Greetings families

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE to a new year and for many a new beginning in our centre. We hope you make some wonderful memories with us. While implementing the Early Years Learning Framework ‘Belonging Being and Becoming’, it is important to note that all our new children now belong to the Waikerie Children’s Centre. Everything that they do whilst at our centre and the friendships formed during their time here, will continue to influence who they become in future years. Please remember to talk to your children about where they belong. For example talk with them about their identity, family, community, or country. Understanding where they belong in the world is very important in building your child’s identity.

What’s different this year in childcare that could affect you?

♦ The amount of children that we can have in our 2-5 year old room has dropped from 20 children to 15 children. This is because our 2 year olds need one staff member for every 5 children, leaving our 3yr olds + with one staff member.
♦ For you this means that there are limited casual bookings and we may need to combine children in rooms or put you on a waitlist. We will ring you as soon as a spot becomes available.
♦ To secure a spot, permanent bookings are encouraged so that we can plan for your needs and they will need to be discussed with Kym.
♦ We are able to change our child - staff levels once we have enough permanent children booked in to make it financially viable and this is being continuously monitored.

Paying Accounts

We are pleased to be able to offer Eftpos on site for the payment of accounts.

Preschool Accounts – we have changed banks and if you have our number in your banking system please change it to Commonwealth Bank BSB 065 000 Acct: 121 305 91

Staffing – Congratulations to Kylie, Shane and Zavier on the birth of Harrison. We farewell Bethany soon as she makes her way to Adelaide to pursue university studies.

Vocational Awards – Bethany has also been selected as a candidate in the Rotary Riverland Vocational awards and a staff team will support her at the awards next Friday evening. Good luck Bethany.
Please check your notice pockets regularly for important information.

This week you will have a newsletter and some families will have:
- Kindy accounts bill
- Kindy session times and days
- Kindy term agenda
- Childcare accounts
- Letter to kindy families from Minister of Education.

Next week families will receive some more information about what is happening in the rooms, child planning information term plans and staffing.

Emergency Centre closure information

The only time that the centre would close in an emergency would be if we lost power or water for an extended period of time. (no lights, no meals, no toilets, no phones)
Staff would contact you where possible to come and pick up your child or inform you that the site is not open. Unfortunately these would only be in extreme circumstances that are beyond our control.
At these times it is important that we have your up to date phone contacts. If mobile or phone towers are not working, please come to the centre to collect your child as we may not be able to reach you.

CARPARK SAFETY

All children in our centre have the right to be safe and we ask that you demonstrate this by walking children and prams on the footpath—not in the middle of the carpark! As adults we must set a good example and avoid the near misses that are often witnessed. Staff will be monitoring this important safety aspect. Thankyou.

What is your child doing in our centre while they are here?

Please take a moment to look at our program tree and offer your thoughts and contribution to your child’s program. Every child is programmed individually through a cycle system throughout the year. Staff will inform you via a programming letter that also encourages you to contribute to their learning needs as well.
Every two weeks a programming team have agreed to meet to plan events and activities across the centre.

Have you ever thought about how many skills your child is learning when they are playing in the sandpit?
Are they just playing or can you expand on their learning by talking to them about what they are doing?
This is what we as educators do.

KIDS MATTER INNITIATIVE

This year the Loxton Waikerie Partnership is committed to the mental health of children in our area. We will be engaging in the KIDS MATTER concept that can be followed through from childcare/kindy to primary school to highschool. Our action team and staff have had their first training session and will be meeting again shortly.
What is Kids Matter….

KidsMatter Early Childhood is a national mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention initiative specifically developed for early childhood education and care (ECCE) services.
It has been developed through collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Beyondblue, the Australian Psychological Society and Early Childhood Australia
It involves the people who have significant influence in making a positive difference for young children’s mental health during this important developmental period—parents, carers, families and early childhood professionals—along with a range of community and health professionals.

Community Flyer information stand

You will notice in our foyer our new stand that contains information for parents and carers. The stand is divided into 4 areas—Educational services, Health and Community services, Baby and toddler information and Learning tools. Please feel free to have a look when you come in.

FAMILY PLAY WEEK...coming soon.
Week starting 22nd February
We would love children to bring in members of their family to the centre to have a look at some of the fun things we do. This is your chance to come and see how they have settled in, they can share their learning, you can read stories and just have a play.
Best times to visit are 9.00-11.00 and 12.45-2.15pm.