



Welcome to week 3! It is great to see all your smiling faces! We have worked hard to make the start of your child's year of kindergarten a successful and happy one and we hope you feel at home here with us and your children have settled in well.

Please forgive us as it takes a while to find out how everything works and where it lives in a new centre so some things are a work in progress but most important for us is getting to know you and your children so please come and introduce yourselves and have a chat.

I plan to have parent feedback chats with every family by the end of the term but if you have concerns or questions remember you are welcome to make an appointment to discuss your child anytime.

RemindersPlease make sure all lunch boxes, drink bottles and hats are clearly labelled.

...

It is not fun when you can't find your belongings!

- Lunches boxes are to be placed in the cupboard by the office, drink bottles in the trays and **SNACKS ARE TO STAY IN YOUR CHILD'S BAGS.**
Encourage your children to follow this routine as it is an important step to their independence.
- Lunch will not be until 12:30, so if your child is a big eater it may be a good idea to provide a larger than normal snack for them. If you are looking for inspiration for things to pack for lunch keep an eye on the notice board for some lunch box ideas.
- **Preschool starts at 8:45.**We ask you to wait outside with your child if you are a little early as the staff are setting up and can't open the doors until then.
- **Our day finishes at 3:30** however if you feel this is not appropriate we are happy to negotiate a more suitable time to collect your child especially in the hot weather. Please remember that staff only have half an hour at the end of the day to prepare for the next, so try to be punctual at the end of the day.
- Hats. Learning to stay sun safe is an important life skill for all Australian children.



We feel they need to remember their hats every time they walk out the door and for that reason we have decided that our children have to be responsible for bringing and wearing their hats everyday. We will return lost hats to pockets but will be teaching children "no hat, no outside play" and... if your hat is not on your head it needs to be in your bag!

- If your contact details, phone numbers etc change please let the staff team know so we can keep our records up to date.

- Children don't learn unless they get involved and that means that sometimes they get wet or dirty. Can you pack some extra clothes in their bags so staff can help them if they need to change.

What is happening with our program?

Every term we will publish a term "Overview" based on the curriculum document for The Kindergarten Years. This is not exclusive, as all children learn and build on their own knowledge and experience at their own speed but it does indicate our main direction in each curriculum area. If you would like to learn more or read the curriculum we have several available for parents to borrow.

Learning at kindergarten is sometimes difficult to see but if you remember that each day builds experiences and relationships, the result in knowledge and skills over time is surprising. We will display information about the learning that is happening around the room and in newsletters. There is no pass or fail at Kindy. We work from the known, to stretch and challenge your child across the domains of knowledge, from development of communication skills, concepts, social and emotional development as well as physical competencies, literacy and numeracy skills. To do this we collect learning data from children throughout their time at kindergarten but in particular at the beginning and end of their time. This allows us to create a measure of their learning "the distance travelled".

This week Giosi and I are using the Preschool Screening Tool, developed by special educators and speech therapists to assess entry level skills. We are also starting our "Funtastics" program which we will repeat every term, to measure listening skills and engagement. This data is kept in individual children's folders and can be viewed at any time. Children and staff will both work together to put samples of work in these folders or portfolios which will become a record of your child's learning journey. They are works in progress and include photographs, artefacts and sticky notes. We ask that these folders stay at kindergarten until the end of the year.

Our Photocopier has died and this has delayed the creation of children's folders and this newsletter so apologies.....

but this week we will be getting a new one. YAY!!!

Boxes all sizes are wanted for our making table! Please bring them in and give them to Sharon!

Save the Date: **KINDY AGM** Monday 23rd
Feb 7:00pm

All welcome. Please come and get involved, we need your help to plan for the future and build an even better kindy for your children. 2015 will have an exciting focus on Outdoor play space development and Nature Play!

Kindy fees are payable each term and we have placed an invoice in your child's information pocket. After no increase for years the decision has been made to increase fees to \$70 a term. If this is a concern please come and talk to Anne as we can work out an option to suit you.