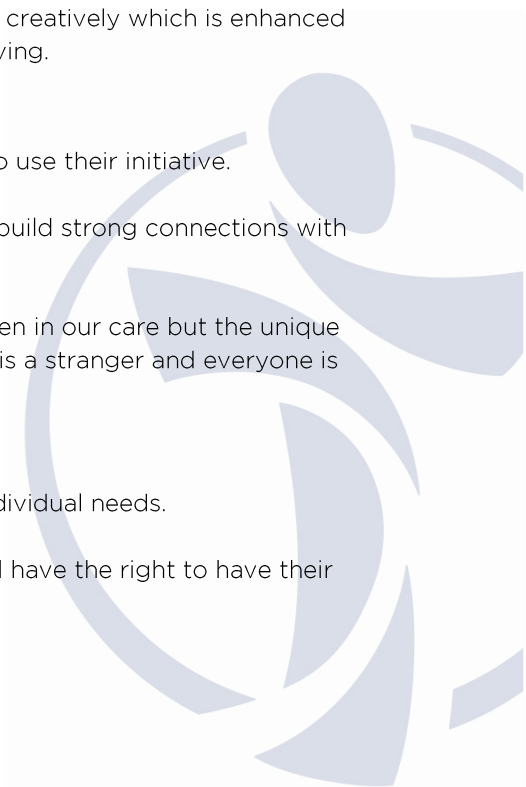
We believe that children are active and informed citizens who desire to build strong connections with others.

We believe that our community of learners embraces not only the children in our care but the unique families that they are treasured by. Our Centre is a place where no-one is a stranger and everyone is welcome!

GROWING FOR LIFE

We believe that learning must be engaging, developmental and meet individual needs.

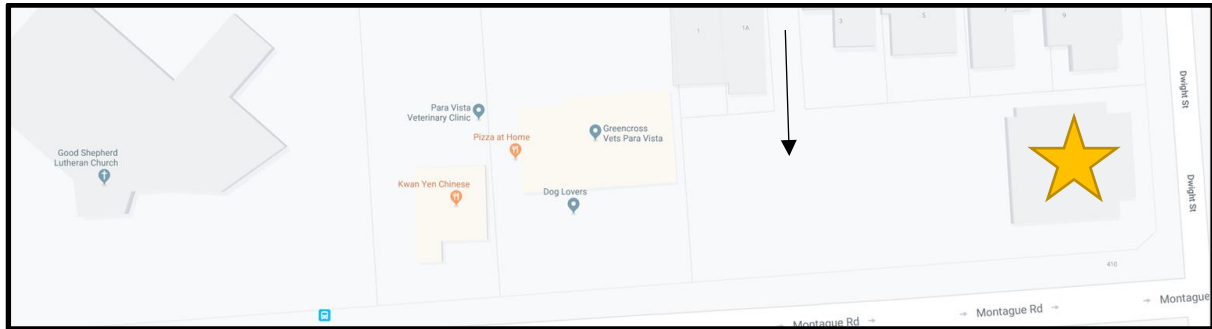
We believe that children have the ability to become masters of skills and have the right to have their love for learning continuously ignited.



Where is CURIOSITY Early Learning Centre located?

Curiosity is located on the corner of Montague Road and Dwight Street at Para Vista, South Australia.

Car parking is available onsite off Hillary Crescent. Street parking is also available on the southern side of Montague Road and adjacent streets. Please use the convenience of the pedestrian crossing to ensure your safe arrival to, and departure from the Centre.



When can my child start at CURIOSITY ELC?

Enrolment into the ELC is offered after a place in Foundation is secured. This happens once a Principal's Tour has been attended and an interview with the Principal has taken place. A Meet & Greet session is then required with the Director to arrange the most suitable pathway for your child to commence at Curiosity.

Some families prefer to access their local pre-school, however, we believe that children who attend Curiosity, will transition with greater confidence into Foundation at Good Shepherd Lutheran School because of the familiarity of the school site and various routines and rituals that are carried out across both sites.

Children are able to begin their enrolment in the ELC two years prior to starting Foundation, provided they are three years of age. Should your child be under the age of three at the commencement of the school year, they will be able to begin after their third birthday at the beginning of the new term. For your child to access one full year of the 4 year old educational program, your child may spend more than a year within the 3 year old program to align them to their Foundation intake.

An enrolment fee of \$500 will be required once a letter of offer is sent to you for your child to commence at Curiosity. This deposit secures your child's place in the ELC and is later transferable to secure your child's position in the Foundation intake at the school. The deposit is refunded against the final invoice for Year 6 fees at the completion of primary school, or can be rolled into your enrolment fees at Endeavour College.

What hours is CURIOSITY ELC open for?

