Dear Families,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome new children and their families that have recently started attending our Centre, in the Babies Room, 2 Year Old Room, Over 3’s Room and our Kindy Room, we wish you well and look forward to building trusting relationships with you.

We also welcome new staff members Alicia, Michelle and Skye as we farewell Kylie Archer who has decided to move back to sunny Queensland.

We have recently joined the techno age of FaceBook and we are sharing notifications of events that are happening in the centre. The main aim will be for us to share news with you. Please talk to us about things that are relevant to your child personally as the Facebook site is monitored by DECD and is not for conversations. We will also promote good parenting tips and educational learning benefits regularly.

For our site to be truly engaging for you and your family we are asking for permission to put your child’s photo and first name on our site. If you do not consent then your child or any of their creative work will not be put on the site in any photo. Please return the attached consent form to us asap.

Another way for us to share information with you and capture those special instant moments is for you to join our mobile phone tree. When we see your child engaged in a special moment we can take a photo and send you a message straight away. This is even more special when it’s unexpected or if they are having trouble settling.

Just text your full name and your child’s name to 0400 904 366. The mobile phone will only be used for sending information and will not be monitored for return texts.

Street Stall this Saturday 18th June, 2016

OUR fundraising committee continue to raise funds for our outdoor learning area and they have organised a street stall this Saturday morning and are looking for donations of baked goods, plants, fruit & veges. If you are able to help us out please bring goods into the office area by Friday 3pm or Saturday morning at the stall. Ingredients must be listed on baked goods.

Students— You may have noticed a few young faces in our rooms lately. Last week we hosted three year 10 Waikerie High school students on their work experience placement. — Shaiza, Milly and Bianca. These students choose our site so that they could experience what it was really like to work with children all day long. They spoke highly of their experiences at the end of the week and we welcomed this opportunity to link with students in our community.

Training students— We have also seen our training students a lot more lately as they begin their placement hours in their Certificate 3 in Children’s Services. We welcome Kosanna, Akayliah, Paige and Stephanie who are training with MADEC and TAFE. They will be with us all year and complete 120 hours on site. We aim to guide them in their studies and support their learning. This will continue throughout the rest of the year, please make them feel welcome to our wonderful Centre.

CHILDCARE IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS...

School Holidays are fast approaching, if you do not require care for your child in the School Holiday’s please be sure to let Kym know as soon as possible, so that you can be billed at a reduced cost. If you are booking your child into care on a casual basis, please remember to book in as soon as possible, as with the new ratio’s that have come into place as on January 1st 2016, spots are limited.
2017 Preschool enrolments.
If your child turns 4 before May 1st 2017, then they will be able to start kindy in term 1 next year. At this stage if you are already enrolled in childcare then you won't need to do anything as you are already registered with your current enrolment package.
The process to come:
- Enrolment form to be given to family if updates from late term 3 or early term 4.
- Additional 2017 kindy forms to be given to all families in childcare who are starting kindy next year.
- Information evenings to be held for families to explain session allocation and kindy operations in term 4
- Kindy orientation visits for new children to be held in term 4
- 2017 Session choice sheet to be handed out at information evenings

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?????
Have you asked your children or a staff member to show you your child’s Profile Book? These profile books are filled with learning stories for your individual child as well as group observations and community involvement such as visit’s from Mr Cox and Katrina from the Waikerie Library. Children have also been planting new garden beds with the Waikerie Primary school Youth Environment Team and the local LAP officer, Karen. Celebrating PJ Day, Reconciliation Week, Simultaneous Story Times and walks to the Primary school are just a few things that have been captured in our Community Photo Book as well. Children take great pride in their learning and staff put a lot of effort into creating these learning opportunities and documenting children’s learning journeys. This gives you and your children an opportunity to feel like you are a part of our centre and gives a sense of belonging.

Keep your kids smiling …..SA Dental Service
At the School Dental Service, dental care is FREE for all babies, children not yet at school and most children to age 17.
The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider.

If your child is sick, please do your best to keep them home, this will help us to control illness spreading throughout our centre. The board at the entrance is used to inform you of the notifications that we receive from families. Please keep us informed. Once we are notified of an illness that may be contagious our staff go through the process of disinfecting and sanitising all items.

Please remember to pack your child a drink bottle filled with water and a hat as we continue to enjoy outdoor play. You can even bring along your rain boots if you have some.

Grounds helpers – we are seeking some active people who would like to be involved in helping us to design our yard and be available for working bees and garden projects. We are planning to get some more red sand to top up the clay areas and will need some muscles with wheelburrows. Please let Christina or Kym know if you can help in any way.

Youth Environment team and Waikerie Local Action Planning team– we were thrilled to be visited by the team to help us plant out our garden beds in the yard. If you haven't seen them yet, please take a walk with our child to look at our new garden area. The children from the primary school and our centre worked together to fill up the beds and plant a variety of veges, plants and herbs.

