**NEWSLETTER NO.5, 1st August 2011**

**Term 3**

**Welcome back everyone**

and a huge hello to all of our new children and their families this term.

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**REMINDERS**

- Please sign your child in and sign out on the sign out sheet by the door.
- If on the sign out sheet your child has a red circle with a letter 's' in it, that means your child has had a minor accident, or health, wellbeing concern at kindy. Please see a staff member that day so that we can let you know what has happened and have you sign an injury report form. Thankyou.

- All children need to bring a bag that they can manage themselves to put their belongings into.
- Please provide a spare set of clothes in your child’s bag so when they get wet during water play activities they have clothes to change into.
- Please put an ice pack in your child’s lunch box to keep their food fresh and safe for eating.
- Provide two pieces of fruit or veg for your child at kindy for snack time.
- Please discourage your child from bringing toys from home.
- **Health and Hygiene issues**: We have some boys that are peeing all over the toilet floor and not using the toilet. It is a parent’s responsibility (not the kindy teachers) to teach your children how to manage themselves and use a toilet correctly, both urinating and pooping. We can certainly check children’s bottoms but parents please teach your child how to wipe their own bottoms.
- Please check your notice pocket after each kindy session.

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**DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>Wk 2 Friday 5th August Playgroup begins for families in the Port Noarlunga District. We are currently FULL. Bookings are required to join or visit. Staff are in the process of contacting last years members and notifying families of vacancies. Group 1:10.30am to 11.30am Group 2:11.45am to 12.45. All welcome babes, toddlers, children up to 4 years.</td>
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<td>Wk 2 Monday 1st Aug and Wed 3rd Aug RUTH TUCK ART SCHOOL at kindy. Cost $12.00. Children learn how to use the medium of water colours and charcoal to design their own self portrait. These will be featured in the children’s Art Show later this term at Port Noarlunga Art Centre.</td>
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<td>Wk 4 TUESDAY 15th August, Parent Voice meeting 7pm to 8.15pm We are looking for new parents to join our Parent Committee. Ask staff for more info, you don’t have to take on a specific role we welcome parents as general participants. Please RSVP to Kerry</td>
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<td>Wk 6 Tuesday 28th August CAFHS CHECKS at kindy, (Checking your child’s sight, hearing and...</td>
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general health for children aged from 4.3 years with a Community Health Nurse) bookings can be made with Tonia.

Wk 7 Monday 5th Sept
Your child’s session choices/fees will be in your pigeon hole. It is due back by MONDAY 26th Sept - week 10 with payment. $100. We are at capacity with a waiting list for sessions so get them in promptly please to secure your child’s place here.

Wk 8 THE OPENING NIGHT of the Children’s Art Show. 6pm onwards at the Port Noarlunga Art Centre. Book this one into your diary, not to be missed. (More info to come, closer to the time) This is a special opportunity to come and support your child’s learning and help celebrate their individual uniqueness and creative talents. “We are all learners and we all learn in many different ways”. Come and celebrate the joy of learning through play and the importance of a childhood.

Wk 9 Tuesday 20th Sept and Wednesday 21st. 10.30am to 11.30am Patch Theatre stage production of Mr McGee and the biting flee at the Hopgood theatre. Sorry for safety reasons we are no longer able to walk the children to Noarlunga so we are asking families to meet us there at 10.30am and pick up again after the performance. *Please note kindy will not be open in the morning. We apologise in advance to all of our working parents and hope you can arrange with other parents, extended family or friends to help you out on this day. (More info to come later.)

Wk 10 Friday 30th Sept Last day of term. 2 weeks holidays. Term 4 begins Monday 17th Oct

Term Dates for 2011

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<td>31 Jan - 14 Apr</td>
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<td>2 May to 7 Jul</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>25 Jul to 29 Sep</td>
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<td>17 Oct to 15 Dec</td>
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Kindy session times
Monday to Thursday
8.45 to 3.00pm

Pre Entry session time
Fridays 8.45am to 10.15am

We thank families for having a play outside in the garden in the morning while staff are setting up in the morning to ensure your child’s safety.

So that children are still engaged in their learning during group times we ask parents to please wait outside until the children are dismissed. Enjoy getting to know other families and check your information pocket during this time. Thankyou.

Staff often have meetings and professional development after 3.00pm so picking up children promptly is very important.

What happens during my child’s day at kindy?

