Waikerie Children’s Centre

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Respect Honesty Excellence Partnerships Professionalism

From the Childcare and Kindy Rooms:
We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest team member Kylie Archer, please introduce yourself to her & make her feel welcome to our centre. Kylie will be working in the childcare and kindy rooms.

This week you may see a familiar face with Dona back in the building whilst we undergo our financial audit on Tuesday. If you don’t see her I’m sure you will hear her!!

Over the coming weeks and months we will be supporting students who will be doing their practical work placement component of their Early Childhood study. This experience will provide students with an opportunity to prepare and gain insight into the Early Childhood Industry by obtaining hands on experience and observing qualified Educator’s who are already providing quality of care to children. During this time, Educator’s will support and mentor students, by role modelling and guiding students. Please make them feel welcome in our Centre.

We hope that families had a wonderful & relaxing Easter, children loved making all of the Easter activities and I hope you enjoyed all of the Easter craft and activities coming home as we celebrated Easter in our Centre. On Thursday 24th, we shared a special Hot Cross Bun morning tea as a whole centre, organised by our cook Maria

Please feel free to have a look at our Programming Tree and your child’s Profile Book or Art Book with your child, staff are doing an amazing job observing and writing learning stories for all children in our care. I encourage all parents to talk to staff about what their child is doing at childcare and kindy. If you are unsure about where to locate your child’s Profile or Art Book, please ask.

Please remember to keep our outside sliding doors closed, this will stop unwanted critters entering our rooms and a reminder that when taking photo’s or video’s of your children, please remember that by law, you are not allowed to capture other children in the image.

We have recently celebrated Clean up Australia Day as a whole centre, where we collected rubbish within our environment, this gave children the opportunity to discuss their thoughts, ideas and knowledge about what rubbish is and how we can practice sustainable living.
We have also had dress up days for St. Particks Day and Harmony Day.

Waikerie Children’s Centre uses the Early Years Learning Framework, being Australia’s first National Curriculum Statement for educators working in early education and care settings with children from birth to age five. The elements of the framework are:

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
• Children have a strong sense of identity
• Children are connected with & contribute to their world
• Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
• Children are confident & involved learners
• Children are effective communicators

PRACTICE:
• Holistic approaches
• Responsiveness to children
• Learning through play
• Intentional teaching

PRINCIPLES:
• Sustained, reciprocal relationships
• Partnership with families
• High expectations & equity
• Respect for diversity
• Ongoing & reflective practice

Absorption Adaption Action Arranging Animals
Autonomy Balance Belonging Calculating Caring
Cause and Effect Change Common Creative Thinking
Culture Chemical reaction COMPARATIVE Calm
Co-operation Creatures CLASSIFICATION Conservation
Communication Confidence Connection Conversation
Depth Distance Density Experimentation Evaporation
Fiction Friendship Force Gravity Height Illusion
Invention Identification Insects Light Initiative Language Literacy
Independence Investigation Myself Measurement Mass
Movement Matching NATURE Natural Nurturing
Nummery Observation Order Pattern Physics
Planning Problem solving Plants Questioning Reaction Risk Responsibility
Resilience Regulation Representation Suspension
Shape Shape Shapes Senses Scientific Method
Temperature Team work Texture Volume Vibration
Weather Weight Speed Speed Speed
Children have been really enjoying Social interactions, we have been doing this in many ways, such as; setting up the home corner, whole group activities, movement and dance, music, games and team work activities, we have noticed that children are focusing more, making great friendships and are having lots of fun.

We have been noticing that children have been really enjoying our activities over the last few weeks and months.

The ideas for these activities usually come from our observation of your child’s play at the centre. It could be through a discussion, a comment or a request from your child. Lots of behind the scenes work go into these activities by staff, not only creating multiple copies of the activity, but also being creative and coming up with ideas for a variety of exciting, stimulating and developmentally appropriate activities for your children.

These activities incorporate many developmentally appropriate learning experiences for children to practice skills such as:
- fine motor skills — to strengthen pre writing muscles in the hands,
- hand-eye coordination — tracking an item with the eyes, which is vital for reading,
- imagination — using imagination in play to experiment in social and emotional development, this is vital for children to understand and make sense of their world,
- planning — the ability of the brain to imagine an idea, organise and carry out a sequence of events and actions,
- cognitive development — information processing, concentration, strengthening children’s memory, numeracy and literacy skills.

Next term the Waikerie Primary School and YET (Youth Environment Team) will be visiting us to plant up our 8 garden beds with the children.

We look forward to working with the students and the LAP officer, Karen Bishop.

We will be having a working bee next term at some stage and welcome all the promised donation. We hope you might be able to help out the grounds committee and we will let you know of the date.

CHILD CARE SNAPSHOT

2016 SA Excellence in Public Education Awards

The SA Excellence in Public Education Awards recognise and reward the outstanding contributions made by educators across the state.

Recognise an outstanding teacher, leader, or support staff member from any one of DECD’s schools, preschools, or children’s centres with a nomination in the 2016 SA Excellence in Public Education Awards. Nominees will receive a certificate of appreciation and an invitation to apply for an award in their relevant category. Anyone may nominate through the website until 5pm Friday 15 April 2016.
Lisa and the Childcare Staff team also welcome some new families into our childcare room’s, we look forward to building trusting relationships with you and your children. If there is anything that you are unsure about, please do not hesitate to ask one of my friendly staff.

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.

