



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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Newsletter Term 3 No. 2

Term 3 has been no exception to the rest of the year and it has been filled with inquiry, excitement and learning! The first two terms of preschool have been packed full of exciting opportunities and experiences. The children have been so busy forming and developing friendships, exploring the ever-changing learning environment and a whole lot more! Terms 3 and 4 will be no different with a whole new range of experiences to engage in.

Road Safety Centre

The Purple group had a wonderful day at the Road Safety Centre this term, learning all about being safe on and off the roads. Being a safe pedestrian, bicycle rider and as a car passenger. Unfortunately the Green group excursion had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Luckily, we were able to reschedule this excursion for later in the term; **Thursday the 12th of September.**



Self-regulation workshop for parents!

Thank you to all of the families who attended the self-regulation workshop. We had some fantastic feedback about the workshop and it is the high engagement levels from families that allows us to provide these opportunities for you all.

Book Week!

This week was book week! Book week is a fantastic way to bring children and books together. It is a way to celebrate reading and Australian children's literature. The purple group celebrated book week on Wednesday and the green group celebrated book week on Friday. The children celebrated book week by bringing in their favourite book or by dressing up as their favourite character, and then finally finishing the day with a parade! It was a fantastic week and we look forward to celebrating more stories throughout the year.



Warmer weather

Moving into terms 3 and 4, the weather will begin its transition to warmer days. Please ensure that your child is packing their hat each day for when the UV index is 3 or above and hats are required. We encourage you to talk to your children about the UV index and how important hats are for outside play when the UV is 3 or above. Staff are consistently checking the UV index each morning to ensure that the weather is appropriate.

Preschool Closure Day

At our meeting on Monday night our final 3 closure days for the year were approved by your Governing Council. There will be one closure day this term ... Friday 20th September (wk 9) and two in Term 4 Friday 25th October and Monday 28th October. There will be no preschool sessions on these days.

Parent opinion surveys!

The final date for the Parent opinion surveys has passed but we would still appreciate any and all feedback from families as it helps us to grow and develop our preschool as a community.

One of the concerns raised in the survey was about what happens when a child gets hurt at preschool ... is an incident report completed ... are parents informed? The answer to both questions is yes ... when your child is hurt at preschool the first thing we do is comfort and treat your child. At times all that is needed is a hug, at other times more substantial first aid treatment is needed. Where possible we try to have two staff attend to the child, one to treat and one to observe, assist and collect information about the incident – this may include talking to other children to find out what happened. When needed (head injury, bleeding, vomiting etc.) parents are informed immediately. Once your child has been treated we then fill in the paperwork ... all injuries are recorded on our accident log. Data from this log is collated and presented to Governing Council once a term to identify any trends. If the injury was minor an *Injury or Illness Home Report* is completed and put in your child's information pocket ... this is to let you know what has happened and how it was treated. We use these forms for minor scrapes, bumps or cuts. If the injury, illness or incident is more serious then an *Injury, Illness, Incident or Trauma Record* is completed. This report must be signed by a parent/caregiver and a copy is given to you. These reports are also entered onto our Department database and monitored externally for any follow-up. Our whole team are trained first aiders, which far exceeds the industry standard – for a centre as large as ours we only need one trained first aider on duty each day.

As you can see we have a rigorous and thorough protocol for recording injuries at our preschool. But, sometimes the system can break down ... children may have an accident but not want to tell us or when we follow up the child has not wanted any treatment, and at times we are so busy we forget to talk to you. If you are concerned that your child has not been treated for an injury please come and speak to one of the team.

