

Newsletter, Term 1, Week 4

We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal people as the State's first people and Nations, and recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters.

Key Dates:

March 8th – Holi- Hindu Festival of Colours

March 9th - Welcome picnic

March 13th – Adelaide Cup P/H

Director's message:

Welcome to your first newsletter for 2023. We want the news to be relevant and useful for you and so please let us know how we can improve on what we provide you with. Think of this letter as an update on what is happening and what other services you may want to access. The first part of the letter is about the curriculum and program followed with information about our other programs both in the Children's Centre building and further afield. The idea is that we support you in your important role of parenting.

It has been wonderful getting to meet you all and get to know your children. The acquaintance night was well attended and provided those who attended with an idea on the teaching and learning that happens in our play based curriculum. For those who weren't able to attend but would like to know more, please make a time to speak with a teacher.

We will offer other opportunities for you to attend events and get to know other families. This newsletter will be a primary source of such information.

A few reminders to keep us all healthy. COVID -19 is still in our community and whilst we are 'living and working with COVID', we need to remind you all that if your child has any symptoms of COVID – which are symptoms of a virus, then please stay home.

We are about to hit some hot weather and our policy requires us to bring children inside or under the veranda where the air conditioner can lower the temperature. This means that children will be in close contact with each other in a reduced space and we will encourage them to engage in quieter play. We will ensure that we actively supervise children and offer appropriate experiences for this situation. If the weather reaches the predicted 38/40C, then it might

be in your child's interest for you to pick them up earlier than the usual dismissal time. Please don't feel pressured to do this, our aim is to ensure you know what the situation will be like, so you can make an informed decision.

Throughout the year we hope to work with families who can add to the preschool. We will have Working Bees, but also we are seeking families who have 'talents' artists, musicians, gardeners etc. Each year we work with families to leave a legacy for the next year, one that the children enjoy designing and developing in the year they attend. This year we are looking to develop a mural on the brick wall and seek anyone that has experience in this. In addition, music is an important part of our curriculum and if you are a musician, we would love you to contact us if you are prepared to play for the children. Not concert style, but in a way that invites children to sit, listen and watch, or respond to - which they will inevitably do as they are hugely attracted to live music. Have a chat with a teacher or myself if you are curious about this and we can take it from there.

I work across two buildings and so you won't always see me at drop off or pick up, but there is always a designated lead responsible person on duty each day. This person is identified on the board above the sign in sheet. However, if you ever need to speak with me please send an email or let a teacher know.

Ngaityalya,
(Kaurna, *thank you*)
Christine (Director
Education and Care)



Early Learning Centre/Preschool

Belonging: is integral to human existence. In early childhood, and throughout life, trusting relationships and affirming experiences are crucial to a sense of belonging. – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia v2.

Over the past 3 weeks children have become familiar with the preschool environment and they are building trusted connections with educators. We have been supporting peer connections through name games, social interactions, child-led play experiences and intentional teaching.

The daily schedule has supported children's wellbeing where they have been able to track, monitor and predict their day. Our focus has been on establishing familiarity with routines and supporting children's independence to follow the signals for these routines throughout the day.

Children have engaged in small group experiences where group norms such as keeping themselves and others safe have been introduced. Through mindfulness children have explored getting in tune with their bodies, taking deep breaths and slowing down their bodies in preparation for lunch.



The photos shows us celebrating one of many birthdays with a Happy Birthday song and well wishes for a great day and year ahead.

Hint: There's a lot of maths as well as joy in celebrating birthdays

Thank you to all the families who attended acquaintance night and who have placed a leaf on the Kindy belonging tree. If you are yet to fill in a leaf indicating your hopes and wishes for your child we would love your contribution. This was a good opportunity for us as educators to share with families some of the valuable learning that the preschool environment provides.

We have enjoyed getting to know yourselves and your children and we are beginning to create individual learning plans for each child. Children continue to follow their interests and we are getting to know your children as part of our emergent curriculum.

The program we are developing is based on your child, their interests and abilities as well as the five Outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework. These Outcomes are:

- **Children have a strong sense of identity**
- **Children are connected with and contribute to their world**
- **Children have a strong sense of wellbeing**
- **Children are confident and involved learners**
- **Children are effective communicators.**

Please look at the programming board on your left just inside the main door and speak with a teacher for further information.

We continue to ask families to greet their key educator in the morning (Play Spaces) as this supports children's wellbeing and sense of belonging and safety within the preschool environment. This also strengthens parent/educator relationships and provides an opportunity for families and educators to connect regularly.

Reminders:

- Sign your child in and out each day
- Bring a named hat
- Clearly name all of your child's items
- Name lunch boxes on the outside
- Bring a cold hard pack for food





The Chinese Dragon
Headdress we made for our,
Dragon dance to celebrate
Chinese New Year.



From the preschool teaching team: Shelley, Gen,
Katrina, Lisa, Alison, Mary, Kirsty.