8.45am Kindy session begins with indoor learning through play/activities.
9.35am Quick tidy up (not pack completely away) Children are expected to help keep their learning environment tidy as part of our respecting others value so that everyone can access their learning throughout their day. Children can leave a ‘work in progress sign’ on their work so that it is not tidied away so that they can continue with it later. As a child finishes their play in a particular area they are expected to put it away and /or tidy the workspace so that someone else can access it.
9.45am Group Morning Meeting to discuss children’s learning ideas. We begin with our circle of friends song and talk about harmony. General discussion house keeping e.g routines, expectations, special events for the day, using our manners, Teachers provocation- encouraging children’s problem solving skills, communication, social skills. Children share their news. Educators keep the kindy minutes. During this time there is also a focus on developing children’s communication skills, group skills and etiquette, numeracy and literacy skills. Music and movement also can also form part of this meeting time. Then we Wash our hands and have our fruit and water. Approx 10.30am Outside and inside learning through play.
11.45am Wash hands, relaxation, lunch Relaxation changes each day depending on the children’s needs it can consist of gentle yoga, tai chi or sitting and resting to relaxing music, visualisation, coloured scarves or lights. The kindy employs an extra staff member during lunch time periods to assist the children with lunch and various needs. After the children finish eating they are expected to have calm reflective time with a cushion and book so that their food can digest properly before continuing on with their active learning. They can choose to have a look at their own book or join in with an educator to share a big book experience. From time to time we may view an educational DVD based on curriculum interests.
12.30pm Active and involved learning begins inside and then flow to the outdoor environment following children’s needs and interests.
2.20pm Pack away
2.30pm Fruit & water, Group time- music and movement activities, social games incorporating numeracy and literacy skills, story.
3.00pm Goodbye to our circle of friends.
FRIEDA CORPE KINDERGARTEN’S WEBSITE

As a way of promoting the centre and keeping in contact with families you can read newsletters, get useful websites on parenting and see what’s happening at kindy online.
www.friedakgn.sa.edu.au

Who are our wonderful relief teachers?

From time to time staff need to attend professional development during the week or Kerry books in administration time so we have some fantastic relief teachers that come in from time to time. We utilize the same teachers not only because they are of a very high standard but also for continuity with the children.
Our wonderful relief teachers are: Diane Vincent, Julie Murphy and Ingrid Gray.

FEEDBACK

We value your feedback, comments and suggestions. Please have a chat with staff or ask for a feedback form to add your comments. If you do have a complaint please include your name so that we can discuss it with you in person.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

If you would like to have a chat with staff about your child’s development please make a time after 3pm weekdays. A booking form is on the office door.
When your child is in their second term of kindy Annette will invite you to join her in a discussion about how your child is progressing at kindy. This formulates their mid term report. In the children’s last term of kindy a Summative report is written which summarises your child’s interests, strengths and areas requiring strengthening. This report is viewed by the child’s parents first and then a copy sent to their designated school. This all becomes part of a positive and successful transition into school life.

This year we are delving deeper into Reggio Emilia influences and incorporating The Early Years Framework “Belonging, Being, Becoming”, which is the new National EY Framework—previously South Australia used S.A.C.S.A.
For more information on either please help yourself to information on the signing in table or ask Kindergarten Staff.

We are so excited to be able to continue our involvement in this project. With thanks to such a dedicated staff team at Frieda Corpe Kindy we are one of only 16 sites selected in the state to be apart of this. Well done Frieda Corpe Kindy.
We encourage parents to be involved with us and if you would like to be part of the ‘leadership group’ along with staff please see Kerry.
Kids Matter is a national mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention initiative in response to a national concern about the mental health of children.
Australian research suggests that 14% of 4 - 17 year olds currently experience mental health difficulties. Mental health in early childhood is about being able to experience, regulate and express emotion, as well as form a secure relationship with parents and carers. If you would like more information please see Kerry. We have now started component 4 “Helping children who are experiencing mental health difficulties” with our Facilitator Amelia Joyce. As part of this component staff are keen to add more contacts to our list of services that help support families and children in our community. If you have accessed a helpful service please let us know so we can add their service to our list.
A child’s well being is paramount to their ability to learn. Consistency, positive communication, routine, stability, safety, a positive role model and unconditional love all help in forming a strong foundation towards a child’s emotional and physical well being. Feeling valued, accepted and appreciated are also extremely important. Chat with your child about their kindy day, share quality time together, read a story, kick the footy, playing together is learning together.

Have fun and enjoy the kindy year together.

On the last day of term we had three leaders in education including our Assistant Regional Director visit our Kindergarten. Educators gave a 4 hour presentation that showcased the quality care and education program and practices that occur at our site. We were validated with exemplary results and will share the written feedback when we receive them later this term.

WELL DONE FRIEDA CORPE TEAM- what a fantastic effort, it certainly showed your passion for teaching, your teamwork and dedication, commitment and care to all of your children and families. x Kerry

KIDS MATTER EARLY CHILDHOOD PROJECT
Dear Parents,

We thank you for your understanding regarding the 2 recent kindy closure days which staff hope was done in the fairest way possible.

