

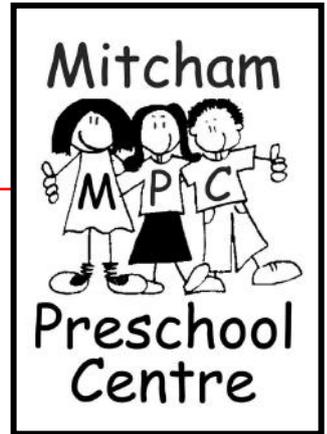


Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

Tel: 82712042 Fax: 82728272

email: Chris.Catt906@schools.sa.edu.au

web: www.mitchampre.sa.edu.au



**Term 1
Newsletter 3**

This week at kindy

This week we will continue our focus of learning *My place in the world, "cultures of the World Underpinned by Book-making"*

Our inquiry question for the week will be "What do we know about Australian culture? - An Indigenous focus"

To support our learning we will have inside

- Home corner with babies, pictures of homes around the world (dramatic play)
- Mark making table—writing media, caterpillar paper, book templates, add indigenous symbol stones (literacy / fine motor)
- Numeracy table—number frames, magnetic numbers, number flip boards (numeracy)
- minibests, logs, books (dramatic play / understanding our world)
- Magnetic tiles and Australia landmarks for inspiration (Problem solving)
- Art table—caterpillar books,

life cycle photos of a butterfly—add paper to make "lift the flap books" (Literacy / fine motor)

- Story table—5 speckled frogs (numeracy)
- Library—Rhyming & lift the flap books (literacy)
- Palette 1—number matching game (numeracy)
- Palette 2—rhyming puzzle game (literacy)
- Quiet corner with bead patterning (fine motor, numeracy)
- Challenge table—60 piece challenge puzzle (challenge & persistence)
- Indigenous display of books, art etc
- STEM centre—"Where do we find numbers?" (STEM)

Outside there will be

- Box construction (Problem solving)
- Fine motor challenge—Indigenous flag collage (Fine motor / understanding our world)
- Mark making challenge—Observing photos of Uluru and

painting it (observation / fine motor skills)

- Tessellation shapes (numeracy)
- Sandpit with hard hat, signs, vests (sensory)
- Australian culture hunt—looking for photos in the environment (challenge & persistence)
- Train set on the table (dramatic play)
- Soccer (gross motor)
- Black tray with sand and small diggers (literacy)
- Dome with cuddly toys (sensory)
- Dramatic play with Australian animals (dramatic play)
- Travel agency (dramatic play)
- Potions table (sensory)

Literacy focus

- Identifying name cards
- Practice writing our names
- Identifying rhyme in stories
- Book making—publish children's books

Numeracy focus

- Number recognition, counting
- Number sense
- Recognising shapes

Challenge tasks

- Australian culture hunt
- Fine motor challenge
- Mark making challenge

It's another busy week at kindy.

Inside this issue:

AGM Muffins / popcorn	2
Developing independence	3
Challenge tasks	3
Assessing & reporting	4
Kindy calendar	4
Conventions of print	5
Kindy clothing	6

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting has been postponed until

Tuesday March 15th.

At 7pm

Held at the preschool.

With several cases of COVID at preschool it was advised to delay the AGM for 2 weeks.

I sent out an alert last Friday to inform families of the postponement of the AGM. I also advised that we had only 5 parents who had volunteered to join the Governing Council for 2022.

Following that email / letter, a few other parents have indicated they are willing to join. We are very grateful of your support in joining the Governing Council.

There are still places available to join. If you need any further information, or are keen to join, please do not hesitate to

Speak with me.

Being part of the Governing Council is such a rewarding experience, a chance to be part of the decision making of the centre, to find out what happens behind the scenes and an opportunity to meet other parents.

We hope you consider joining this years Governing Council.

Muffins / popcorn

Families have been sending muffins and cakes for snacks & lunch.

I realise that some families use healthy ingredients and make their own muffins. However there are plenty of shop bought muffins and it becomes too difficult to determine what are healthy / shop bought / sweet muffins.

Families have also been sending popcorn for snack / lunch. Whilst plain popcorn is fine, there are so many varieties of popcorn that have sugar and salt toppings. And again, it is difficult to determine the plain / flavoured popcorn.

