Dear preschool families and caregivers,

We are already moving towards the end of our first term of preschool for 2015. We have had a great start to the year, with children settling into preschool life with eagerness and joy. We will be seeking your feedback about our transition program in the next few weeks as a way of improving the transition process and ensuring a smooth transition for our children in 2017. The children have been building a strong sense of belonging and identity. Through our learning experiences and interactions we aim to; build connections with each other, build on or create new relationships with others and our new environment, and establish group norms, rules and responsibilities to ensure that we keep ourselves and each other safe.

Our 2016 Governing Council has met twice this year. We have 23 members and they are Natalie Skinner (Ella) Chairperson, Sascha Byrne (Charlotte) Secretary, Debra Wundke (Sophie) Treasurer, Helene Giles (Alex), Natalie Schulz (Ava), Amy Junggeburt (Chelsea), Helen Stevens (Olivia), Manisha Thakkar (Apala), Hatel Patel (Yug), Kim Meier (Harrison), Max Gavros (Luca), Scott Dearman (Charlotte), Jihan Abimosleh (Bassil), Lara Clifford (Amaya), Bianca Sheehan (Elijah), Conrad Wilkins (Eve), Rebecca O’Rielly (Flyn), Janine Fedorchuk-Weeks (Kaia) and Kathy Healey (Michaela). Their photo will be placed on the parent notice board.

A copy of the 2015 Annual report will be placed on the sign in table for families to view. Please keep it in this area and if you require your own copy, ask an educator for a copy.

A copy of our Quality Improvement Plan for 2016 is on the whiteboard. We are seeking input from families about this plan. Please write comments/suggestions on the plan, speak to an educator or place comments in the yellow box on the sign in table.

We would like to thank all the families who supported our Bunning’s BBQ fundraiser. A big thank you to the helpers on the day and the organisers. Also a big thank you to all the families who bought sausages/drinks.

I would also like to say thank you to our families who cut our fruit/vegetables for Harmony Day.

Thank you for your time and support.
Celebrations

Celebrations are an important element of our preschool program. They provide an opportunity for children to broaden their understanding of the world and to learn about other cultures and traditions. Celebrating important cultural events relevant to the children and families attending our preschool contributes to a feeling of belonging and a sense of community. If you would like to be involved or know of someone who can help us celebrate festivals/cultural events in our preschool, please speak with an educator.

Preschool Photos

Bruce Hobby took the children’s individual and group photos on the 8th and 10th of March. Unfortunately the weather was very hot on the Tuesday and very wet on the Thursday. The photos have arrived at preschool for families to look at and purchase. Please return all unwanted photos and money by 30th March. We ask that when purchasing photos that the correct money is placed in a sealed and named envelope.

Responding to abuse and neglect induction session for volunteers

One of the DECD requirements for families who are involved in the preschool includes participating in a Responding to Abuse and Neglect course. It is important that volunteers who work in environments with children and young people are aware of the contribution they can make to helping keep children and young people safe. Our local schools are providing this valuable training. A copy of term 1 training days and schools is on the whiteboard. If you require term 2 dates please speak with an educator.

If you are thinking about volunteering on excursions, Governing Council or helping at the preschool it is important you attend and receive a certificate. This certificate is valid for 3 years and is transferable to the schooling sector.

Family Interviews

On Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th of April the preschool provides an opportunity for all families to participate in a ten minute interview where the focus will be on sharing information about your child. A timetable will be placed on the whiteboard where all families can select a time and place their name on the form. Interviews are from 3.30pm to 7.30pm. Please ensure your name is placed with your child’s focus teacher. On the night, all families will be given a statement of learning which we want returned before the end of term with your comments. We will use this information to plan for your child’s term 2 learning.

Community News

FREE seminar – Toddlers and touch screens: what should I do?

Touchscreens have become part of our everyday world. Parents are amazed at how quickly toddlers become adept in using them and how easily they hold a child’s attention. However, they are also unsure if it is safe for toddlers to use touchscreens regularly.

Come and hear nationally recognised parenting speaker, author and researcher Dr Justin Coulson talk about:

- the pros and cons of the digital age for children 0 to 5 years
- how and when to introduce touchscreens and games
- how to manage electronic media use.

The event will be webcast to accommodate parents and carers who cannot attend in person.

**Date and time:** Tuesday 5 April, 7.00 to 9.00pm

**Venue:** City Rooms, Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace


Family Photo

As a way to continue to develop the children’s sense of belonging here at preschool we invite families to bring in a picture of your family, special person or animal that we can place near our dolls house. Homes and families are the foundation to children’s identity, therefore we would like to create the feeling of a family home through the dolls house with images of all of the Vale Park Preschool families. If you would like, we can take your family picture for you when you come into preschool. Please speak to Danielle or Dani for more information.

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As a part of the Child Protection Curriculum’s topic on safe and unsafe, the Fire Brigade will visit us. The fire people will talk with us about fire emergencies and how we can keep ourselves safe if this situation arises. If time allows, the children may be able to look at the fire truck closely. The Fire Brigade will visit us on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th March.

We are currently trying to organise an ambulance to visit the preschool. If anyone is able to help with a contact please see Danielle.

Women’s and Children’s Health Network, through CAFHS offers free child health checks at key ages be- tween birth and 5 years. As part of this service, CAFHS nurses visit pre-schools throughout SA to offer health checks to all children between 4 & 5 years of age. The health check includes a discussion with you about your child's growth and development, immunisation status and they will also assess your child’s distance vision, hearing, height and weight and oral health. There are still a few appointment times left for Wednesday the 6th of April. If your child has been identified as being eligible for the first the term 1 appointments and you would like an appointment please speak to a staff member.

At the end of each week we have a small bag of washing that requires washing. All families are put on a roster to complete this task once during their time at preschool. We understand that family life can be busy and if this roster does not suit, can you please speak with another parent on the list and swap with them or speak to Alisa. The roster for term 1 is on the noticeboard and will be put in your pocket. Thank you to:

- Ava Farr—week 8
- Ava Schultz—week 9
- Ayame Colebrook —week 10
- Billy Lister—week 11

Many children come to preschool showing an interest in writing and in particular writing their name. It is important that children are supported to follow their interests and also to form letters in a way that supports latter writing experiences. Holding the pencil, using uppercase and lower case letters and forming letters correctly are important writing skills. The following link contains charts that explain the way to formulate letters and numerals using the South Australian style of handwriting.


The last week of each term is a time to tidy the environment and ensure it is ready for the next term. We ask all families to assist with the end of term cleaning tasks in two out of the four terms each year. If all families are able to spare a half an hour to help their child’s preschool, fees are able to be kept low. A list of jobs will be on the whiteboard. Please put your name against a job. Thank you