CURIOSITY ELC is open from 7am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, for 48 weeks of the year. The Centre is open during school holidays but is closed for four weeks over the Christmas break. These dates will be published at the beginning of each year to assist with family planning. Families have the opportunity to participate in the holiday programs or opt out without charge, holding their nominated days of attendance to the commencement of the new term.

What are the attendance requirements at CURIOSITY ELC?

Our CURIOSITY children (3-5 year old) attend a minimum of 5 days per fortnight (3 days one week and 2 days the following). We highly encourage our families to access our Long Day Care services and request extra days to support with the development of social and emotional competencies.

Accessing care from one site, supports secure attachment which impacts on child engagement and learning. We believe this to be an important area for your consideration.

We endeavour to be as flexible for our families as possible with session bookings. The safety and wellbeing of our staff and children is paramount so where it is achievable, we will certainly be as accommodating as possible.

How do I nominate days of attendance for my child at CURIOSITY ELC?

On the acceptance of your child's enrolment, a time to meet with the Director is made to finalise the process which includes nominating your days of attendance with us.

Getting to know your family supports us in being able to promote a collaborative partnership with you where common goals are shared and expectations of the service and families are agreed upon. We believe that this partnership will give you the confidence in knowing that your child's wellbeing and engagement in their educational experiences are our priority.

It is at this meeting that we ask for you to present your child's immunisation records and any current plans relating to asthma, anaphylaxis, allergy, eczema or other underlying medical conditions that would require our attention.

Conversations around your child's inclusion needs will also be discussed in order to support your child's wellbeing as a valued member of our learning community. We ask families to present any Allied Health documentation (speech, occupational therapy, paediatric etc) that may inform our planning around a child's inclusion at the Centre.

What are the fees for CURIOSITY ELC?

Curiosity is registered as a Childcare Facility offering Long Day Care from 7am – 6pm. Child Care Subsidy is available to all families who are Australian Residents and if the child meets immunisation requirements.

Entitlements are determined by an activity test which identifies the number of hours of subsidised care to which families are entitled. Please refer to the following website for current eligibility: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy>

Early Learning Program (3 – 5 year olds) \$90 per day

9:00am - 3:00pm.

Drop off from 8:30am and pick up before 3:20pm.

Long Day Care (3-5 year olds)

To cater for the busy family, we offer Long Day Care hours to supplement the Early Learning Program for 3-5 year olds.

Before Program Care - 7:00am – 8:30am \$15 per session

After Program Care - 3:20pm – 6:00pm \$22 per session

* These sessions include light breakfast (Morning Sunrise) and afternoon snack (Afternoon Delight)*



Late Fees

Children who are still in attendance at 3:21pm will be booked into the After Program Care which does attract CCS.

Our Service closes at 6pm. Families who have not collected their child prior to 6pm will incur at \$20 fee for the first 15 minutes and a charge of \$1 per minute after 6:15pm.

Holiday Program

As we believe that the quality of care that our children receive during holiday periods is just as important as term periods, our fees will remain the same. Please refer to the pay schedule for the times where before and after care begins and finishes.

Session times will remain the same during the holiday periods with families having the choice to opt out of the Holiday Program period without charge. Notification will be given to families in Week 6 of each term regarding Holiday Program bookings.

To keep costs low our budgets will be established on 'full attendance' for each session and as such there will be no refunds for missed sessions. Sessions can not be swapped for alternative days within the weekly period.

If families wish to make changes to their Complying Written Agreement two weeks written notice must be given when reducing days of care or changing session bookings. These changes are taken into consideration and amendments made under the discretion of management.

What happens if my child cannot attend their session?

We understand that sometimes it can be difficult to organise care for your child when they are unwell, however it is important that if your child is unwell, presenting with a temperature of 37.5 degrees or more and showing signs of being generally unwell, that your child does not attend.

While every reasonable effort is taken to minimise the spread of illness at Curiosity, we rely on our families to make the judgement call on sending their child to the Centre based on the wellbeing of our staff and the other children.

