



# Crystal Brook Kindergarten

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## February Dates

2019

**11th February**

Music with Mrs  
Collins

**13th February**

Kindy Governing  
Council AGM @  
7pm

**19th February**

Hospital visit

**25th February**

Music with Mrs  
Collins

**26th February**

Hospital Visit

**5th March**

Early closure at  
2.15pm

Staff professional  
development across  
Upper Mid North  
Partnership.

**12th March**

Pupil Free Day—  
Upper Mid North  
Partnership  
Poverty training

*Term 1, Week 1*

*06/02/19*

## Welcome to all our families

Dear Families

We hope your child's start to Kindy has been a positive one for you and your family. We have started the year with 26 enrolments, and by March our numbers will be at 28. This year's cohort is made up of 18 girls and 10 boys. We are excited about getting to know this group of learners and planning activities that are based around their interests and needs. Our focus at the moment is helping to support children as they transition to the kindy environment, adjusting to routines and expectations, getting to know the children and finding out about their families, interests and what they would like to learn about at kindy.

We have developed and recently introduced an 'Acknowledgement of Country' each morning. We also plan to create an i-movie with the children that we build their respect for the original custodians of the land, and to develop connections with learning from the land.

We have been raising children's

awareness of sustainability practices at kindy, encouraging the use of the red bin (waste), yellow bin (recycling) and green waste (chooks and composting). This has led to conversations about food packing and 'nude foods', recyclable plastics and soft plastics.

We will send home a copy of our Centre's *Healthy Food Supply and Nutrition Policy* that we are mandated to adhere to. When possible, we encourage families to send raw, unprocessed, 'nude foods', such as a healthy sandwich, fruit, vegetable sticks, yoghurts, cheese and crackers etc. Our breakfast bar is open daily, and we will support families with requests linked to any food allergies.

Here's to a wonderful term filled with exciting opportunities for your child to 'Be, Grow, Explore'. Please contact an educator if you have any questions about your child settling into Kindy or Occasional Care, or of the information we are currently sharing.

Kind regards,

Karena

## Phone line at kindy

We apologise for the ongoing issues we are experiencing with our phone line. Unfortunately this is beyond our control, however we are working with DECD, AAPT and Telstra to get them rectified asap.

Please use the Kindy mobile 0427172529 to ring the kindy, or alternatively send a text message to mobile number or via Kindy Messenger. We will let families know once the issue is resolved. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

## Kindy Photos

Kindy photos were on **Monday 4th February**. If you haven't returned your photo envelope and money, please do so by Monday 11th February. All kindy children and the group were photographed by Andy. Thank you!

## Family photos

We like to set up a display of family photos at the Centre. Children love looking at their photos and sharing them with their friends. It also gives a 'homely' feel to the Kindy. The photos help children to build their sense of identity and belonging to their family unit. Please send a photo (already in a frame if possible) for our display. Thank you

## Movement between buses

The school buses (small yellow and large yellow) park on Mais Terrace to drop off and pick children up each morning and afternoon.

Our Kindy children are escorted by families to their cars, but we have been asked by bus drivers to remind families to NOT walk in between the small and large yellow bus, or immediately in front of them. Please be mindful of your school age children who may be walking to / from school to family cars on their own, and remind them to do the same.

The speed limit along Mais Terrace is 25km during school times. There are times when the police patrol drop off and pick up, and we ask that families adhere to the speed limits for everyone's safety.

## Early closure 5th March

At the last kindy Governing Council meeting held in December 2018, members voted and approved of one early closure each term (Tuesday of week 6) for a 2.15pm finish from kindy.

All sites within the Upper Mid North Partnership will be doing the same to allow educators to travel to sites to work collaboratively relating to learning in the early years. This will be of great value to our children, and also to build capacity of educators skills, knowledge and understanding through targeted professional development.

## (KITE) Intergenerational Program



On Tuesday 5th February we had our first visit to the Southern Flinders Health Campus, Crystal Brook campus with 2019 preschool group. We wanted to take the whole group to introduce them to the experience, and then it will become at each child's discretion if they want to visit during the fortnightly visits.

Each fortnight we ask which children would like to visit the hospital, and this forms the grounds of who attends, based on whether they would like to go. All children are invited, but only those who want to attend, will go. Generally we take between 8-10 children each week.

Through running an Intergenerational Program we aim to *'enhance the happiness, humanity and respect for the minds and hearts of young and old through an intergenerational partnership'* (Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation Submission).

We will take some resources, such as games, puzzles, books, construction equipment from the kindy to use with the residents. Our next visit is planned for Tuesday 19th February. This has been a wonderful addition to our kindy program since 2016 and it is really heartening to see the impact that the children are having on the elderly. They love our visits and the children bring much joy to them. We also see children treat the elderly with respect and builds their empathy for an older generation.