Welcome Picnic

The kindy invites you to join us
as the sun sets for a Picnic

Where: the school oval next to the Children's Centre



When: Thursday 9th March 2023
5.00 – 6.30pm

Please bring:

- your own picnic to share with your family
- a picnic rug

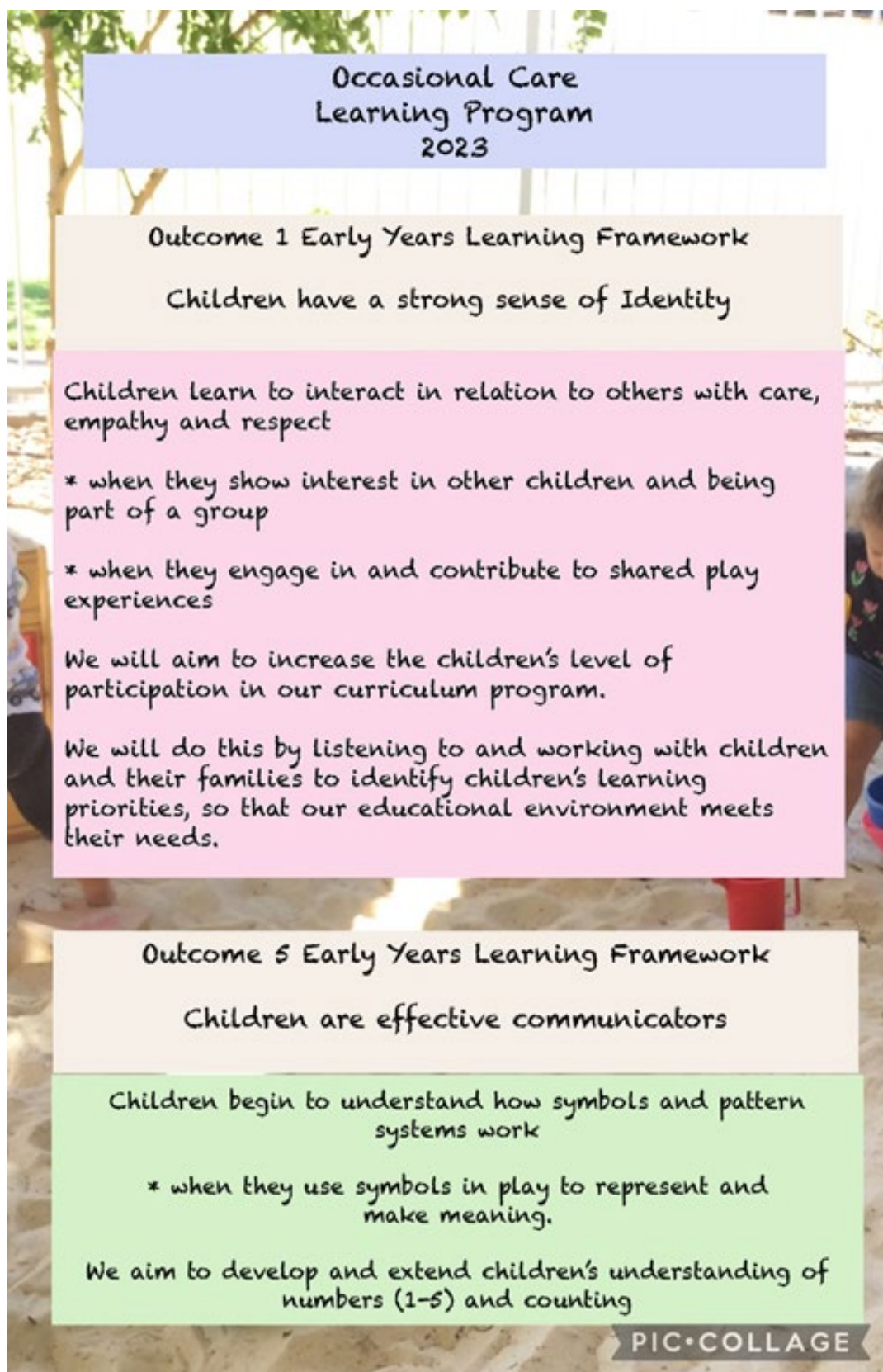
This will be a fantastic opportunity to meet other kindy families
and to get to know each other and the educators better

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Occasional Care

Welcome to our Occasional Care program for 2023. Most of you have now attended at least once, and it has been great to catch up again, and to welcome new families.

I have attached an overview of our program, and a brief look at how our first two weeks have gone. Keep an eye out for our Big Book in which we will add photos and children's work and voices. We will show our planning for the children's learning, and how the children have responded and engaged in their learning and connected with us and with each other.



Occasional Care continued...

We have a strong focus on building trusting relationships and being available to children as they learn to separate from parents and spend time with us and their peers. Separation can be difficult for many children. We recommend establishing a consistent goodbye routine with your child, showing your child calm confidence even when you don't feel it, and always saying "Goodbye, Alison and Kirsty will take care of you, and I will come back" when you leave. When you are ready, leave promptly, and Alison and Kirsty will stay close and give comfort.
Term 1 2023 Weeks 1 and 2



PIC•COLLAGE

Thanks Alison and Kirsty

Message from Emma



If your child has recently had their 4-year-old immunisation please email a copy of the immunisation history statement to dl.1625.webmasters@schools.sa.edu.au to ensure our site is compliant. If you need help accessing the statement call 8333 2557.

Please remember to send your child's medication to preschool each day they attend, to ensure staff are able to provide health support if needed.

If you are planning to send your child to OSHC please fill out the transport authority paperwork, which can be collect at the preschool.

Thanks

Community Development Update

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to all families as you start your journey with us either in the Preschool or Children's Centre or both in 2023.

My role as the Community Development Coordinator (CDC) in the Children's Centre is to be the community connection for families. We aim to offer a wide range of community programs at the Children's Centre to compliment the education programs we provide for families. My role is also to foster connections across the broader community through my partnering and working with other agencies that will also benefit our families.

It has been nice this year to start the New Year with all programs busy and filled with children and families. There have been some new faces in all the Playgroups at the Children's Centre.

Our first Dad's Playgroup this year started off well with a core group of Dads who attend each time and some new Dads come along too. It was good to see these new dads enjoy spending a fun morning at Playgroup with their children and making connections with the core dads.

I am looking forward to our other programs starting as the Term progresses.

Please have a look at our "What's On" for all program details and if you have any questions, please let me know as I will be happy to help if I can.

Take Care

Cathy

