



## Minlaton District Early Learning Centre Newsletter

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Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

### **DIARY DATES:**

#### **Wednesday 10 February 2015 7:30 at Centre**

Governing Council AGM followed by General meeting.  
All welcome.

#### **Monday 14 March – Adelaide Cup Public Holiday**

No Playgroup

#### **Friday 25 March – Good Friday**

No Occasional Care

#### **Monday 28 March – Easter Monday**

No Playgroup

#### **Friday 15 April**

Last day of term

### **Thank You**

- To the parents who helped with the end of term cleaning jobs plus washing. We are very grateful for this assistance in maintaining the Centre.

### **Welcome**

- Welcome Playgroup, Occasional Care and Kindergarten children of 2016! We look forward to a wonderful year of learning ahead.
- Educators at the Centre this year will consist of Director: Tracey Thom; Teacher: Louise Hanrahan; Kindergarten ECW's: Tracey Hull, Janette Jacka, Megan Newby, Zoe Weir; Occasional Care: Janette Jacka, Megan Newby, Zoe Weir.
- Introducing Louise and Zoe to the Centre:
- Hi I'm Louise Hanrahan and I'm looking forward to the new adventures as Teacher here at Minlaton. It will be great to be able to work with new children and families and a new environment. I have previously worked at Maitland Children's Centre and Moonta Kindergarten. I live in Ardrossan and enjoy doing things with family and friends. Please feel free to have a chat and say hello whenever you see me.
- My name is Zoe Weir. I'm currently studying a Diploma in Early Childhood Education, which I have nearly finished. I'm 27 years of age and have little 2 year old daughter named Bella. I'm looking forward to working in this amazing centre. I'm eager to meet you all and your little ones. It's going to be amazing watching them all grow and learn. Come say hi when you see me!

### **Contact details**

Have you changed your phone number, address, emergency contact details since you filled in the enrolment form? If so could you please inform a staff member of these changes?

### **Arrival, Pick up and Bus**

The arrival time for Kindergarten is from 8:45am with pick up at 3:00pm. As we have children catching the bus up to school, dismissal for non-bus children will occur after the children have boarded the bus to minimise confusion and congestion of children around the lockers. If you require your child to be dismissed early, please see a staff member.

If your child arrives on the bus it will be presumed they are also going home on the bus. Please notify us by phone call or in person for any other arrangements.

### **Occasional Care**

Funded Occasional Care provides 'now and then' care to enable parents/caregivers to participate in activities, keep appointments, fulfil work commitments or have a break from their child/children on an occasional basis.

Children may access one Occasional Care session per week, where demand permits.

We ask parents to either make sessional bookings no more than 7 days in advance at the Centre or by ringing 88532301. *Bookings are essential as our numbers for this service are limited.*

When demand exceeds supply (not enough places), alternating schedules may be arranged to ensure equity for all families.

If a child cannot attend a booked occasional child care session a cancellation needs to be made. An answering machine is available at the Centre to enable families to call at any time of the day or night to notify of cancellations. This allows an opportunity to contact families who may be on the waiting list. If notification of cancellation is not received an absent fee of your full rate for the booking made will be charged.

Friday morning occasional care sessions run from 8:45-11.30. During this session there is 1 under 2 years session and 2 over 2 years sessions. The afternoon session run from 12:30-3:00. Janette Jacka, Occasional Care Coordinator, and Megan Newby remain the Occasional Care workers with the addition of Zoe Weir in the morning session.

## Curriculum

As you may have noticed when you came into the Kindy we have changed the room around. There are more tables for different activity focus areas. The program will be changed on a fortnightly rotation so the children have the opportunity to observe, participate and master the different activities available on the table tops.

The program is available to view on the board near the entrance inside. Please have a look to see what we will be doing. There is a section for spontaneous activities that will be added to as the children plan and initiate activities throughout the day. Staff members will use these interests to plan for the following fortnight. We also have a term overview in the middle. Our focus this term is relationships and routines. This includes becoming familiar with the Kindy and staff members, making friends and learning the routines.

Group times have developed into a learning time at 10am. Tuesdays will be You Can Do It Curriculum, Wednesdays will be book-based and Thursdays will have a skill focus. The group time before lunch will become a music and movement group. If you have any questions about the programme come and chat to a staff member to find out more.

Skill Focus Group: Wk1 Sharing about what we did in the holidays – taking turns and listening. Wk2 Gross motor circuit.

### You Can Do It' Social and Emotional curriculum:

We will be meeting Gabby Get Along and Oscar Organisation. We will have different activities in our groups.

### Examples of Organised Behaviour in Your Child:

- ☺ Before leaving home, they make sure that everything they need is in their bag: jumper, hat, snack and lunch.
- ☺ Carries their own bag.
- ☺ Wants to do their best.
- ☺ Listens to parent when being told to do something.
- ☺ Puts away toys left lying around.
- ☺ Puts away an activity when finished using it before beginning a new activity.
- ☺ Puts books back in their proper place.
- ☺ Puts away their bag in the proper place when they return home from Kindergarten.
- ☺ Gives parent any important notes from their teacher.

### Ways to Praise Your Child for Organised Behaviour:

- ☺ You are really good at being on time.
- ☺ Getting to Kindy is easier in the morning when you have everything ready in your bag.
- ☺ I see you are organised. You put all your toys away.
- ☺ Good for you. I can see you are trying your best.
- ☺ You are really good keeping your room clean and putting things away.
- ☺ Doesn't it feel good to be organised?
- ☺ You are really keeping your bag clean and neat.

