An enormous welcome to all preschool, occasional care and playgroup children and families for 2016. We hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break with friends and families. We extend a special welcome to children and families who are becoming involved in our centre for the first time or are enrolling in new programs. In 2016 we look forward to building strong partnerships between children, educators, parents and families. We invite families to an informal gathering on Tuesday Feb 9th at 5.30pm at the SBCC for a sausage sizzle as an opportunity to meet staff and other families. We acknowledge the significant role that families play in your child’s lifelong learning and value the contribution made by families which adds strength to our programs.

Staffing—We welcome Lauren Dickenson to our staff team who will commence in a new role as Early childhood worker in the preschool program. Please read information about Lauren later in the newsletter. Other staffing will remain as previous years, with Kate Hood as preschool teacher, Bec Godwin over 2’s occasional care, Toni Foster Under 2’s Occasional care, Tash Roberts preschool support on Thursday’s and myself, Wendy Carcuro, as Director.

New centre times and sessions: We were excited at the end of 2015 to hear that we have a new occasional care session to be offered on Wednesday afternoons for Under and over 2 year olds. Please see staff if you are interested in accessing this session.

New times for Occasional care are: AM sessions 8.45-11.45 PM sessions 12.15-3.15pm (Note sessions have increased in length from 2.45 hours to 3 hours)

New times for Preschool are: Monday 12.15-3pm, Tues and Thurs 8.50am-3pm

Centre improvements We welcome the improvements to the centre over the Xmas break, with long awaited new sun shades in the front and back yards and new storage cupboards have been installed in the bathroom, office and in between these 2 rooms.

We are looking forward to working together with children and families this year, both new and familiar, encouraging children to reconnect and build new friendships as well as being involved in new ideas, interests, play and learning.

Wendy Carcuro
Kindergarten information

Wendy, Kate, Lauren and Tash are looking forward to working in partnership with parents and children this term. We have 24 children who will begin the kindergarten year together. In the first few weeks we will be focusing on ensuring children feel safe and secure, begin to build relationships with staff and other children and develop a sense of belonging. Kate will be absent for the first 2 days of term and Carmen Davis will be relieving on these days. We are excited to have Lauren Dickenson join the staff team, an extra educator will help with supporting children in their learning and play and will help to ensure a smooth transition for children into the kindergarten environment. Parents can help their children to transition by:

⇒ Talking with their children about the staff and children and what they like to play with while at kindergarten.

⇒ Involving children in packing their bags and lunch boxes. Please include a hat, spare clothes, water bottle, packed lunch and a fruit/vegetable snack. Lunch needs to be labeled and placed in the tray provided so that it can be stored in the fridge. NO NUTS PLEASE as we have a child enrolled who is anaphylactic to peanuts.

⇒ Children travelling by bus need to bring their correspondence book each day so that we can share information and notices with families.

⇒ Ensure children have enough sleep the night before and breakfast before they arrive at kindergarten at 8.50 am so that they are prepared for the day ahead. Staff will endeavor to greet all children and parents as they arrive. Children need to have their lunch before kindergarten on Mondays if possible.

⇒ Help children sign in, apply sunblock, find their locker, unpack their bag & find an activity they may like to engage in. Please sign the day book if there are to be alternative pick up arrangements for your child.

⇒ We ask that parents now sign their child in on arrival and when they leave at the end of the day. The sign in book is located on the shelf at the front entrance. Thankyou.

⇒ We have a group time in the mornings at approximately 9.15am with stories, songs and group discussions.

We value any feedback, ideas, suggestions and shared information from families.

Hi, my name is Lauren Dickenson and I moved to Streaky Bay from Cummins with my husband (Ben Dickenson) a year ago.

I have my Diploma in Children’s Services and have 8 years experience working with ages 0-6. I have worked in centres in Adelaide to my last job working at the Toybox Childcare Centre in Port Lincoln.

I look forward to meeting and working closely with children and their families.
We are looking forward to working in partnership with parents and children this term. This term we currently have 43 children enrolled. All parents should have received a letter outlining booking details and dates, please place this in a visible place (eg on the fridge) as parents will be charged for sessions they have a booking for. Please see Wendy if you would like to have another copy.

Cancellations need to be made by 8.30am on the day of the booking to allow staff enough time to attempt to find a replacement booking. Staff will not make phone calls after 8.45am as they have commitments to working with children in their care.

On Arrival can parents please remember to
⇒ Check the daily notice board for any important notices
⇒ Place named lunch boxes (please place an ice pack in lunch box or place items such as yoghurts in fridge in hot weather), water bottle, spare nappies, wipes, hat and spare clothes in the child’s locker.
⇒ Please place 1 named spare nappy and baby wipes in the basket provided.
⇒ Please place a piece of fruit to share in the fruit bowl.
⇒ Ensure that children have sunblock applied (sunblock is available).
⇒ Place fees in envelope
⇒ Fill out the sign in booking sheet
⇒ Help child settle in an activity and inform staff of any information

Families with health care cards need these to be sighted by a staff member by the end of week 3 (Feb 13th) to continue to receive subsidised fees.