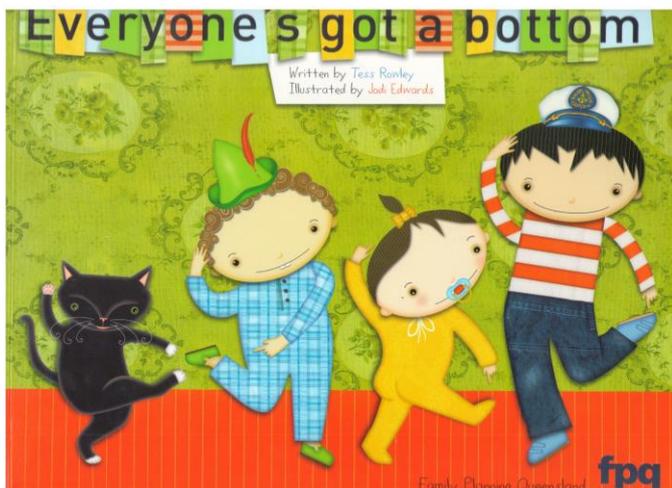
Another concern that was raised in the Parent Opinion Survey was about our curriculum and reporting at preschool. Like all other Department preschools we use the Early Years Learning Framework as a base for our curriculum planning and reporting to families. The Department mandates that all preschools report to families at the end of your child's preschool year by way of a Statement of Learning. At our preschool we recognise that families want more than just a report at the end of their child's time, so we also write a First Term Summary. The first term summary is a short comment which outlines how your child has settled into preschool, their likes and learning strengths. Each teacher also writes some goals for each child ... some children may have one or two goals, some children may have more. Portfolios are used to record progress toward goals as well as events that have happened at preschool and most importantly for your child to put their favourite pieces of work into. All teachers made themselves available for interviews in Term 2, so families could make a time to come in and talk to their child's small group teacher about how their child was progressing.

Some families said in the survey our goals were generic and the same for all children. All teachers think carefully about the goals we write and ensure they are specific to your child and based on our observations of them over the term, but as we are looking at learning and development in the areas of literacy, numeracy, fine and gross motor skills and social development, sometimes the goals may sound similar. We then base our future work with your child and groups of children based on their goals eg there may be 10 children who need some support in developing their fine motor skills ... so we intentionally plan learning experiences with those 10 children in mind and ensure they have access and support to participate in the activity to develop their skills.

So as you can see our team provides a number of ways of providing information about your child to you, but please remember that the most important way we report to you is our conversations with you about your child. Any member of our team is happy to meet with you to discuss your child's progress ... all you need to do is let us know.

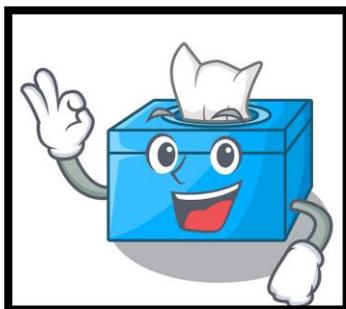
Child protection curriculum!

The conversations around the book "Everyone's got a bottom" have been happening most days at preschool and we are sure that the children have been coming home talking about what they are learning including correct terminology for body parts, privacy and the slogan "From my head to my toes ... I say what goes". As you would realise some of the topics in our book can be uncomfortable to talk about – for both children and staff, so if you happen to be at group time while we are discussing sensitive topics, please be respectful of the teacher running the session.



Donations!!!!

Thank you for your tissue box and toilet paper donations, we very much appreciate the generosity of our families. The donations are appreciated by all of the staff and children at the preschool. We also appreciate all of your box donations and we ask if you can continue to bring them in!! The children have been so productive in the first two terms that we want to make sure that we don't run out of boxes to design, construct and investigate with.



Sign-in sheets

REMEMBER: The children have their own sign in sheets! Each morning after you sign your child in, we would love if you could encourage your child to write their own name on their sign in sheet. Please find your child's name on their group (small group Teacher) list and assist them with writing their name each morning!

A photograph of a sign-in sheet. It has a list of names on the left and empty boxes on the right for signatures. The names listed are: Ayza, Abhikrat, Aditi, Alexander, Aniradh, Chester, Cienna, Cyrus, Joey, Lyla, Max, Saanvi, Sara, Theo, Uday, and Umar.

Mud Kitchen Utensils!

The mud kitchen is continuously adapting and being upgraded by the children with "Mud recipes" being the most recent addition. We would love if families could donate any old pots, pans and kitchen utensils to the preschool so that we can continue to experiment and investigate!



Dates to remember:

- ❖ Road Safety Centre Green Group: Thursday 12th September.
- ❖ Closure Day Friday 20th September (wk9)
- ❖ Next governing council Monday 16th of September