Dear families,

The days are getting chilly and illness amongst children is starting to affect us all. Try and keep children home until they are fully recovered so that we can break the cycle of germs spreading. We are sharing some important news regarding fees and events happening in the centre so grab a coffee and keep reading on…

**Rising costs of Childcare, effective from 29th June, 2015**

Our Governing Council have seriously looked at the costs associated with running the centre and feel that we cannot run at a loss or at a bare minimum to cover our costs. Unfortunately our operating and staff costs have risen and we need to keep abreast of what other centres are now having to charge families for care and education. We are currently one of the lowest charging childcare centres in the Riverland and will continue to be with our new rates.

We have had to consider this rise in fees to ensure that we can keep our centre doors open and are viable. Over the past 2 years we have been on a strict budget to reduce expenses and wages which are our biggest cost, however quality care does come at a price. This will become a notable factor in 2016 when the 2-3yr old child ratio is reduce to 5 children :1 adult. Currently the babies ratio is 1:4 and over 2’s is 1:8.

Some of our savings have included: solar panels, irrigation solutions, shared staff, mixed ratio sessions etc. However when enrolment numbers fluctuate it does not reflect in our operating costs and we still need to outlay the associated costs of running the centre.

**The new fee of $89 per day childcare session as from Monday 29th June,** will reflect the minimum amount that the Governing Council was prepared to go to. Based on a full day rate of $8.90 per hour with one child in care (depending on CCB/CCR allowances), the centre provides your family with access to trained educators, care and education, excellent facilities, child reports, a child orientated curriculum, Healthy eating program and much more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fullday fee 7.45am– 5.45pm</th>
<th>=$89</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning fee 7.45am-12.45pm</td>
<td>=$54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afternoon fee 12.45am-5.45pm</td>
<td>=$49</td>
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There are ways to help you reduce your fees and we have attached this to the newsletter: **Most families** are also able to have their Childcare Rebate paid directly to the centre which can pay up to 50% of your out of pocket expenses up to the annual cap. This can reduce your fees significantly. If you study, you may be able to claim JET allowance as well. The Department of Human Services (formerly Centrelink) is able to help you with this and any childcare benefits. They are open from 8am to 8pm. PH 13 61 50.

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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
- Learning environments
- Cultural competence
- Continuity of learning & transitions
- Assessment for learning

**PRINCIPLES:**
- Secure, respectful & reciprocal relationships
- Partnerships with families
- High expectations & equity
- Respect for diversity
- Ongoing & reflective practice
Parent sleep information session:
Tuesday 23rd June 4.30 and 7.00.

We have booked sleep psychologist Brooke Michell to come to the centre to speak to families about concerns they may have with their children’s sleep. Brooke will give us an overview and then allow us a chance to pick her brains on tips for our own children. Please come along if you have any concerns on how your children sleep or don't sleep. Their methodology does not focus on controlled crying techniques.
Return your orange slips to us asap.

Photo day
Wednesday 17th June
and Thursday 18th June, 2015

If your child doesn't normally come along to the centre on this day so are welcome to join us at 9.45am so that photos can be taken of your child in a group.

Kidsmatter surveys
Thankyou very much to those families that have returned their surveys to the basket in the reception area. We still would love to see some more come to us, so if you get a chance to fill it out please drop it back to us when you can.

Public Holiday next Monday 8th June– the centre will be closed. Enjoy ☻ your long weekend. The Centre does not charge families for their childcare sessions on this day

Lost Property: we seem to have many items that have been left behind at the centre. These will be displayed in the foyer entrance throughout the week and then disposed off at the end of the term. Please check carefully for something you may have lost. It always help to label items with your child’s name.

Opening Times
Childcare 7.45-5.45pm.
Kindy 8.30-11.30 & 12.15-3.15pm.

Before these times staff are preparing for the day & may not be in the room until the session starts. Please respect the starting times and allow staff the opportunity to engage in their pre-session duties.

Year 10 Work experience students
This week we welcome Naomi, Lisa and Sarah from the Waikerie High school. We hope they enjoy their experience with us.

STARTING KINDY IN 2016…..
Will you turn 4 before May 1st 2016? If so you are eligible to start kindy in January 2016. If you are enrolled in our centre your name will be automatically put on our waiting list. But if you know someone who doesn't use the centre and will turn 4, please tell them to come and see us.

Sun Protection policy… we have recently renewed our SunSmart policy with the Cancer Council for another 3 years. Our centre will remain with the policy of hats on all year round. Within our policy we have stated that we also educate children and families that a hat is not required when the UV level rating is below 3. This may be something that you could talk about with your children. The Cancer council provide a link to a SunSmart mobile phone app that will give you a daily alert and is excellent for knowing what times of the day is necessary to wear a hat.

Art and Craft— we are looking for empty boxes, egg cartons and margarine containers with lids please. Please consider us when you recycle.

Playdough Recipe
2 Cups of flour
1 cup of salt
2 tablespoons cream of tartar
2 tablespoons of oil
Food colouring(dye) or scent
2 cups of boiling water

Place dry ingredients and oil into a bowl, add dye to water and pour into mixture. Stir until combined and knead until smooth. Store in sealed container

Diary dates
Mon 8/6/15– Public holiday, CLOSED
Mon 15/6/15– Governing Council 7pm
Wed 17/6/15– PHOTO DAY
Thur 18/6/15– PHOTO DAY
Tues 23/6/16  Sleep session for parents
Fri 3/7/15– last day of term 2
Mon 20/7/15– first day of term 3