



Minlaton District Early Learning Centre Newsletter

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Week 2 Term 1 2018



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

DIARY DATES:

Wednesday 14 February 2018 7:00 at Centre

Governing Council AGM followed by General meeting. All welcome.

Wednesday 14 February

Bingo Jack Big Book Magic Show

Friday 23 February

Final uniform orders due

Monday 12 March – Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

No Playgroup

Friday 30 March – Good Friday

No Occasional Care

Friday 13 April

Last day of term

Welcome

- Welcome Playgroup, Occasional Care and Kindergarten children of 2018! We look forward to working with you and your families in this year ahead. We also look forward to sharing the development and growth of your child through their involvement at the centre.
- Please feel free to visit us at any time, we would love to share out learning or alternatively please arrange a time to speak with us should the need arise.
- Educators at the Centre will remain the same as last year and will consist of Director: Tracey Thom; Teachers: Louise Hanrahan and Meagan Elsworth; Kindergarten ECW: Tracey Hull and Shae Hender, Occasional Care: Tracey Hull, Megan Newby, Shae Hender.

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 2:45pm. 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

Welcome back, we hope you enjoyed the holidays. The children have settled back into the routine and enjoyed sand play, water play painting and using some of the loose parts eg. fences and tyres.

The morning session has been filling up fast but there are plenty of spaces available in the afternoon. Do you know of anyone who may be interested in Occasional Care? Please ask them to contact the centre for more information. If we are not utilising the afternoon Occasional Care session we may lose 1, possibly 2, sessions at the state wide utilisation review at the end of the year.

The centre has a mobile phone which is checked regularly so you can use this to message us for bookings or cancellations rather than email. The kindy mobile number is **0437789348**

Reminders

- Please label all of your child's belongings
- Let the centre know if your child is unable to attend
- Pack a hat and apply sunscreen to your child before

Tracey, Megan and Shae

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.

Kindy Curriculum

Focus Areas for the Term: Relationships; Transitioning into Kindy environment from home; Parent - Educator Interviews (goal setting); Meet and Greet Night; Mobile Junk and Nature Playground; All About Me boards; Gabby Get Along; Oscar Organisation; Routines / Expectations; Visits to everyone's home; Wipe Out Waste - Recycle, Compost, Rubbish.

Welcome to our year of Kindergarten, we are looking forward to learning more about your child and family as well as making learning discoveries throughout the year. As we have the whole year we focus on different aspects each term. During Term 1 we are focussing on relationships and expectations. This means we are setting the rules and boundaries as well as routines in the learning environment. We will be focussing on getting to know the children's interests and learning ideas.

The program and the activities are displayed on the window near the entry door. Have a look and please ask an educator if you have any questions.

We will be starting wondering groups with the children. This is where each educator has a topic of interest and children are able to select which group they would like to join and learn about the topic. The topic may go for the day or continue over a few days depending on where the children take the learning and investigating. These wondering groups will start at 9:00am.

We also have other learning groups throughout the day which have a focus on gross motor skills, You Can Do It curriculum, music and movement, relaxation and literacy. The focus depends on the day of the week and time. We will be displaying photos on the window of children in the environment so have a look as these will change fortnightly. They will also be in a book which you can look in at anytime.

As part of building relationships we are asking every child to make an All About Me Board which will be displayed at the Kindy. Children really love to see themselves and their family in the pictures and being able to show their friends. We would also like to have a house visit where all the children visit the front of your house, we take a photo, and your child tells us about their house. We then display the photo on the wall with a map to show where we come from. We conducted these visits last year with lots of positive feedback from everyone involved. More information will come out about these visits.

Comments from others:

Meagan Elsworthy (Educator) – During the homes visits the children would get excited as the bus got nearer their home. When the children spoke about their house and showed their peers around; they appeared to have a real sense of pride. It was a lovely experience for individual children to share parts of their home life with their peers, and also for the other Kindy children to see their friends 'life' outside of Kindy. Each child was able to share some things from home that they valued. Eg scooter, pets, bikes, toys, farm equipment, bedroom, etc.

Bron Polkinghorne (Parent); it was wonderful to see the kindy children spread their wings and venture out to other children's homes across the Peninsula. It allowed children to identify where other children live, what their tractors look like, their chooks etc. it was fantastic to see the faces and hear the excitement of Children who had never been on a school bus before or visited a farm. It allowed the children whose houses were visited to create conversation with other kids about their homes and surrounds. They were also able to make connections with other children whom lived quite close to them.

If you have dropped your child at Kindy you may have noticed the child sign in book. This is a record of your child's learning. We ask that you follow these rules as we want to document the journey.

- Please let your child write their name without your assistance. You can help them find their name on the page and point to the place next to it but please don't hold their hand.
- It is not a pre-requisite for children to be able to write their name before starting or even finishing Kindergarten. There are many skills that need to be developed before being able to write, including: coordination, gross motor, fine motor, scribbling, drawing.
- We have the name writing here so that we can see the progress your child is making with handgrip, letter recognition, copying and then writing their name throughout the year. Thanks

We also encourage independence and organisation. Please let your child unpack their back and put their belongings where they go on arrival so they know which containers are theirs. It also allows them to know the routine.

Our focus curriculum areas for the term.

Children feel safe, secure and supported - establish and maintain relationships with educators, children and families; build secure attachments; routines to help smooth transitions; explore and engage with the social and physical environments through relationships and play; explore aspects of identity through role play **Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency** - begin negotiation and sharing behaviours; cooperate and work collaboratively with others; open to new discoveries and challenges **Children develop knowledgeable and confident self identities** - feel recognised and respected for who I am; share aspects of their culture with others; celebrate and share contributions and achievements with others

Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect - show interest in others; engage in shared play experiences; express wide range of emotions, thoughts and views; aware of others' perspectives; reflect on actions and

consequences **Children respond to diversity with respect** - aware of connections, similarities, differences between others **Children become socially responsibly and show respect for the environment** - awareness of impact of human activity on environments **Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing** - demonstrate trust and confidence; share humour, happiness and satisfaction; recognise individual achievement; contribute to shared projects and experiences **Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing** - communicate body needs; engage in sensory, gross and fine motor activities; manipulate equipment and manage tools; show increasing independence in personal hygiene, care and safety

Speech and Language

We will be assessing every child during this term for articulation, expressing and receptive language. This is so that we can complete referrals to our Speech Pathologist if required. We will also be able to set up programs to use with your child to develop their speech and language. The screening is like a game that children sit with Louise to complete in the office where it is quiet. If your child requires a referral we will chat to you about this. Please ask if you have any questions.

Nut Free Centre

Just a reminder that the site is nut free. There is a total ban on nuts including nut pastes, whole nuts and nuts as ingredients. No known egg allergies are currently present at the centre this year so boiled eggs, quiches etc are okay to pack until further notice.

Playgroup

Congratulations to new our new playgroup coordinators Megan Mahar. Please support Megan 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 14th February 7.00pm 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 2017 Council. Meetings are usually twice a term, in the evening at the Centre. They are open for everyone to attend. Speak to 2016 Governing council members or Trace if you would like to have more information.

A General Meeting will follow the AGM.

Kindergarten fees

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

**From all the educators at
MDELC**

Do you have any or could you collect us any loose parts???

