Greetings families

We welcome our new families to the centre and have said farewell to families who have moved away from Waikerie. New children have settled in well and are adjusting to the new faces and routines and of course, having to share with so many other little faces. Our ongoing challenge is the development of social skills such as sharing, waiting, learning how to enter a play situation and how to play together. We try a variety of strategies but the most effective one is role modelling and using the correct positive language. This is something we encourage you to do at home. It is okay for children to know they can’t have their way all the time as this gives them skills to develop resilience and learn to fail and be able to cope with that emotion.

The new term began with a visit from performer Barry Peters who had the children laughing and happily engaged in his performance.

Feedback is always welcome and we have set up a feedback box in the front foyer with a generic feedback slip. Please share your thoughts to help us reflect on our practice or the strategies we use. This is one way that you can have a say in our centre.

So what do we do?

- **Grouptimes together** – our morning group-times in the kindy room with all the children is a real highlight every day. All children and staff across the centre come over for morning greetings and then a physical song or movement. We have seen some great transformations of children’s whose confidence has really blossomed over the term.

- **Working together**: Staff across the centre continue to plan for all children on Friday mornings to encourage true integration.

- **Parent programming input sheet** – We thank all families that have returned their input sheets over the last term. The reason we ask for your input is get your ideas in your child’s programming cycle which is displayed near the room program trees for you to see when this will occur. During this time we observe your child, follow their interests, and create learning stories. This will be in addition to the spontaneous planning that is in place continuously. This year the Over 2’s will receive the new format in term 2 & 4. Kindy and babies will receive them in term 1 & 4.

- **Childcare grouptimes** – will take place in the morning sleep room while the room is vacant.

- **Exploring ways to communicate** – we are setting up an inquiry project to investigate using technology to help you become involved such as facebook, mobile, fax, email. We welcome your ideas, look out for our survey.

**BOOKS OF THE WEEK**

Our current display is on “Sleep Strategies”. This ties in nicely with the work shop that is being held in the Riverland – see below:

(we are also trying to see if we can get this to come to our centre – we will let parents know as soon as we do)

**Free parenting seminar**, ‘Sleep and your toddler’, to be held in Berri, 25 May. It is designed for parents and carers of children aged 1 – 4 years. Dr Sarah Blunden, sleep researcher, will talk about sleep routines, learning to sleep alone, naps and nightwaking.

The seminar will be held at the Berri Conference Centre on Monday May 25, from 7.15 – 9 pm.

Bookings can be made online at [http://parentingsa.eventbrite.com.au](http://parentingsa.eventbrite.com.au)

**KIDS MATTER NEWS**

Our Kidsmatter team of Christina, Gilda, Kylie, Amanda, Corrin & Sarah have been for training in component 1- Positive School Community and component 2– Social and Emotional Learning. Our next step will be to train the staff team.

**One of the first steps that you can help us with is to complete the parent survey that is attached to this newsletter.** This will help us to get a starting point to plan from. Please put your survey replies in the fee box. Thanks

**Why do it?...**

KidsMatter Early Childhood involves us as an ECEC service reflecting on our current practice, identifying areas for development and working towards improving the services that we offer to our families for the benefit of children’s mental health and wellbeing. Your family’s views are an important part of the KidsMatter Early Childhood planning process.

**Governing Council**

Our first Governing Council was held on Monday April 27th and we welcomed our new members. They are represented by a blue sticker dot on the notice pockets in the foyer.

President– Louise Thiel
Secretary– Leah Michalanney
Treasurer– Tamara McPherson, Sarah Kuchel

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SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend the School Dental Service. Dental care is FREE for most school-aged children and ALL preschool children.

SA Dental Service participates in the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. A small fee may apply for children who are not eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

To locate your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, please phone 8222 8222 or visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au

Parent skill sheet: We are still welcoming the return of parent skill sheets that came out with the last newsletter. Please return to the fish bowl at reception.

Outdoor area – on display in our foyer we have some playground ideas of what we would like to have in our yard. Please have a look and see if you can help us achieve any of these ideas.

FOOD ALLERGY ALERTS & Changes to diet.

Cooking meals for your child is a very important and complex role that we play in your child’s development. We abide by your requests for dietary preferences and need to be informed if this changes at home. Maria is happy to chat to you about the portions of food/drink that are supplied to your child eg lunchtime milk –100mls.

Please keep your dietary forms up to date and let us know if you have reactions to any foods or drinks. These forms can be given to you at reception.

BOOK Club orders are due on Wednesday 13th May.

Families week is this week (18th May). We hope to see many families come along to visit during the week. Children love to showcase their special place of belonging. Most times are good for visit, except between 11.30 & 12.15 as this is lunch time. Hope to see you and your family.

CHANGES TO DETAILS – if any phone contacts have changed for your family please let us know asap. We will need correct phone numbers if we need to contact you or your emergency pickup people in a hurry.

Quality Improvement Plan – our reflection on the 2014 Quality Improvement Plan and goals for 2015 forms a major part of the centre’s Annual Report. A summary sheet has been included for all parents and is attached to this newsletter. A full Annual Report is available if you like.

Sharing and caring is important to us. Letting us know about events that are happening in your life helps us to understand how your child is coping emotionally and we can provide them with extra support for things they may not understand completely. It helps us to know at the start of their session and understand the reason for their behaviour, rather than when we talk to you at the end of the session on why they didn’t seem themselves. You are welcome to ring anytime to check how they are going if we haven't had the chance to contact you.

Support avenues for your child

Below is listed some phone numbers of avenues of support that you can ring yourself or come and speak to us for guidance:

**Child Youth Health 1300 733 606**
- speech & language
- general check-up
- hearing and sight checks
- feeding
- general development
- fine & gross motor

**Riverland Community Health Services 1800 332 858 or 8580 2500**
- speech therapist
- Occupational therapist
- Physio therapist
- Dietician
- Paediatric Continence Nurse (toileting)
- Kids Team – for multiple concerns

**CAMHS – Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service**
(Sleeping, Anxiety, Behaviour concerns, General Well-being, Emotional issues and trauma) Ph 8582 4290

**Kindy news:**

Please return your interview time sheets by Friday 15th May for week 5 appointments.

Child Youth Health checks – Wednesday 13th May for those who have been given an appointment.