Dear Parents and care givers

What a fantastic start to the year, it has been wonderful to see children settling in well to kindergarten and occasional care. Children and families have learnt new routines, connected with new and old friends and experienced a variety of new learning experiences. I thank parents for ensuring children have been getting to kindergarten and occasional care on time each day (particularly with adjusting to the new centre times) and helping children with the morning routines (signing in, unpacking bags, applying sunblock, placing lunches in the box to go in the fridge, returning library books and helping find an activity they can engage in). It is very busy in the mornings and children have been coping with this incredibly well with your support.

Last week we were informed that our centre will soon be assessed by the Education and Early Childhood Standards Registration and Standards Board of South Australia as part of the National Quality Framework. The purpose of the assessment and rating process is to determine whether and at what rating our services meet the national quality standard. As part of the assessment and rating of our service an authorised officer will visit our centre to observe our practice, engage in discussions with staff and educators and sight relevant documentation.

We are currently working on updating our Quality Improvement Plan to submit to the board. Each year we submit a quality improvement plan, which focuses on our strengths and areas of improvement. Last week I distributed to families a survey to collect input about suggested focus and improvement areas, thankyou to those who have completed their surveys, we value any ideas and suggestions from families.

On Tuesday afternoon a working party met to review our centre philosophy statement. Our philosophy statement is our beliefs about early childhood education and what we value at Streaky Bay Children’s Centre. I have a copy of this on the notice board– please add your suggestions and ideas. When I interviewed the children about why they come to kindergarten, they overwhelmingly said “to learn stuff” and “to play”.

Important events:

♦ Tuesday March 8th – We will be involved in cleaning up the Jetty Beach and Skate Park for Clean up Australia Day (weather permitting).
♦ Mon 14th March – Adelaide cup holiday
♦ 15th March – 1st April BOOK FAIR
♦ – Monday march 21st — Governing Council meeting. 7pm.
♦ Monday March 28th—Easter Monday
♦ Sat April 2nd — Streaky Bay Races. The Streaky Bay Children’s Centre will be running the gate as a fundraiser.
♦ Monday April 4th – student free day for staff to attend numeracy training in Pt Lincoln.

Sofia, Kiara and Oliver writing their ideas.
Quality improvement areas include:

**Quality Area 1 Educational Program and Practice**—This quality area of the National Quality Standard focuses on ensuring that the educational program and practice is stimulating and engaging and enhances children’s learning and development.

**Quality Area 2 Health and Safety**—This quality area of the National Quality Standard focuses on

**Quality Area 3 Physical Environment**—This quality area of the National Quality Standard focuses on the physical environment and ensuring that it is safe, suitable and provides a rich and diverse range of experiences that promote children’s learning and development.

**Quality Area 4 Staffing Arrangements**—This quality area of the National Quality Standard focuses on the provision of qualified and experienced educators, coordinator and nominated and experienced supervisors who are able to develop warm, respectful relationships with children, create safe and predictable environments and encourage children’s active engagement in the learning program.

**Quality Area 5 Relationships with children**—This Quality area of the national quality Standard focuses on relationships with children being responsive, respectful and promoting children’s sense of security and belonging. Relationships of this kind free children to explore the environment and engage in play and learning.

**Quality Area 6 Collaborative Partnerships with families and Communities**—this Quality area of the National Quality Standard focuses on collaborative relationships with families that are fundamental to achieving quality outcomes for children and community partnerships that are based on active communication, consultation and collaboration.

**Quality Area 7 Leadership and Service Management**—This Quality area of the National Quality Standard focuses on effective leadership and management of the service that contributes to quality environments for children’s learning and development. Well documented policies and procedures, well-maintained records, shared values, clear directions and reflective practices enable the service to function as a learning community. An ongoing cycle of planning and review, including engagement with families, creates the climate for continuous improvement.

Zuri and Charli mixing and stirring mud pies under our wonderful new shade

Toni shared her barking geckos with the occasional care children, they observed them eating crickets and some were even brave enough to touch them, they were soft. We saw there flaky skin they were moulting
Thankyou to our parent community with the fantastic response to our welcome night BBQ and our Annual General Meeting. Copies of the annual report are available to parents in the front entrance. Congratulations and thankyou to the following people who have been elected to the following positions on our Governing council for 2016.