As a result, when developing & reviewing the nutrition policy, the staff and Governing Council, agreed to keep the nutrition policy manageable by not including muffins, cakes and popcorn.

We talk about those foods as being suitable for an after kindy snack.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to speak with me.

Every 2 years the policies are reviewed, including the Nutrition Policy. The policies are due to be reviewed mid 2022.

For now, we will follow the guidelines of the current Nutrition Policy

Boxes

Thankyou for all the donations of boxes for our engineers and constructors.

We now have a large supply of boxes and **do not need anymore at this time.**

I will let you know when our supply gets low again.

Volunteering at preschool

Volunteering at preschool (and school) is so rewarding, being able to support staff and children

- On excursions
- On walks to Brownhill Creek
- At our funtastics, motor coordination program

Volunteering isn't compulsory, it is totally up to you. However to volunteer, you need to have the following

- Working With Children's Check (WWCC)
- Have participated in online training RRHAN-EC (Recognising and Responding to harm and neglect—Education & Care)
- Be double vaccinated against COVID-19.

If you would like to volunteer and want information in how to access WWCC & RRHAN-EC, please don't hesitate to speak with me. We will be planning our walks to the creek / an excursion very soon.

Developing independence

One important learning outcome for children in their year at preschool is developing independence. Not just independence in leaving their family each day and remaining & coping in the care of staff at preschool, but developing independence skills. That is, developing skills to manage everyday tasks without the support of adults. For example, putting on their own socks and shoes, washing their hands before eating, wiping their own bottom, finding their own snack in their box, hanging up their painting, putting on a smock, getting their own jumper on or off etc, etc. We know they are only 4 years old (and some are still 3 years old). However, at school there is high expectations by teachers that they are independent and manage these "life skills" without support of adults. So the kindy year, is the perfect time to encourage your child's independence.

We have found many children have limited skills in managing tasks independently. Lots of children are expecting adults "to do everything" for them. So we have started the process of encouraging independence. That is, with prompts & gentle persuasion we have expected them to "have a go" and try some everyday tasks such as putting on their socks & shoes. We talk them through the process, remind them they are "big kindy kids" and generally, they complete the tasks (even if some help is still required).

Being independent is empowering for your child. Believing in themselves, that they "can do it" and succeed in everyday tasks (and in other situations). Believing that adults feel they are worthwhile and capable, helps develop a positive self esteem. That is, a positive belief in themselves.

If your child relies on you to complete tasks, try and encourage independence starting with putting their pyjamas on by themselves. This time of the day is usually more relaxed rather than hustle of getting out of the house each morning. The weekend is also a good time to practice these tasks, where you generally have more time. Remember to give them plenty of time, lots of encouragement and praise and hints to step them through the process.

Independence skills are life skills. Skills your child will not only need at preschool, but at school, at work and in life. 4 years of age is the perfect time to help your child develop these skills

Challenge tasks

We have introduced the concept of "challenges". Challenges are tasks, or experiences, that can be a little difficult or "tricky" to do / participate in. Challenges can some times make us feel frustrated, worried or anxious. However, if we take a risk, have a go and persist at the task, we can have success.

It might take time, but not to give up. Keep trying.

Achievements are very satisfying. They make us feel happy, proud, fulfilled and successful. Overcoming a challenge helps build self esteem and a belief in ourselves as successful learners.

We have introduced challenge puzzles. These puzzles will be indicated by a yellow star. Having a go at a "tricky" puzzle, persisting and not giving up, developing strategies to complete the puzzle rather than just walking away eg asking a friend or teacher for help, are skills that can be applied to any task or experience.

We have had the number hunt...finding numbers hidden inside. Once the children find the numbers, they tick them off their sheet of paper. The numbers can be hidden in tricky places and not easy to find. The children are encouraged to persist, not to give up, work with a friend to find the numbers.

We have had the teacher hunt with photos of the teachers hidden in the outdoor area to find and mark off the sheet. We have fine motor challenge and mark making challenges

"Challenge, persistence, hard work" are part of our part of our daily conversations.

As the term / year continues, we will add in further challenge tasks, encouraging children to take a risk, have a go, and persist—important skills for life and learning. (Yellow stars indicate the challenge tasks)

These challenge tasks are all part of the work that we do at our preschool to support children to develop "Growth Mindsets". I will send out information on growth mindsets over the next few weeks.