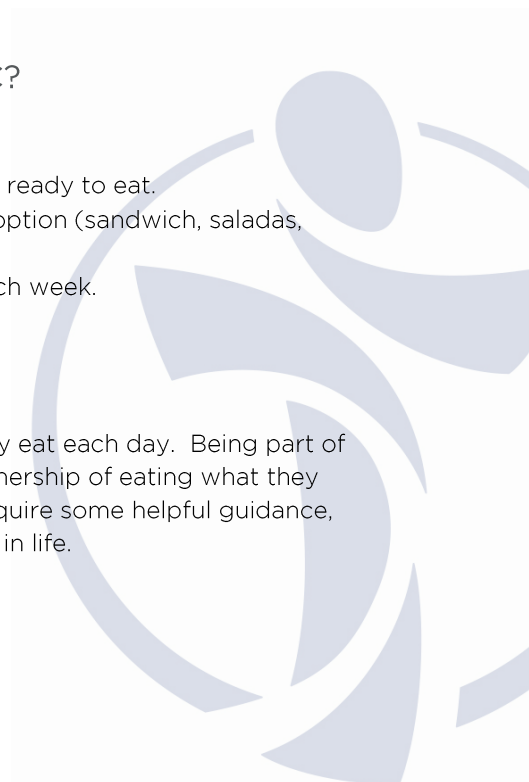
If your child is going to be absent for a period of time longer than two weeks, we ask that you put this in writing to the Director for consideration of fees to be waived.

What does my child need to bring to CURIOSITY ELC?

Your child will need to bring to Curiosity each day:

- A labelled drink bottle with fresh water each day.
- A labelled fruit/vegetable container with fruit/vegetable snacks ready to eat.
- A labelled lunch box that contains; a healthy snack, lunch time option (sandwich, saladas, sushi, pasta etc) and a healthy treat (popcorn, dried fruit etc).
- A labelled school hat that is left at the Centre for laundering each week.
- A labelled change of clothes including underwear.
- Library folder on the day your child borrows.
- A pair labelled gumboots that can be left at the Centre.

We believe that it is important for your child to have choice in what they eat each day. Being part of the selection process, promotes healthy eating and gives your child ownership of eating what they have packed. We appreciate that this is not always possible and will require some helpful guidance, however we believe that this promotes healthy eating patterns for later in life.



Curiosity is a 'Nut free and 'Nude Food' centre. Encouraging our children to be considerate of the environment is important for our future world citizens to be aware of. To support sustainability and waste management at the Centre, families are kindly asked to not send food with wrapping. Food containers such as SMASH are an affordable alternative to storing and transporting food to the Centre. Food scraps will be recycled into compost and other rubbish sent home for families to manage.

Before and After Program Sessions will include breakfast and afternoon snack.

We will be involving the CURIOSITY community to support us in creating our 'Morning Sunrise' and 'Afternoon Sunset' menus. Our children will become Curiosity Mini Chef's and support with meal creation and eat together in community.

An example menu could include: fresh fruit, yoghurt, cheese toast, boiled eggs and porridge for breakfast, and pancakes, vegetable sticks and dips etc for afternoon tea.

Our menu plans will sit in accordance with the Healthy Eating Advisory Service and Australian Guide to Healthy Eating.

What are the uniform requirements for my child?

At Curiosity, we believe that children have the right to explore their environments freely and with ease. With this in mind, we will have some compulsory uniform items that align to the school's current branding and styles, and we recommend other suggested items for you to purchase at your discretion.

Compulsory School Issue Items:

- Bucket hat
- CURIOSITY polo shirt
- Navy pullover jumper
- Library folder (Take Home Bag)
- School Bag

Additional Compulsory Items ... available as school issue or generic purchase through Kmart or similar

- Good Shepherd Navy beanie
- Navy blue shorts
- Navy blue track pants
- Plain White or navy socks

The incentive to opt for school issue items here is that they are branded 'Good Shepherd Lutheran School' and may later be worn through into Foundation. However, we accept that a generic purchase realises cost savings.

Additional Compulsory * Non School Issue

Velcro sneakers (please ensure that these are not high tops or flat soled and have ample grip)

Non Compulsory

- Gumboots (these may remain at the Centre)

We encourage children to be expressive in their play and appreciate that at times this involves 'messy play'. There can also be times where things don't quite go as planned and accidents happen. To prepare for these times, our friends at Curiosity will need to have a spare uniform including underwear in their bag for ease of change when these times occur.

Please also be prepared to label everything as you will be surprised how quickly items 'grow legs' and go for wonderful wanderings.



Does my child have to be toilet trained?

We understand that toilet training is a developmental milestone that does not always stick to a determined time frame. We do expect that families commence toilet training before their child begins with us at Curiosity. Developmentally, children between the ages of 18 months – 3 years are capable of developing these skills, so we encourage you to support your child in this area.

We understand that this is not always possible as each child is different, and this is an area of development that requires consistency from home to care at Curiosity. Nappy change facilities are available to provide dignity and care to children when needing to be changed. Nappy's and baby wipes are required to be provided by families.

Teaching your child hygiene practices such as wiping and directing flow appropriately, flushing, and hand washing is extremely important in preparing to start at CURIOSITY.

Your child's care in this area will be discussed at enrolment and transition.

Will my child have the opportunity to rest throughout the day?

