

choklits

child care



**Tour
Information**

In anticipation of your visit,
here's a little preview of
Choklits and the wonderful
world of early learning before
you come to visit us...





Hello from Jade, Choklits owner

I'm Jade, and together with my husband Matt, we own and run Choklits. Those are our twins with us above, Hubert and Abigail. Seven years ago they used to travel with me to Choklits every day. They still come to Choklits on weekends and some school holidays to earn extra pocket money.

Part of my responsibility as the Choklits owner is to ensure that your time visiting us will be a valuable and enjoyable experience for both you and your children.

Being a mother, I understand the decision to enrol young children in early education is rarely an easy one for parents to make. The decision about where and with whom to enrol your child is an even harder one.

Will my child be safe? Will my child be happy? Are the educators going to look after my child with love and affection? Will my child continue to develop into a happy, healthy young person?

Of course, no one can replace a mother or father in the eyes of a child, and we don't attempt to replace any parent. We partner with families while creating a safe, healthy, supportive and happy environment for every child who attends Choklits.

Did you know our brains develop to 90% of their capacity by the time we start school and science now shows us that the early years are more pivotal for future health and happiness than any other period in our lifetime? The social skills and healthy habits your child develops in a positive early learning environment will not only leave them in good stead when it comes time to start school but puts them in the most likely category to have a healthy, happy and successful life.

We believe that learning is everywhere, so we help to develop our early learners physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. We aim to help your child grow from dependence to independence and develop an active, positive and constructive approach to life.

Along the way, we provide practical support, assistance and information to parents on childhood development and aim to build mutual trust between all children, families and the Choklits team.



We also develop in children a sense of their own personal uniqueness and respect for others, and ensure they enjoy access to a wide range of creative expression, and more importantly, have fun.

Communication is one of our core beliefs at Choklits. To ensure families and carers stay fully informed and involved in their child's activities and learning throughout the day, we share photos, videos and written content within a private mobile app. We also encourage parent participation where possible as it helps lead to the best outcomes for children.

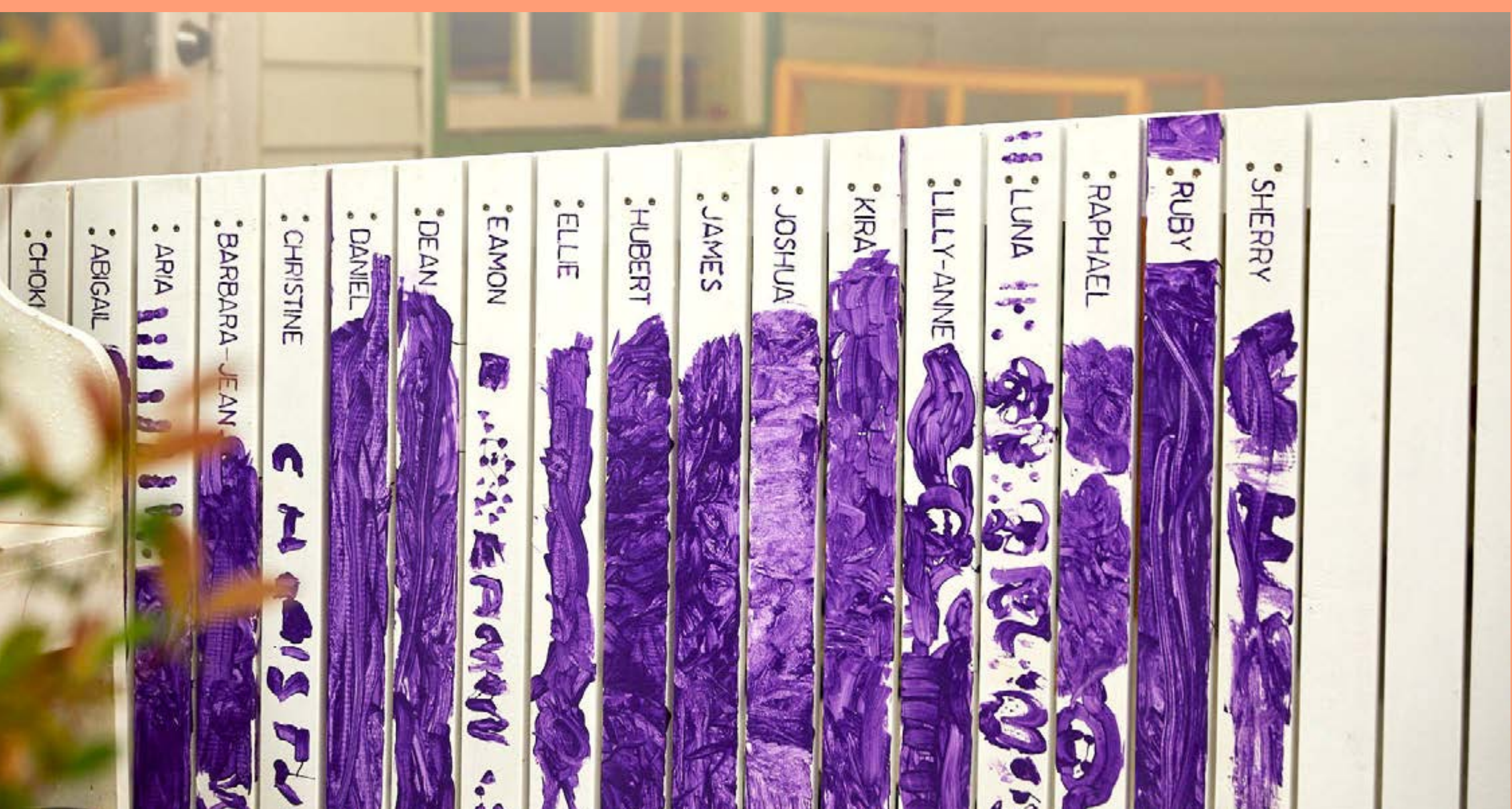
Here at Choklits, your child will be involved in small groups and have lots of individual attention. Because we have Centre Directors who run the Centres, and onsite chefs who cook all our healthy meals and snacks and coordinate mealtimes, the educators can remain focused on your child's needs at all times.

