Greetings to all families
We are flying through the term and all our children have shown remarkable resilience as they have adapted to new routines, new kindy, new childcare and new faces. Our team works really hard to establish relationships with your children to create trust and this is evident as children have settled.

Snake incident: Yesterday we were unfortunate to close the centre due to the presence of a baby brown snake inside the kindy room that was not seen to have left the building. The education department made the decision to support the site closure and early childcare pickup for obvious safety reasons. The site was laid with traps but no snake turned up and it is thought that it escaped via the sliding door. There is no cost to parents for the Monday afternoon and Tuesday full day closure.

We thank parents for your support and praise the children and staff for their calmness when we needed to evacuate the building. Our snake risk assessments with children that we conducted a few weeks ago was put into practice!!

We will continue to be vigilant and alert due to the our centre’s location and accessibility for critters.

Annual General Meeting
This will be held next Monday 7th March, 2016 at 7pm. As we will be losing some members whose children have gone to school we would love to welcome you to join us. If you can’t make it on the night but are interested in coming please let me know.

Please note that the Early Years Learning Framework Program Notices have been sent home for families to fill out, thank you to those families who have returned these already. If you haven’t please do so as soon as possible as these forms provide us with an insight into your child’s development and wellbeing and helps us to provide the best quality of care possible for your child. We gain lots of information from these forms, which helps educator’s to build relationships, program to your child’s interests and get to know their strengths.

Mr. Cox from the Waikerie Library has visited us this month and will do so each month this year and during this time, children are developing their early literacy skills as they listen to a story, join in group activities and share their knowledge.

If you are booking your child into child care on a casual basis, please remember to book in as soon as possible, as the new ratio’s that came into place as of January 1st 2016, have created limited spots. We encourage you to consider permanent bookings to guarantee your booking.

Clean Up Australia Day: children will participating in this event during the week when its cool to collect rubbish around the perimeter of the centre and within the yard. We will use this experience as a learning and teaching tool to discuss recycling, sustainability, rubbish and cleanliness.

Staff training– at our last staff meeting we were fortunate to have a guest speaker who shared information on techniques to support children with specific behaviour needs and quirks, Autism Spectrum and the importance of routine. She highlighted that good sleep, routines, simple instructions and the use of visual pictures to support children enable them to achieve success without having too many meltdowns. She also reminded us as adults to WAIT for 20 seconds before giving a child the next instruction as some children are still processing their thoughts. Food for thought!!!

Do you love what’s happened in our yard…. We sure do!!
Please keep reading to see what else we have planned and how you can possibly help us. Now that Autumn has arrived, we can’t wait to play in all the big poplar tree leaves!!!

TEXTING SERVICE: we have many families using our text service that allows us to text you a photo or message about what your child is doing at WCC. If you haven’t joined up yet please text your full name and your child’s full name to 0400 904 366. The mobile phone will only be used for sending information and will not be monitored for return texts.

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:

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<th>Respect</th>
<th>Honesty</th>
<th>Excellence</th>
<th>Partnerships</th>
<th>Professionalism</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
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<td>Principles</td>
<td>Respect for diversity</td>
<td>High expectations &amp; equity</td>
<td>Secure, respectful &amp; reciprocal relationships</td>
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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
Childcare Room News from Lisa and the staff team...

A special welcome to all our new families. Have you noticed our “Through Our Lens” photo board? 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 encourage all families to look at the photos with your children as this wall of photos grows throughout the term.

Lisa and Amanda recently attended an Early Years Learning Workshop in Adelaide where we learnt lots of valuable information about Children’s Development, Fine Motor Skills and Speech and Language Skills; we have been able to put our learning into action already with our childcare children. We also shared our learning at a recent staff meeting, sharing valuable knowledge to help us set all children up for success in their learning.

We have been receiving lots of lovely feedback from parents over the last few weeks, we love to hear positive things that you have noticed. Please come and share it with us, so that we can include it with our programming. It is nice to know that our hard work is not going unnoticed.

We congratulate Bethany on her outstanding achievement of winning the School Based Trainee of the Year Award for her traineeship that she has completed with us here at the Waikerie Children Centre. We also farewelled Bethany last week as she starts a new adventure in Adelaide, studying her double degree in Early Childhood and Disability at University. Hopefully we will see Bethany back here during the holiday’s.

COOK’S NEWS FROM MARIA

Kitchen News – we have recently reviewed our menu’s and would like some ideas from parents of healthy snacks that can be made up for afternoon snack times, especially for gluten or dairy free recipes. Our menu’s are on display about the fish tank in the foyer for your information. We also would love to hear if children make comment about what they have eaten or if they like or dislike particular meals. As we cater for up to 50 meals per day our menus need to be reasonably simple and follow the Nutritional Australia guidelines where certain dairy, meat, fruit & vege portions must be maintained. We also need to adapt meals for children who have specific dietary requirements. Thanks Maria

Kindy Room News from the staff team

We have been very busy having fun learning in kindy and the children have loved painting, water play and all the table top activities. The yard has been a hive of activity as we learn in the natural environment. Feeding the chooks, watering the worms and collecting worm wee has been lots of fun learning about sustainability.

Over the last couple of weeks in critical thinking time the children have been busy with sorting, writing, drawing and many more fun activities exploring shapes, colours, numbers and letters. We also have started with Jolly Phonics and the children have enjoyed the actions to the sounds of letters.

In week 2 we had our first Child Protection Curriculum lesson, 'The Right to be safe - Feelings'. Sometimes the toughest thing about feelings is sharing them with others. Sharing your feelings helps you when your feelings are good and when they aren't so good. Sharing also helps you to get closer to people you care about and who care about you.

Children from childcare are visiting us in the morning for movement and dance before we have fruit and critical thinking time. It’s good for us to exercise in the morning as it helps our brains to work and get rid of our wriggles!