We wish to clear a misconception in the community that we may have failed the “National Quality Standard Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care”. This new National Quality Standard will replace current licensing and regulation processes in each state and territory and will incorporate an Act, Regulations and Schedules. It includes Family Day Care, Child Care and now DECS Kindergartens.

**We have not yet been assessed.**

Initial assessing will only start from 1st January 2012 up to 2014, and then will be ongoing after that. What we have currently started doing is looking at what is required to meet these new guiding principles, quality areas, standards and elements!

At this stage we have utilised the closure days to begin to evaluate our current practices and to identify which practices we can or should improve, at this well loved community kindergarten. There will be another closure day in the future which DECS have provided to all sites to look into this further. Thankyou for your patience.

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**Building Learning Power**

Kindergarten is not about learning the so called ABC’s….

Kindergarten builds children’s ‘learning power’ by providing learning experiences which enables children to develop positive learning dispositions which are crucial for life long learning. (Anyone can learn the ABC’s, but does everyone have positive social skills, problem solving skills and positive self esteem to contribute as positive members of society?

Developing positive habits of the mind that children internalise into self talk are crucial for their successful ongoing learning. Through play based experiences educators tailor the learning environment to challenge children’s thinking and support their learning so that they can continue to grow and learn to their full potential. We provide opportunities for children to be able to transform their understandings and knowledge to a range of different context and scenarios.

I am a curious learner… I want to know more about things. I am a creative learner and enjoy making sense of the world and expressing myself creatively through music, movement, arts.

I am a persistent learner… I keep trying even when things get tough.

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I am a resilient learner...I don’t give up, I learn from all experiences.

I am a confident learner. I have a go even when I haven’t tried it before because I know that I can learn through being actively involved.

I am a social learner and use positive self talk.

I am an organised learner and set learning goals, take care of things, listen carefully and plan my time.

Children learn in many different ways and at their own rate. Everyone can learn anything they set their mind to given the right opportunities. As educators we provide learning experiences through play that encourage children to develop positive dispositions to learning so that they become lifelong skilled learners.

In regards to ‘learning the ABC’s’ we don’t formally sit down as some schools do to teach the ABC’s we provide rich literacy experiences that help develop children’s emergent literacy skills such as alliteration, rhyming, oral language, phonological knowledge and print awareness. Emergent literacy refers to the skills, knowledge and attitudes that are precursors to conventional forms of reading and writing and the environments that support these developments. Yes.. children are involved in writing and reading at kindy if they are ready for it but not in a formal way.

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**Something to ponder…...**

Childhood is such an important time and children not only deserve, but have the right to be a child, not mini adults. There is plenty of time for that, but the innocence and joy of childhood seems to be stripped away from our children in a world full of stress, materialist values and no time to simply be. When was the last time your child climbed a tree? Or lay on the grass gazing at the clouds creatively seeing each cloud as an animal shape?

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**Opening hearts and mind to life long learning.**

Kerry, Annette, Tonia & Chris
Implementation of the 15 hours, Universal Access to Early Childhood Education Initiative.

What is Universal Access?
Universal Access to Early Childhood Education is a Coalition of Australian Government (COAG) commitment to provide access to a quality early childhood education program for all children by 2013, delivered by a university trained early childhood teacher, for a 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year, in the year before formal schooling. Universal Access will ensure that all children will have access to a play-based learning and development program delivered in a range of settings.

What does this mean for Frieda Corpe Kindergarten?
We have been included in round 4 of the implementation which means that as of 2012 our site will be required to offer 15 hours of kindergarten to children each week. Unfortunately to be able to fit in this many hours, for many kindergartens it has meant the loss of valuable programs such as Pre entry and Playgroup.

Some of the options for our site to offer the 15 hours could look like the following:
*Please note we have to offer the 15 hours but families could pick up their children earlier if an extended day is considered too long for children’s wellbeing.*

Option A:
8.30am to 4.00pm Monday and Tuesday
Or
8.30am to 4.00pm Wednesday and Thursday
(Pre entry could still operate Fridays at 8.45 to 10.30am) – No Playgroup

Option B:
8.30am to 3.00pm Monday and Tuesday plus
8.30am to 10.30am Friday
Or
8.30am to 3.00pm Wednesday and Thursday plus 11.00am to 1.00pm Friday
No Pre entry, No Playgroup.

It is with great regret that as of next year we will not be able to offer playgroup as an extra service. We have been informed through DECS that our priority has to be given to our 4 year old programs with the new 15 hours. We have always valued and supported community and transition programs at Frieda Corpe Kindergarten. We are hoping to source another place for families to run a playgroup within the community. (Any ideas?) We hope to be able to keep our Pre entry service to families as an important transition into Kindy.

Please share your voice/ideas by attending the discussion at our next Parent Voice Meeting on Tuesday 16th August at 7pm at the Kindy or vote/share your preference by returning the form to kindy. ASAP