

MEDIA RELEASE

19th April 2016

Game play bonds dads with their kids



Aaron and Tara Bridge with sons Rhys and Owen

A free arts-based program designed to bring fathers closer to their children is heading for a second season following a successful debut.

Operating in Adelaide's southern suburbs, the **Game Makers** program – run by **Carclew** in association with ActNow Theatre – is open to fathers with primary school-aged children.

During each two-hour Sunday session, the parents and children devise physical games under the guidance of theatre makers, professional writers and visual artists.

"It's not always easy for dads to spend blocks of time with their children, so Game Makers is a set period dads, sons and daughters can just focus on being together and having fun," said Carclew's Tess Syme.

"This isn't sitting around drawing, it's deliberately physical – it's building things and creating, which is what a lot of dads prefer and it helps break the children away from the video and phone culture that can dominate their lives," Tess said.

ActNow Theatre's Edwin Kemp Attrill said "One of the great pieces of feedback that we were getting was that kids were so used to playing video games that they weren't used to playing games in the real world."

Morphett Vale couple Tara and Aaron Bridge, along with their two young boys Owen (7) and Rhys (9), were involved in the first series of *Game Makers* and are thankful for the experience.

"My boys were addicted to electronic gaming; I wanted them to use their imagination and become more active," Tara said.

The experience was particularly powerful for Aaron.

"Game Makers was overall a brilliant experience for my family. It has allowed my sons to spend some quality time with their father and encouraged them to be active and creative. We did heaps of fun things including making a fort out of blankets, played plenty of action games and had a lot of laughs," he said.

"Since Game Makers, we've noticed a shift in both of the boys' attitudes towards electronic gaming; they are now wanting to do more physical activity and love making up their own games. It's fantastic, and we've already put our names down for the second season."

The second season of the *Game Makers* program will run between 10am and 12noon every Sunday at the Aldinga Community Centre from 15th May to 19th June. It is suitable for children aged 5-12 and their dads (or other care-givers). Attendance is free; however, bookings are essential through the [Carclew web site](#).

Game Makers is a Carclew project in association with ActNow Theatre and supported by the Government of South Australia through Arts South Australia. This is a Communities for Children activity funded by the Department of Social Services.

For further media information please contact: Phil Martin pmartin@micwar.com.au or 0418 817 876