Fees can be paid termly at the beginning of each session. Occasional care fees are $1.50 per session for families with a health care card or $5 per session with no concession card, 1/2 price for second child.

These fees are sent to DECD in Adelaide, Not retained by the centre.

Thankyou Bec, Toni and Wendy.

SUN AND NUTRITION POLICIES

Please remember our sun and nutrition policy when packing a bag with your child each day.

All parents have received a copy of these policies in their enrolment package, these are also available to view in the policy folder in the front entrance or please see Wendy if you would like another copy. Some important points to remember:

• All children and staff need to wear a broad brimmed or legionnaire style hat outdoors for term 1 or when the UV level is 3 and above.
• All children will have sunblock applied every 3 hours or before playing outdoors (please apply on arrival)
• Children must wear suitable clothing (shoulders covered) to limit exposure to the sun.
• Children need healthy food options provided in lunch boxes. Children will need a fruit or vegetable snack provided each day. **NO PEANUTS** as we have a child allergic to peanuts.
• Please place named lunch boxes in the fridge – particularly if they have dairy or meat products in their lunches to ensure good food hygiene.
• It is recommended to limit purchased snack items in lunch boxes e.g muesli bars, packets of biscuits etc to no more than 2 per day.

THANKYOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
EVERY FRIDAY 10AM-12 NOON  (EXCEPT THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE TERM)

Who can attend: - Children under school age (0-5 years) and their parents or carers.

What to bring: - Please bring a piece of fruit to share, a hat for the warmer weather and any items your child may need such as nappies, spare clothes etc.

Cost: $1 per child.

Welcome to our new playgroup leaders for 2016, Sam Huntley, Alana Elliott and Jess Burge. We welcome an other parent volunteers to help with organizing playgroup this year as many hands lighten the work load. Please see Wendy or any of the playgroup leaders if you would like to help out. Playgroup leaders are volunteers and help to organize weekly activities to playgroup as well as welcoming new families. Please see attached the activities planned by our playgroup leaders for term 1.

We ask that parents and carers who attend supervise their own children, help playgroup leaders with play experiences and assist with set up and pack up.

Playgroup is a great opportunity for uninterrupted play for young children and their families in an early childhood environment. Many new friendships are fostered at playgroup between families and children.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parents are invited to be involved in the centre activities in a number of ways. Parents are welcome to be members of the governing council, helping to set centre priorities and policies and manage centre funds. Parents can also help out on rosters for laundry and clean up, fundraising, busy bees, helping to maintain our vegetable garden, technical support with our children’s computers, attending excursions, helping to write grants, helping out with activities with the children, covering books, or in any way they feel comfortable. Please see staff if you would like to be involved in any way. I have attached the term planner which includes the parent roster for parents who have children attending preschool. Please arrange a swap or see a staff member if your rostered day does not suit. (A notice is placed on the white board in front of the door to remind parents of rosters each week). The end of each day is often very busy and we welcome any parent support a this time if you have a spare minute, such as tidying, wiping tables, putting art work in lockers etc.

Thankyou for your support.

Volunteering easier for parents with changes to school screening policy

The Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) has updated its screening policy to make it easier for parents and guardians to volunteer their time. Parents and guardians volunteering in schools and preschools to support their own child’s education will no longer need to undertake relevant history screening. Screening will still apply to all DECD employees; volunteers working with Families SA or children with disabilities; and people (including parents or guardians) attending over-night camps and school sleepovers. The changes also mean that some governing council members will no longer require a DCSI child-related employment screening. DECD has developed an online screening tool that will clarify the requirements for people seeking information about working, volunteering or visiting at a public school, preschool or service. Volunteers who are not parents or guardians, such as community members, will still require a child-related employment screening. Contractors and third-party providers also require a screening if they have regular contact with or work in close proximity to children on a regular basis, are in supervision or management of children in such position, have access to child’s records, and it is stipulated in a contract or agreement. For more information about keeping children safe and screening including the online screening guide, visit the DECD website at www.decd.sa.gov.au. If you have any questions about screening or these changes please see Wendy.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Streaky Bay Children’s Centre
AGM
Will be held on  Monday 15th February
7pm . All encouraged to attend.
All urged to attend.

“When Play is the highest form of research”
Albert Einstein

Invitation to Welcome Sausage sizzle.

When : Tuesday 9th February  5.30pm –7pm at the Streaky Bay Children’s Centre
Free sausage sizzle for all the family
An opportunity to meet staff members and other families.
ALL WELCOME

Congratulations to Alana and Eric on the arrival of the newest member of their family, a baby boy “Toby Regan”

Congratulations to Courtney and Christian Faulkner on the birth of their baby daughter “Maddy Rose”

CHANGE TO CHILD DETAILS ( please complete updated information if there are any changes to add to your child’s records)

Name

Home phone   Work phone   Mobile   Fax
Email

Change to work details / home address/ family details

Change in health needs/ allergies

Change to emergency contacts ( please remember child cannot be collected by anyone not listed as an emergency contact unless we receive signed authorisation from parents).