At CURIOSITY we program for the whole child and will be responsive to the emotional and physical needs of the individual child. These moments will be provided both in and outside for the opportunity to connect with nature and also to provide comfort indoors. We believe that having the opportunity to rest and relax assists a child's self-regulation allowing them to sustain play and learning.

Provisions are in place for children to relax in quiet areas within the Centre and a designated rest space where mattresses are provided for the children. Families are asked to send along a small pillow, sheet and a blanket for their child which can be stored at Curiosity if their child would like to access a time to sleep throughout their day. These items need to be clearly labelled in a small bag and sent to the centre each Monday. On Friday's we encourage families to take their child's items home for laundering if used throughout the week.

What involvement will my child have with Good Shepherd Lutheran School?

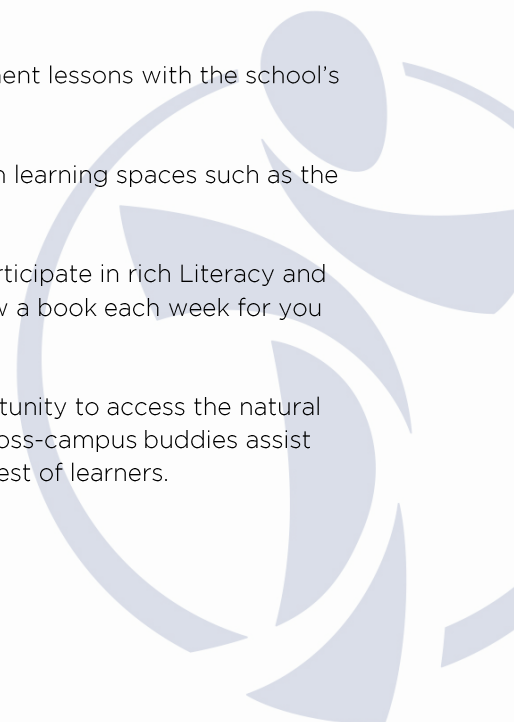
With a strong connection to Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Curiosity accesses the wealth of resources that are available at the school. Having this point of connection, supports our strategy of making early connections for transition into our Foundation entry point.

Creative Arts Specialist – Our children have specialist music and movement lessons with the school's specialist educators who will work alongside the staff at Curiosity.

Physical Education – Our children access the school's physical education learning spaces such as the courts, playground and gym.

Library Visits – Each week the children walk to the school library and participate in rich Literacy and Language activities. There is also an opportunity for your child to borrow a book each week for you to enjoy together at home.

Nature Play at Deborah Grove – Each week the children have the opportunity to access the natural learning space that Deborah Grove offers our school community. Our cross-campus buddies assist us with safe practices as they explore alongside Good Shepherd's youngest of learners.



Chapels and Assemblies – Throughout the year Curiosity students attend some Chapels and Assemblies at the school where a time of worship and learning from God's Word will take place. Parents will be notified when these events take place with an invitation for you to join us

Cross Campus Buddies – Being connected to the school, gives our children a great opportunity to engage in learning opportunities with older children and to foster friendships in preparation for their transition to Foundation.

Community Events – Everyone loves a party and that's why each year Good Shepherd Lutheran School begins the year with a whole school event. This event is a great time of connection with the wider community and provides opportunity to meet some new families. Curiosity will have a specially marked out area to gather our community and enjoy a time of food and conversation.

Families in Action (FIA) – Our partnership with families is a high priority for us as we build connections between home and the learning environment. We offer volunteer training for our families to join us in offering learning opportunities to our children as inquiries evolve. We also extend invitations to families to join us as we take initiatives in the children's learning through different expressions such as woodwork, science experiments and gardening etc.

What opportunities will my child have for transitioning to Foundation at Good Shepherd Lutheran School?

Our team of educators at Curiosity and Good Shepherd Lutheran School are passionate about creating a seamless transition from our Centre to the School. Having a wide variety of connection points through their first two years at Curiosity allows for wonderful opportunities of becoming familiar with the staff, buildings and community of learners.

Throughout your child's 3-4 year old program with us, they have the opportunity to work and play alongside children in small group projects to build their confidence and to secure their attachment to this new environment.

We work closely with Allied Service providers and the Foundation Team to meet the individual needs of every child to ensure that the transition to school is successful and celebrated by all involved.

We thank you for taking the time to read this presentation of Curiosity and trust that you will make the right decision for your child and family as you consider Good Shepherd Lutheran School as your place of learning for years to come.

Kind Regards,

Jacqui Gliddon
Director of CURIOSITY ELC

For further information please feel free to contact the Centre's Director, Mrs Jacqui Gliddon
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Email: curiosity@gspv.sa.edu.au