One of the things you'll quickly notice about Choklits is the sense of community. People often tell me that Choklits is like being at home, with a bigger backyard!



Believe it or not, we've had children attend Choklits who have later returned to enrol their own children, who've then returned and enrolled their own children. We're pretty proud of that – 3 generations!

In 2019, we started our “Fence Project” to formally remember Choklits children. We give each of our graduating kindergarten class a paling from our fence for them to design...



We are lucky enough to have some of the most dedicated and passionate educators at Choklits (like Sue Brewer who has been here for almost 27 years!) who all love showing families around our centres and sharing their early childhood knowledge. Feel free to ask any of us any questions you have, at any time. Even if you decide Choklits isn't for you, we're happy to help whenever you need it in the future too.

I really look forward to meeting you, your family and your children. Choklits is almost 30 years old, and I can assure you it is an exciting place to be!

Never forget, Learning Is Everywhere!

Jade Ingleby
Choklits Owner



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**Some of our
favourite
things ...**



Sandpit



Choklits Activate



Veggie Garden

Returns



Library Visits



Music



Building



Outdoor Play



Leadership Team



Jodi
Center Director
Ringwood



Deb
Centre Director
Croydon



Sue
Group Support
and Administration



Rachael
Centre Director
Surrey Hills



Janine
Educational Leader



Savannah
Curriculum
Coordinator

What to look for...

If you are new to early learning or are currently weighing up your different options for care, these practical “what to look for” hints may be helpful as you make the right decision for your family.

Do you feel welcome?

While simple, it's important to trust your instincts when it comes to choosing care. How are you treated when you first arrive? Do the educators take time to answer your questions? Can you see yourself leaving your child in the environment you see and do you feel good about it?

How is the curriculum taught and what happens throughout the week?

Beyond the basic government mandated curriculum requirements, each centre does things differently. While many centres stick to the minimum, some centres have regular classes facilitated by outside specialists or teachers including music and movement, sport, yoga, history, water safety, animal education and indigenous culture. It's important to ask how the curriculum is applied and what the basic daily routines are to learn more about the experience your child will have and type of education you can expect.

What do the fees include?

