January 2014

‘Children and young people are at the centre of everything we do’

Welcome
Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to the beginning of a new year at Seacliff Community Kindergarten. We look forward to our involvement with your child and family over the coming year.

Please remember that settling into kindy often takes time and we need to be flexible and responsive to the children’s needs over the coming weeks to make their start to kindergarten happy and successful. Attending regularly, taking time to settle your child at the beginning of the day, introducing them to other children and being on time to pick them up are all important in building children’s trust in a new environments. Please remember to say goodbye when you leave and to let your child know that you will be keen to know about their day when you come back.

Given that this week will also be extremely hot you may wish to consider picking your child up early if possible. We will endeavour to keep children cool and out of the heat of the day in accordance with our hot weather policy however your child may become tired due to the extreme heat. Lots of water to drink and play in will be in order this week I think! Please send a set of spare clothes in your child’s bag.

Monthly newsletters will be produced to keep you informed of the kindergarten happenings. Read them and ask us if you have any queries about the content. Your questions and feedback are valued.

Curriculum.
Helping the children to build strong and trusting relationships with us and their peers will be a priority as we begin the year. Staff will take photos of the children that will be displayed next to their name cards. As your child begins getting to know other children they may wish to show you who their friends are (often recalling names takes time too) so looking at the photos with your child will help you to feel connected with their peers.

Learning about the routines and building confidence to make choices and independently work next to and with others will also be a priority this term. Staff will observe and build on children’s interests as well as introduce new learning that encourages children’s curiosity and problem solving.

As your child progresses through the term we will begin to write learning stories for you to read and share with them. Each learning story will have a section for your feedback, comments and reflections. We would love to know from you how you and your child have related to their experiences and invite you to add any comments you may have to their stories. These stories should then be returned to the kindergarten to go into their own portfolio book. The portfolio books will be available near the children’s library books for you to read and share with your child at any time.

Just a few reminders to start the year

Please:

• Send two healthy snacks with your child each day. (one morning and one for the afternoon) in addition to your child’s lunch. We aim to promote a healthy approach to eating and seek your support in achieving this. If you are sending a drink bottle please ensure it contains water.
  • Do not send nut products with your child.
  • Name all children’s belongings including clothing, lunch containers etc.
  • Ensure that your child wears footwear suitable for climbing while at kindergarten. Thongs and crocs can be difficult for children to run and climb in and pose a potential risk to their safety.
  • Have a sun hat in their bag each day. Our sun safe policy is in place from September until the end of April. During this time children must have a hat to play outdoors.
  • Apply sunscreen at home if you wish your child to have added protection.
  • Send along a container of sunscreen to be placed in the bowls in the kitchen so that we can help children reapply after lunch.

Starting time for kindergarten is 8.45am. Please ensure that you sign your child in on arrival and let us know if someone else will be collecting your child by writing it in the parent communication book. We will not release children to others without your permission. But most of all let us know if you have any questions or queries. We want you and your child to feel like this is a place they can truly belong.