### Examples of Getting Along Behaviour:

- ☺ Plays well with friends.
- ☺ Takes turns when playing with others.
- ☺ Asks nicely to join a game.
- ☺ Listens to others when they talk.
- ☺ Asks for help politely.
- ☺ Does what their parent/carer asks them to do.
- ☺ Makes an effort to be nice to someone who seems unhappy.
- ☺ Shares a toy or snack with a friend when they come over to play.
- ☺ Helps someone else clean up toys when they are finished using them.
- ☺ Tells the truth.
- ☺ Does not tattletale.
- ☺ Does not call others bad names.
- ☺ Does not interrupt when parent/carer is talking with someone else.

### Ways to Praise Your Child for Getting Along:

- ☺ Good for you. You really are trying to get along with your friend.
- ☺ You are good at helping others.
- ☺ You didn't try to lie. Telling the truth is very important.
- ☺ Wow, you cleaned up your friend's mess. Thank you.
- ☺ You are a good listener.
- ☺ Sharing helps you be a good friend.
- ☺ Thank you for being patient and waiting until I was finished talking. That is very grown-up behaviour.

### Reminders-

- Children are on the go continually at the centre, running, jumping, climbing and manoeuvring around objects. Please send your child/ren in footwear that is suitable for this. Although thongs and crocs are easy for the child to take off and put on they sometimes are difficult to run and climb in.
- Please apply sunscreen before arrival. It will then be reapplied at lunch time. Sunscreen is available for you to use at the Centre if needed.
- It is a requirement for terms 1 and 4, as well as any other time the UV level is over 3, for children to wear hats. We are about to put in an order for hats to be embroidered. They cost \$7 each. If you would like to order one please see staff as soon as possible.
- With the weather warming up please take note not to dress your child/ren in singlet tops – see Sun Protection policy in Parent Information Book
- The Centre is a **water only** site. Please do not send cordial, juice etc.
- Please make sure your child's belongings are named especially bags, hats, removable clothing, lunchboxes and lids. Permanent markers are available at the Centre to mark belongings.

### **Nut and egg free Centre**

Just a reminder that the site is a nut and egg free. There is a **total ban on nuts** including nut pastes, whole nuts and nuts as ingredients, as well as whole eggs and egg sandwiches etc. Please respect this request. Please see a staff member if you have any questions.

### **Lunch Boxes**

Morning snack is fruit. This will stay in your child's bag and their lunch boxes and drink bottles will be unpacked. Occasional Care morning and afternoon fruit will also stay in their bags. There is limited space in the fridge for a large volume of lunch boxes so lunches in cooler bags are recommended. These will be stored in a cupboard near the kitchen so that on hot days they will be in an air-conditioned environment.

The Centre encourages nude food – that is **no plastic wrapping**. Instead of plastic wrap try baking paper or alfoil – these are also very easy for the child to open.

### **Kindergarten fees**

Once the fee has been passed at the AGM invoices will be sent out.

### **Parent Interviews**

Later in the term we will invite parents in for a chat about their child's progress. These will occur after the session from 3pm. A notice will be sent out nearer the time.

### **Playgroup**

Congratulations to new playgroup coordinators Kylie Cook and Shae Hender. Please support Kylie and Shae in their new role, such as assisting with setting up and packing away and if you are available to fill in when they may not be available.

### **Governing Council AGM**

The AGM is set for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm at the Centre. All positions on the Governing Council will be declared open and it will be great to see some new faces.

The Governing Council is responsible for the operation and management of the Centre i.e. curriculum, fundraising, maintenance and development of buildings, grounds and facilities, budget and finance, and policies and programs that the Centre may undertake.

The Governing Council consists of **representatives from all families** at our centre (playgroup, occasional care and Kindergarten). A lot of information passes through these meetings. It is a great way to find out what is happening at our centre and to have an input to the kindergarten management. Please consider volunteering to be on the 2015 Council. Meetings are usually twice a term, in the evening at the Centre. They are open for everyone to attend. Speak to 2015 Governing council members or Trace if you would like to have more information.

A General Meeting will follow the AGM.

### **DECD Screening Requirements**

Many of our parents and guardians volunteer at our Centre to support their child's learning.

To make it easier for parents and guardians to volunteer their time, the Department for Education and Child Development has updated its relevant history screening policy and procedures.

As a result, parents and guardians who volunteer to directly support their child will no longer require a relevant history screening.

This will mean many of our volunteers can help out sooner.

A screening is still necessary for parents and guardians who are volunteering at school camps and sleep overs, as well as those hosting billets and homestay students.

As has always been the case, a screening is not needed to attend single events or activities at our Centre. These include concerts, fundraisers, swimming week or sports day.

Screenings are just one measure used to help keep children safe. Everyone who works with children plays a part in child protection, including watching out for inappropriate behaviour.

Find out more about relevant history screening and keeping children safe at [www.decd.sa.gov.au](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au).

If you have any questions about screening or these changes, please speak with Centre staff.

### **Facebook**

The Centre has a Facebook page. It is another outlet for communicating positive information to the current & future families of the Centre. You may post messages & comments on to the page but not photos. Please be respectful of the Centre & our families. The page is not about one individual but about us as a whole group. If the page is mistreated then we will remove it. If you have not already joined our Facebook page look us up – Minlaton District Early Learning Centre. We hope it can be a useful communication tool for the Centre.

### **S.Y.P ACTIVE KIDS**

Our aim is for children to have fun & develop important social skills in a safe environment. Children can explore, climb, jump, play, swing, slide, dance & sing.

Where- Yorketown Area School Gym

When- every Friday of the school term

Time- 9am to 10.15am

Ages- 0-5 years old

Cost- \$5 for 1 child, \$8 for 2 children or more from the same family, \$0 for children under 1, \$0 for your first visit.

For more information 'like' us on Facebook or use the contacts below.

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Trace, Louise, Tracey, Janette, Megan and  
Zoe.