Subject to your personal circumstances and a centre's eligibility, the government will pay for part of your fees under the scheme called the Child Care Subsidy (CCS). While the CCS works the same way for everyone, how each centre arrives at their chargeable fee is very different and includes different things. The main difference is the all-inclusive versus pay-as-you-go models. For example, centres

using the pay-as-you-go model often charge a daily fee and then charge extra for consumables like nappies and food and for activities including incursions and excursions. Unfortunately, if you don't pay the extra charges for each activity when they occur then your child won't get to participate. All-inclusive centres can seem more expensive at first glance, but actually cost less if you want your child to be involved in every activity. You can calculate your out-of-pocket cost (centre fees - your child care subsidy = out-of-pocket cost) using our child care subsidy calculator at choklits.com.au/calculator.

Do you feel you are missing anything at home?

We all want the best for our children but it's not always possible to give them everything we wish for at all times. Consider looking for a centre and educators who complement your life at home. For example, if you have limited outdoor space, a big play area may be important to ensure your child has plenty of space to run, to play and to burn off energy. If you'd like your child to learn a second language, you may be best looking for a centre whose curriculum supports language development.

Who owns the centre?

There are approximately 7000 long day care centres in Australia. The ownership types range from small families who run their own centres to corporate giants who own hundreds of centres and work for their shareholders. It goes without saying that a child's experience at each type of centre is very different because they are run differently. It's worth considering the pros and cons of both.

From Choklits Parents

“My son has been attending Choklits for a little over 18 months, we love it. The Staff in the Pre Kinder and 4 year old Kinder room are amazing. The children are shown patience, respect, care and are given many opportunities to do things for themselves. The activities vary and the educators know which children like what activity eg, painting, sandpits, play doh, paper cutting, drawing just to name a few. There is one large common outdoor play area and three more separate outdoor play areas - age group appropriate. All the staff including their chef Helen know my sons name and all say hello or goodbye when they see us walking in or out on the days we attend. They offer inclusion to ensure the children have outside stimulations eg sports, music, yoga, library etc. The sugar free policy also stops my son having that sugar crash when we arrive home, allowing one less issue just before dinner. The educators are all fantastic, they share stories about my son with me and I can hear the enthusiasm, care and happiness in their voices. The owner of Choklits Jade is very much hands on and takes pride in her business, quality of staff, environmental ethos, respect to the original landowners. I highly recommend Choklits”.

- Neecia, Google Review.



Google Rating

5.0



“When we moved to Ringwood East we searched for the right place to leave our little boy. I was instantly comfortable with the staff and the



yard was amazing at Choklits, perfect for my active boy. I didn't hesitate to enrol my baby girl when I returned and she was six months old as the Nursery staff were fantastic. I recommend Choklits, especially to those families who are nervous about leaving their precious ones for the first time”.

– ***Kitty, choklits.com.au review***

“Very educational teachers and staff, my child improved a lot during this year. Thanks for Wei, Christine and other teachers.”

– ***Linda, Google review.***

“Our 2-year-old son has been at Choklits for nearly a year. We have always felt at ease that we are leaving him in the best of care. The educators are warm and knowledgeable, the food is great and the activities they provide are exceptional!”

– ***Jacqui, choklits.com.au review.***

“As first time parents putting our child in care was a huge decision. We looked at a number of centres and could not go past Choklits. It's simply a home away from home, the owner knows every child's name and all the educators are warm and most importantly they know my child. I feel very comfortable leaving my baby at Choklits and know she is receiving the best education and care possible”.

– ***Lisa, careforkids.com.au review.***



Did you know?

Indoor and Outdoor Spaces

Space is a big deal in child care. Centres are actually built to specific sizes, usually to squeeze the most amount of children into the smallest space possible to maximise a centre's capacity (and profit). Choklits is a little different. At Ringwood, for example, our centre is licensed for 90 children per day, but we actually have enough space for 122. All our playgrounds and rooms are designed together to allow for a healthy combination of indoor learning and outside play.

Language

While our kindergarten children learn Mandarin and Auslan (Australian Sign Language) as part of their curriculum, collectively our educators speak 21 different languages fluently.

Kindergarten

Our kindergarten programs are funded, which means they are recognised and supported by the Australian Government for 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten children.

Plant to Plate

In our vegetable gardens at Choklits we grow seasonal fruits, veggies and herbs. The gardens are part of our “Plant to Plate” program. The children plant, learn about and care for the food that eventually forms part of their meals (they even help to cook some meals themselves).



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We love sharing all the latest happenings at Choklits. Please connect with us to learn more about who we are, what we do and why we do it!

See you at Choklits.

choklits.com.au/centres