Assessment and reporting

During your child's year at kindy it is a requirement for staff to monitor and assess their progress. This happens through a number of processes.

1. In their first term, staff will informally assess your child in some key literacy / numeracy & fine motor areas to give us a "picture" of where they are in their development. This occurs on a one on one basis, generally in weeks 5 & 6, once the children have settled into routines.
2. Following the informal assessment Maddie, Suzi or myself will give you some feedback via an informal conversation. We make a time to see you either at the beginning or end of the day, requiring 10–15 minutes of your time.
3. Throughout the year, staff will continue to monitor your child's progress through observations, conversations with children & parents, at funfastics, taking photos, collecting examples of their work and using learning stories
4. Through out the year, we provide feedback on children's progress to families, as required. Staff and / or parents may initiate conversations to discuss your child's progress.
5. During your child's 3rd or 4th term at preschool, we again informally assess each child. At this point, our assessment is more comprehensive as we are covering a wider range of literacy & language skills / numeracy skills / motor skills / social skills
6. Again following this informal assessment, Maddie, Suzi or myself will make time to meet with you, to provide feedback on your child's progress & development
7. In their final term, this information is formatted in a "Statement of Learning" that is forwarded on to your child's school.

Assessing and reporting on your child's progress is an important part of the work we do. Keeping you informed on their progress and working together to achieve positive learning outcomes, is imperative for your child.

We look forward to providing you with some feedback following our informal assessing after weeks 5 & 6

If you have any concerns or feel you need to share some information about your child, don't hesitate to speak with one of the staff.

Staff meeting

On Mondays between blue and gold group sessions, the staff meet to plan the learning and experiences for the following week. We meet from 11.30am–12.30pm.

Once we have finished, (at 12.30pm) we will come and greet gold group at the gate.

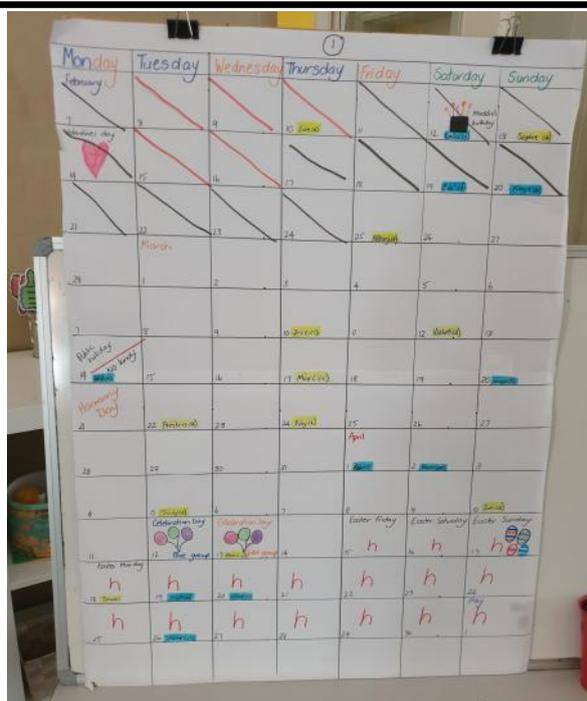
There is always something happening at preschool.

Calendar to support literacy & numeracy skills

We have a term calendar. It is on the white notice board where the teacher sits at the front for group time. The calendar shows days of the week, months, numbers and once COVID restrictions allow, it will show events for term 1. We will use the calendar to

- Recognize the pattern of the days of the week
- Number recognition
- Counting down, counting on
- Developing an understanding of months of the year
- celebrate birthdays
- Plus it will help us know & remember important kindy events

Calendars provide wonderful literacy & numeracy learning opportunities. Also children really work well when they are informed, know routines etc. ! For some children, changes in routines suddenly "sprung on" them, can be stressful.