COTS…We are replacing our 5 wooden cots with some smaller sized ones and are offering them for sale. Please come and see us if you are interested. We will be keeping a couple and converting them into play equipment and if you can help us in that area we would appreciate your talents.

Have you and your family enjoyed Robbie’s company lately? He is always looking for a weekend sleepover at someone’s house, please write your name on the laminated sheet on to of Robbie’s house.

Pickup contacts – please ensure your emergency contact list is up to date. When new or unknown people collect your child they will be asked for identification if we don't know them. Please advise them to bring along ID to ensure our safe practices are maintained.

Absent or arriving late...if your child is going to be absent or late we would appreciate a phone call on 8541 2692 so that we can inform the cook and let educators know that your child is or isn’t coming.

W.C.C. Photo Days are being held on Wednesday 29th June & Thursday 30th June. If this is not your normal day please bring your child in at 10.00am for the group photos and this will be followed up by individual photos. Please return your photo package to Kym prior to the photo day with your money. Thankyou.
Staff have engaged in a variety of training lately and have actioned some results from our learning. All staff have been involved in Professional Development through the Early Childhood Australia Learning Hub. This provides staff with an opportunity to participate in learning opportunities without having to travel to Adelaide, some of the training that staff have done so far include: Supporting Child Led Inquiry, Documenting and Assessing Children’s Learning, Learning and Teaching About Nutrition. As a staff group, we find this online training extremely valuable and look forward to developing our skills.

Other training includes…
- Speech language training – educators have been doing speech/language screeners on children.
- Numeracy improvement workshop – numeracy audit to be conducted and promotion of mathematical concepts to be shared.
- Growth Coaching – performance development techniques

Fussy eaters workshop – Maria, Hayley, Emma and Lisa recently attended a Fussy Eaters in Childcare Workshop in Adelaide where we learnt lots of valuable strategies about how to help children feel involved and take responsibility for their eating at meal times. We have trialled setting up a buffet style table where children help themselves to their meal with the supervision of an educator, children are encouraged to use tongs to serve themselves the amount of what they want and then going and helping themselves to seconds if they choose to. This experience helps children to develop self help skills and independence, children take ownership of their healthy eating habits and are developing their hand eye coordination and fine motor skills when using tongs for serving.

Numeracy in Building Blocks and lego

Most construction toys, from wooden blocks to Lego bricks, are designed so that they fit together neatly and easily. Typically the pieces of such toys are scaled so that their dimensions are in proportion to all of the others. The nature of these proportions means that such construction materials are an ideal medium for teaching and learning about mathematical relationships. This may sound complex, but when you observe it in action, it shows how much maths is present in children’s everyday play. At a basic level such materials encourage the use of positional language and the language of measurement. This can be relatively informal—long and short, big and small, over and under, on top of and below—but it can also become more specific and precise.

Watching children play with Lego demonstrates this. The dots on top of each Lego brick not only help to join the bricks together, they also provide an inbuilt system of measurement. Listen as experienced Lego builders talk and build—‘I need another four’, ‘I need a little piece—just two dots’, ‘I need a thin piece to make this as high as that’, ‘I need a one to fill this gap’—and you will see that they are doing quite complex maths, involving addition, subtraction and even fractions, in order to work out the exact pieces that they need to complete their creations. Listen to the educators who are involved and you will also hear the deliberate use of mathematical language and ideas—how many more do you need? what will fit there? what size is that? that’s half as long (or twice as big) as the other one!—designed to develop and consolidate children’s mathematical understandings as they emerge.

By providing the materials that encourage such play and by naming and drawing attention to what children are learning as they engage with the materials, educators play an invaluable role in scaffolding the development of children’s mathematical thinking.

We can all help children learn the language of mathematical concepts by explaining it to them everyday in the language we use. The more we use it with them they more they will use it to explain what they see in their play.

Our aim is to WAIT and give them THINKING TIME by letting them take in the knowledge without quickly offering them the answer.

Think about what other toys and home objects your child has at home. You can be the educator in your home environment and give your child a head start. Talk more, Question, wait and listen and then challenge.
Pre writing skills

Stage 1: Tracing over long lines and large circles using the whole arm
Stage 2: Tracing over shorter line and smaller circles using wrist movements.
Stage 3: Tracing over the individual letters in the student’s first name.
Stage 4: Tracing over the whole of the students first name.
Stage 5: Copying the individual letters of the student’s name.
Stage 6: Copying whole names
Stage 7: Writing letters of names form memory.
Stage 8: Spelling two letter words
Stage 9: Practicing spelling
Stage 10: Writing whole name from memory

Follow the direction of the red arrows to form the letters correctly