Chairperson: Tiffany Williams
Assistant Chairperson: Nerissa Baldock
Secretary: Sam Huntley
Assistant Secretary: Jackie Fiebig
Treasurer: Mandy Guidera
Assistant Treasurer: Bec Tomney
Playgroup representative: Sam Huntley
Occasional Care Representative: Alan Elliott
Fundraising Committee: Sam Huntley, Mandy Guidera, Bec Tomney & Courtney Faulkner

Other members of the Governing council include Renee Elliott, Monique Necic, Wendy McEvoy, Katrina Broad, Wendy Carcuro as Director and a staff representative.

A folder containing our Governing Council minutes and reports is available to parents in our front parent foyer.

Wendy

INFECTION CONTROL
The Streaky Bay Children's Centre have a number of processes to control infection including:
- Promoting hand washing using soap and water
- Notifying families if there has been a child attending who has had an infectious disease
- The centre is currently professionally cleaned 3 nights a week
- Toys are washed regularly on a rotation basis
- Promotion of immunisation
- Children who are unwell are not to attend occasional care or preschool. (please see staff if you have any queries)

Parenting Websites
Have a look at these parenting websites for great parenting ideas.
http://www.greatstart.sa.edu.au/
www.startingblocks.gov.au

Families enjoying our parent welcome BBQ.

Have you seen our new parent information stand. Please help your self to parent information and pamphlets or let us know if there is anything you would like added.
CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
Streaky Bay Children’s Centre will be involved in Clean up Australia Day activities on Tuesday March 8th.
We will be cleaning up the Jetty Beach and Skate Park (if time allows) with staff, children and parent volunteers at 9.30am (dependent on weather and tides).
Clean up Australia Day reinforces our centre commitment to supporting a sustainable environment, with children and adults responsible for maintaining a safe, clean and sustainable environment.

Consent forms will be distributed this week. We need Parent help please. A risk assessment is undertaken each time we go on an excursion.
Please ensure children wear a hat, sunscreen, sun safe clothing and appropriate shoes/sandals for walking on the beach.
Children will need a fruit snack and water bottle to take on the excursion
We will provide children with gloves, tongs and bags for safety and hygiene.

Wendy

Growth Mindsets
Staff attended interesting professional learning last Friday at the SBAS with James Anderson. Growth mindsets are a Streaky Bay Children's Centre and Far West Partnership focus.

What is a growth mindset?
Understanding that intelligence is not fixed—everyone can learn new things. Our brains change with learning
Success comes from hard work and practice.
Success requires learning dispositions such as being curious, confident, being purposeful and persistent, enjoying challenges and achieving hard things.

Some of our enquiry questions at kindy.
Why do we have blood?
Why do lizards drop their tails?
Why is a spider's web black at night?

How can we find out?
⇒ Ask someone
⇒ Look it up in a book
⇒ Google it.
⇒ Can we observe it?

We have loved observing and feeding the sea creatures that Amber and her Dad have added to our sea water aquarium.
STREAKY BAY RACES/ FUNDRAISING EVENT

Each term we aim to hold a fundraising event. Fundraising funds help to supplement funds from parent fees and minimal funding received from DECD. (None of the fees received from parents for occasional care are retained by the centre—these are all sent to DECD). Fundraising money is used to help maintain the centres every day running costs as well as making improvements to the yard, facilities and purchasing resources.

This term we have been asked to once again work on the gates at the Streaky Bay Races and to collect the cans next day. The Streaky Bay races are held on Saturday April 2nd. We ask that parents help support this fundraiser if they are available on the day. A roster will be drawn up shortly asking if parents can help out by working for one hour on a roster.

We thank you for your support.

KINDERGARTEN FEES FOR 2016

Parents may choose to pay an annual fee of $240
Or Termly instalments of $60
Or by other arrangements with the centre.

Fees can be paid by cash, cheque or direct debit.
Amenities fees notices will be distributed to families in the next week.
If paying by Direct Credit please ensure you complete the form and return to the centre.

Thankyou

STUDENT FREE DAY
MONDAY April 4th

There will be no kindergarten on MONDAY APRIL 4th. This is a student free day for staff to attend training and development in Pt Lincoln with Deb Lasscock from Flinders University. Deb will be providing professional learning on Numeracy in the Early years.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause families.

Numeracy is one of the focus areas for our centre this year. We use the Early Years Learning Framework and the numeracy indicators for preschool, to inform our planning and teaching of numeracy within the centre.

PLAYGROUP
Every Friday 10am-12 noon.

Playgroup is a fantastic opportunity to meet other parents and caregivers, while engaging in fun play activities with your child. Children learn to play and socialise with other children.

ALL WELCOME

Congratulations to Shan and David Vincenti on the birth of the baby daughter “Indianna Louise”