Please indicate whether your child has sunscreen applied when you sign in each morning. Staff will support children to apply sunscreen if needed, and children will have it re-applied after lunch. There is a sunscreen station on the deck and a sign with the sun protection times based on the UV rating for that day.

Governing Council  
Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday 20th  
February at 7pm at Kindy  
All welcome!

## Family questionnaire

Can Kindy families please return your child's 'Introducing .....' this The information in this booklet helps us to get to know your child, important people in their life, what makes your child unique, hopes for your child during their time at kindy and support they made need. This information will be kept in your child's learning portfolio and help educators develop learning programs to suit your child's interests and needs.

## Occasional Care news

We are welcoming new children and their families to Occasional Care, and have many returning families using the service. We welcome Kyra, Early Childhood Educator who will be working with Olivia, and look forward to the relationships and connections they will continue to build with families.

Occasional Care is guided by a priority of access policy formulated by Department for Education. Occasional Care is targeted “to support children who are not accessing alternative early childhood education and care programs, including preschool, a child care centre or family day care. It enables parents to participate in a range of activities (including non-work and casual work) by booking their child into occasional care”.

First priority of access is given to children:

- Under the guardianship of the minister
- At risk of serious abuse and neglect
- In Aboriginal families
- In families which include a person with a disability or health condition that impacts upon their parenting.
- With a disability and / or additional needs.
- In socially isolated families.

Second priority is given to low income families with an Australian Government Pensioner Concession or Health Care Card.

We will be offering weekly spots to children not accessing any other child care in Crystal Brook or surrounding areas. And for children in regular care, we will still be offering spaces to them as well (when available) to enable them the opportunity to spend time in occasional care too. There are still spots available each week so your children will still access a spot, just not on a regular fortnightly rotation.

Please notify us if your care arrangements change. Please talk with Karena or Olivia if you have any questions. We are very grateful for the support the occasional care educators receive and thank you for your support with this too.

We will notify families by Wednesday if your child has a booking for the following week. If you need to cancel, please do so before COB Thursday. **Cancelled spots will be re-offered during business hours on Monday morning.** If spot is unable to be filled, it will require payment before they can attend their next session. We are aware that illness can occur over the weekend and last minute plans change. **Families can still send a message to Messenger over the weekend, however they will be attended to on Monday morning,** however we are putting strategies in place to support staff to enjoy their private lives and weekends and not having to respond to messages during this time.

We remind families to arrive at 11.30am to collect children by 11.45am so that educators can tidy up, reflect on their session, document children’s learning and plan for the following day / week etc. Please speak with Karena or Olivia if you have any questions or concerns about the running of the occasional care.



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

Crystal Brook  
Kindergarten

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We are still awaiting delivery of the green bags. Once they arrive we will distribute communication books to each child. Parents are encouraged to write notes in for staff, and staff can communicate any notes / reminders, anecdotal comments or a photo about your child's day. There wont always be a note from the kindy, however please get into the routine of checking your child's diary after each kindy session, and keep it in their kindy bag. We will encourage children to put their communication book in the basket on the bench.

We also use our Kindy closed Facebook group as a means of communicating regularly with families. This isn't our only means but please look up Crystal Brook Kindy (closed group) and request to join, if you haven't done so already. Only families with a child enrolled in Occasional Care or Preschool can access this page (site policy) We also have DECD approved staff and Regional Office staff able to access it too.

We will also send emails and text messages to families who are not on Facebook or who have indicated they do not regularly access the Kindy Facebook group.

## NQS Assessment

The Kindy received notification at the end of last year that we will be assessed as part of the Assessment and Rating cycle. We were last assessed in July 2013. We are looking forward to the opportunity to sharing the quality practices here at the kindy, and also the strong cycle of continuous improvement in place. We welcome parents and caregivers to help support us in preparation for our assessment which is likely to occur in the next few weeks. Please speak with Karena if you can spare some time and energy to assist.

Staff have been busily preparing for the upcoming assessment. The Quality Improvement Plan was submitted last Friday and a copy is available near the kitchen bench. This outlines site philosophy, areas of strengths based on self review practices, parent opinion surveys, key improvements sought for 2019, and priorities linked to actions, resources, strategies and timelines.

The QIP will be shared with families at the Governing Council meeting in week 3. A copy will be located on our web site, Facebook page and also a hard copy always available at the kindy. We invite you to have a read to familiarize yourself with our site priorities for the coming year. Families will be encouraged to offer feedback on the different quality areas, as this is an ongoing document that will be reviewed twice per term on a formal basis as part of educator pedagogy meetings.

Please have a chat to Karena or Cammie if you would like to help support the site/staff in any way in the lead up to the assessment. Many thanks :)