Welcome

I grew up on a farm and attended Yorketown Area School. After finishing year 12 I moved to Adelaide to complete my teaching degree. For the last 7 years I have been working at Community Kids Greenacres Early Learning Centre as Kindy Teacher, Assistant Director and site Educational Leader. I enjoyed my time there, but the country was calling. I have a son who is nearly two and he is enjoying being closer to grandparents. I am also looking forward to him growing up in the country as I think it is just the best!

I am very excited to get to know you and your children. I look forward to a fun year and being part of your children's transition to school. If you have any questions, or would just like a chat, feel free to let me know.

• The 2015 kindergarten children:

We look forward to the learning year ahead.

Contact details
Have you changed your phone number, address, emergency contact details since you filled in the enrolment form? If so could you please inform a staff member of these changes.

Arrival Time
The arrival time for both kindergarten and Occasional Care is 8:45am. Pick up time for kindergarten and afternoon Occasional Care children is 3pm.

Occasional Care
Due to the number of kindergarten children attending this year the Occasional Care service has been shifted to Fridays. The new under 2 years session (8:45 - 11:30am) will be run by Tracey Hull. Two over 2 years sessions will operate in the morning at the same time as the under 2’s and in the afternoon ~ 12:30pm ~ 3pm. Janette Jacka and Megan Newby remain the Occasional Care workers.

Curriculum
The term’s focus will be ‘The World Around Us’. To begin with we’ll talk about what the children did in the holidays and where we went. From this we will follow children's interest and plan activities.

Child Protection Curriculum: The topic for the term will be “feelings”.

All feelings are valid. They are not right or wrong, good or bad. They are reactions to our thoughts and external environment. There are two types of feelings: physical (eg. pain, hunger) and emotional (eg. sadness, anger). Topic 1 activities focus on emotions rather than physical feelings. Source: Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum Early Years Band: Ages 3-5 DECD 2008.

You Can Do It’ Social and Emotional curriculum: Oscar Organisation will teach the children organisational skills this term.

Young children who are organised have the desire to do their very best. A vital organisational skill is listening carefully to teacher’s instructions, including explanations of lessons and activities. This reflects an understanding that in order to learn new concepts and skills you have to listen carefully to what the teacher is explaining. Children learn the skills of time management by learning to plan their time which enables them to accomplish their work and do their very best. When children are organised they learn to take care of their...
Nut Free Centre
Just a reminder that the site has become nut free, that is there is a total ban on nuts in whatever shape or form - nut pastes, whole nuts and nuts as ingredients. In other words if the food contains nuts DO NOT send it along with your child. Please respect this request. Some Centres are automatically nut free.

Lunch Boxes
Can you please send separate containers for lunch and snack. The snack boxes are placed on the table near the entrance at arrival. Due to the large number of lunch boxes we are unable to store them all in the fridge. Lunches sent in cooler bags will be stored in a cupboard near the kitchen so that on hot days they will be in an air-conditioned environment. Can you please check the size of your child's containers. Some are extremely large that take up storage room and are also difficult for the child to pack into their bag.

The Centre encourages nude food - that is no plastic wrapping. Zip lock bags are now one of the biggest environmental issues. Instead of plastic wrap try baking paper or alfoil - these are also very easy for the child to open.

Kindergarten fees
Once the fee has been passed at the AGM invoices will be sent out.

Parent Interviews
Later in the term we will invite parents in for a chat about their child's progress. These will occur after session 3pm. A notice will be sent out nearer the time.

Playgroup
Congratulations to new playgroup coordinator Lisa McDonnell. Please support Lisa in her new role such as assisting with setting up and packing away and if you are available to fill in for Lisa when she may not be available.

Governing Council AGM
The AGM is set for Wednesday 4th February 7.30pm at the Centre. All positions on the Governing Council will be declared open and it will be great to see some new faces.

The Governing Council is responsible for the operation and management of the Centre i.e. curriculum, fundraising, maintenance and development of buildings, grounds and facilities, budget and finance, and policies and programs that the Centre may undertake.

The Governing Council consists of representatives from all families at our centre (playgroup, occasional care and Kindergarten). A lot of information passes through these meetings. It is a great way to find out what is happening at our centre and to have an input to the kindergarten management. Please consider volunteering to be on the 2015 Council. Meetings are usually twice a term, in the evening at the Centre. They are open for everyone to attend. Speak to 2014 Governing council members or Janet if you would like to have more information.

A General Meeting will follow the AGM.

Hats
We are about to put in an order for hats to be embroidered. They cost $7 each. If you would like to order one please see staff.

Facebook
The Centre has a Facebook page. It is another outlet for communicating positive information to the current & future families of the Centre. You may post messages & comments on to the page but not photos. Please be respectful of the Centre & our families. The page is not about one individual but about us as a whole group. If the page is mistreated then we will remove it. If you have not already joined our Facebook page look us up - Minlaton District Early Learning Centre. We hope it can be a useful communication tool for the Centre.

Reminders-
- Children are on the go continually at the centre, running, jumping, climbing and manoeuvring around objects. Please send your child/ren in footwear that is suitable for this. Although thongs and crocs are easy for the child to take off and put on they sometimes are difficult to run and climb in.
- Please apply sunscreen before arrival. Staff will reapply at lunchtime.
- With the weather warming up please take note not to dress your child/ren in singlet tops – see Sun Protection policy in Parent Information Book
- The Centre is a water only site. Please do not send cordial, juice etc.
- Please make sure your child's belongings are named especially bags, hats, removable clothing, lunchboxes and lids. Permanent markers are available at the Centre to mark belongings.

Parent Information
Banking
Banking is available at the Centre to all children.
Bank SA have a Term 1 School Banking promotion again this year.

The Minlaton District Early Learning Centre will receive $10 for every new child who opens a Kindy Bank account, and the child will also receive $10. Your child's birth certificate is required as proof of ID - please present to the bank.

Children can bring along their bank book with money enclosed each week. Bank SA visit each Tuesday.

Janet, Trace, Tracey, Janette, Jodie and Megan.