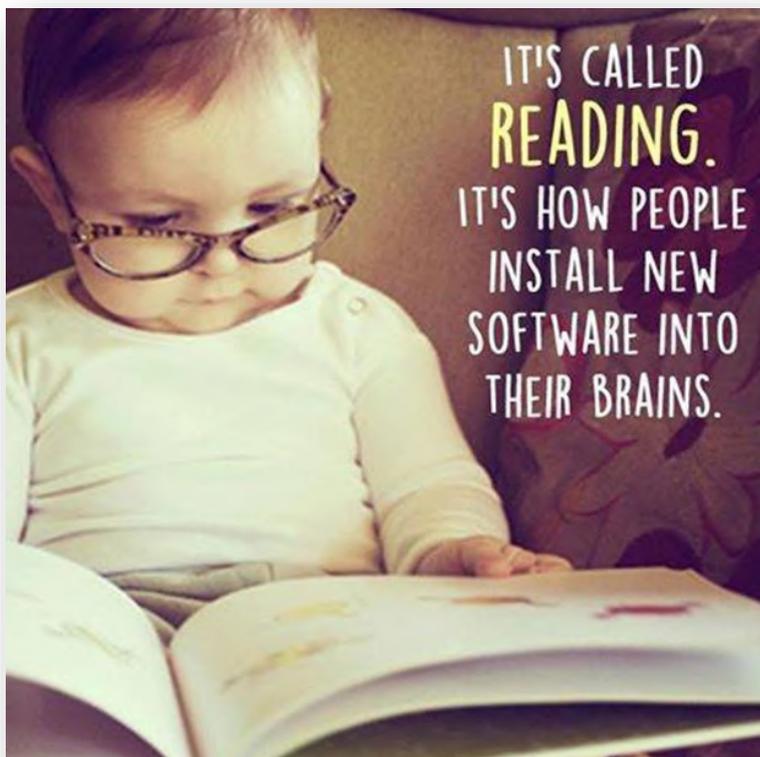
Conventions of print

We have introduced many concepts of literacy in the first 4 weeks of preschool

- Recognising our name card / using our name card to copy our name on to our books, paintings & drawings
- Phonological awareness—Rhyme—hearing the rhyming words in stories
- Conventions of print—understanding concepts associated with books etc, such as front cover / back cover / spine / title / blurb / author / illustrator / reading from left to right

These concepts of literacy have been really important in our introduction and focus on "Bookmaking".

However, they are also really important aspects for the higher order processes such as reading. I have attached some information about "The Conventions of Print", if you wish to support your child in developing / extending these important skills. If you need any further information, don't hesitate to speak with one of the educators.



IT'S CALLED
READING.
IT'S HOW PEOPLE
INSTALL NEW
SOFTWARE INTO
THEIR BRAINS.

Information and permission forms for walks to Brownhill Creek, Park and Library, have been placed in your child's note pocket.

Permission forms need to be returned by

Monday March 7th

So that we can plan our first trip to the Creek.

The staff have found it really difficult in recognizing parents / carers behind the masks. Added to that challenge, is trying to recognize parents, when standing so far away from us.

Looking at a sea of masks is a challenge!

In a normal year, I would recognize parents and connect them to the children immediately .

This year, it is has been more challenging.

We will all look forward to a time when we don't need to wear masks.

We hope you understand!

Thank you as always for your continued support.

It is always appreciated.

Chris, Maddie, Suzi,
Lyn, Robyn

Kindy clothing!

Kindy hats and kindy t-shirts are back in stock. We now have available for sale

- Bucket hats with logo (navy with white logo) - one size fits all—\$10.00 each
- T shirts—navy with pink logo / navy with white logo—sizes 4 & 6—\$10.00 each

Unfortunately the company incorrectly completed our order.

- They provided us with windcheaters with logos as per below (the colour of the actual jumpers are brighter than the photos depict). They are size 4. If you are interested in purchasing a jumper I will sell them for \$15.00.
- We have re-ordered our usual fleecy jumpers with the half zip and embroidered logo. They will be available in a couple of weeks.

If you are wanting hat, tshirt or jumper below, please don't hesitate to speak with one of the staff. I will let you know when our usual fleecy jumpers are in stock.



Guitta, from Hawthorn Child Care Centre, has access to a wide range of child size masks that sell for \$2.00 each. There are sizes

- 2-4 years
- 3-6 years
- 5-7 years
- 8-12 years
- 12-teens
- Adults

If you are interested in purchasing any masks please don't hesitate to contact either myself or Guitta 8373 5010

