

**MEDIA RELEASE**

22 February 2010



## **Early learning program nurtures green thumbs**

TINY GREEN THUMBS are busy reaping great learning rewards at Lyndhurst Early Learning Centre's *In our Garden* program.

Designed by Lyndhurst's teacher/gardener Cath Dawson, the program immerses children in a range of gardening tasks such as planting seedlings, tending garden beds and taking care of the worm farm.

Lyndhurst Early Learning Centre Manager Kate Jamieson is thrilled with the way in which the children are interacting with and learning about nature and the garden.

"The children have the chance to get their hands dirty and really experience the process of growing edibles plants," Ms Jamieson said.

"The connection between growing your own food and then having the pleasure of consuming what's been produced is also an important element of the children's learning experience," she said.

Teacher/gardener Cath Dawson recently joined the Lyndhurst team after setting up a large kitchen garden at a local school as part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation.

"The children love coming into the garden and I couldn't be happier with the *In our Garden* program," Ms Dawson said.

"There is something really special about being able to eat what you've grown yourself, and the children are enjoying that experience.

"The children also grow ornamental plants so not only do they grow food they can eat, they have the pleasure of watching flowers grow and bloom.

"I'm really looking forward to developing the *In our Garden* program throughout the year and introducing the children to the idea of companion planting, seed germination, the role of bees in pollination and seasonal foods," Ms Dawson said.

Lyndhurst Early Learning Centre is in the grounds of Clayfield College at 3 London Road, Clayfield.

**Media Contact:**

Mr Martin Corkery

Director

Children First Learning Centres Pty Ltd

3812 7677, 0413 442 222

[martin@childrenfirst.com.au](mailto:martin@childrenfirst.com.au)