I hope that most families have come into our room and are enjoying talking to their children about our “Through Our Lens” photo board as the children have been loving this! This is a snapshot of photos of the children doing day to day activities and different things that we have noticed your children doing, this gives you and your children an opportunity to feel like you are a part of our centre and gives a sense of belonging. I am constantly adding photos to this board, so please stop and have a look with your child. Cheers Lisa and team.

Kindy news
Kindy children will be on term break from Friday 15th April to Monday 2nd May. See you after the holidays!
Term Agendas with show and tell and special events will be put into kindy children notice pockets this week.
In week 1 of term 2, kindy staff will put out information on interviews to be held in week3 & 4. We hope you take up the opportunity to meet with staff to share your child’s time at kindy and home.
Child youth health checks will be held twice in term 2 and Gilda will co-ordinate a time for you if your child is selected next term. This is the 4-5 year old check that looks at height, vision, hearing, teeth, from your child’s blue health book.
Kindy children will receive their Individual Learning Plans and a term summary of how they have settled in this term in the first week back. This is comprehensive report that looks at some of their skills and learning outcomes as noticed by their primary caregiver educator this term.

Cleaning out water bottles tip:
Add 2 tsp of uncooked rice to bottle, fill 1/3 water and then shake hard.

Parent Communication
If you have any concerns at all, no matter how big or small, please feel welcome to talk to a staff member.
If we are unavailable at drop off or pick up times you are welcome to telephone. We will always do out best to resolve your concerns.

Parent Involvement
We welcome parents to join in with and enrich our curriculum. The children are very interested in learning from parents about different life experiences.
You are invited to share an activity with a small or large group, read a story, share your occupation or interests or just come and play.

For Sale: Rabbit/guinea pig hutch. Bob’s Barn Product. $200.00

HOT CROSS BUN PICNIC DAY
**STAGE 1.**
- Practice spelling.

**STAGE 2.**
- Spelling two letter words.

**STAGE 3.**
- Writing letters of name from memory.

**STAGE 4.**
- Copying whole name.

**STAGE 5.**
- Copying the individual letters of the student's name.

**STAGE 6.**
- Tracing over the whole of the student's first name.

**STAGE 7.**
- Tracing over the individual letters in the student's first name.

**STAGE 8.**
- Tracing over shorter lines and smaller circles using the same movements.

**STAGE 8.**
- Tracing over long lines and large circles within the whole name.

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**PRE-WRITING STAGES**

Ways to help your child with early writing skills:
We Believe:
The Early Years Learning Framework “Belonging, Being and Becoming” will form the basis of our curriculum and will also be underpinned by a combination of Early Childhood Pedagogies that embrace the holistic nature of our professional practice.
The Early Childhood Australia “Code of Ethics” underlies our beliefs and thoughts.
Staff are to be welcoming and sensitive to the needs of parents/caregivers/visitors.
Staff are to communicate with parents/caregivers and children at all times and be respectful in their acknowledgements.
Staff are responsible for supporting the holistic development of the whole child within the framework of the family and the community.
Staff will work as a team, supporting and assisting each other demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement within the centre.
Staff will evaluate and reflect on their own practice and be open to their own professional learning and self-improvement that is supported by the centre.
Staff will actively work towards the goals within the Quality Improvement Plan.
Staff are responsible for building and maintaining a professional, safe and positive work environment.
Staff will document information that provides a greater understanding of the child, their interests and their wellbeing and use it to extend the child’s learning journey.
Staff need to be flexible, have high expectations and be responsive to the individual child and to each other within a positive stimulating learning environment to become successful and confident learners.
Staff need support, job satisfaction, enjoyment and encouragement alongside opportunities for ongoing professional development.
Understanding mental health in early childhood

What is mental health in early childhood?

Early childhood mental health has been defined as a young child's ability to experience, regulate and express emotions; form close and secure interpersonal relationships; and explore the environment and learn—all in the context of family, community and cultural expectations for young children. Infant mental health is synonymous with healthy social and emotional development. (Zero to Three, 2002).

Getting in early for children’s mental health

Keeping children healthy and happy involves looking after their mental health as well as their physical health. Mental health is about having a healthy mind and body, and influences how we feel about ourselves, what we do, how we think, and how we relate to others. Good mental health helps us to form positive relationships with others, handle ups and downs and generally enjoy life. With good mental health, children can feel good about themselves and be more open to trying and learning new things. Good mental health in early childhood lays the foundations for positive mental health and wellbeing now and into the future.

Mental health difficulties in early childhood

Mental health difficulties affect children's behaviour, feelings, learning, relationships with others, as well as their physical health and wellbeing. There are many ways that parents, carers and staff can support children who are experiencing mental health difficulties. Some of these may be parents, carers and staff working in partnership to come up with ways of supporting the child, attending information sessions on particular childhood mental health difficulties or getting a referral to a mental health professional. While there are many effective supports for children experiencing mental health difficulties, many children do not receive the help they need. This can happen because families are unsure of whether their child has a difficulty, or they do not know where to go or what to do to get mental health support. Early childhood services can be ideal places for families to access information about supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their children.

What causes children's mental health difficulties?

Unlike some medical conditions that have a direct cause (for example, a virus causes the flu), mental health difficulties are caused by multiple factors that interact in different ways depending on the individual child, family and social circumstances.

Biological, psychological and social factors all influence children's mental health. Any one of these factors can have either a positive or negative influence on a child's mental health. For example, high self-esteem might impact on confidence; positive family relationships could help a child adjust to change.

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