



NEWSLETTER 8 - September 2018

Have you read?

- The white board
- The program on the pinup board inside the kindergarten. You can get a hard copy as well.

Your check list:

- Close the gates when you come and go
 - Pack a hat, water bottle, lunch and 2 snacks in your child's bag
 - Apply sun screen on your child each day
 - Place your initial next to your child's name each day on the attendance sheet when you arrive and depart (attendance sheets on podium)
 - Any changes to pick up please write a note in the day diary on the podium next to attendance sheets on the verandah
- 'Have a cuppa' with coffee and biscuits continues on Friday morning
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CURRICULUM

We continue to use the **WAY TO A** program for managing children's behaviour. **Pathway A** is the positive and appropriate choice: children learn to ask for a break, or are taught to relax when confronting a challenging and potentially stressful situation. They are encouraged to use a choice. **Pathway B** is the inappropriate choice: a child is aggressive or throws a tantrum, including hitting, kicking, screaming or abusive language. The child is taught cause and effect and visually understands consequences related to A and B choices.

We are also reinforcing appropriate behaviour with using the phrase '*Kind Words, Gentle Hands*'. There has been a strong emphasis on '*Kind Words, Gentle Hands*' in play and at group time and especially when children play and integrate with younger and smaller Occasional Care children. Many children can articulate what is expected as appropriate behaviour when an adult is present but find it hard to self-regulate their behaviour and using appropriate language when they play. This has been a concern for staff and for some parents the past month.

After speaking with some parents and with staff the following strategies have been developed:

- Staff continue to place a strong emphasis on Protective Behaviour and this is explicitly taught at group times and in play. This includes the need to share, listen, be respectful to others (children and adults), and be calm and to seek help when needed.
- All staff scaffold children's learning in the play environment especially focusing on dramatic play in the home corner e.g. how we talk with each other and share equipment.
- Staff use the Woodend Children's Centre Behaviour Management Policy when behaviour is viewed as not safe to children's physical and emotional wellbeing (copy in the Centre Policy Folder located by double door entrance).
- Parents commit to speak with children about the importance of sharing at preschool, using the Way to A program and Kind Words and Gentle Hands with all children they play with at the centre
- We need your help and support at home for all our actions with your children to be successful

To keep you informed about community service a Community Service Guide is attached to this newsletter.

OCCASIONAL CARE

We have vacancies for children under 2 years on Mondays. Please ring direct on **83220677** and leave a message and staff will get back to you. Occasional care program continues to focus on children's self-regulation using sensory activities such as play dough, finger painting and music through relaxation and song.

DATES (please read these dates and make a note)

Pupil Free day on Thursday 27 September the centre is closed as staff will be attending a professional development day on Numeracy and the staff will not be at the centre on this day.

Monday 15 October (first Monday of Term 3) is a **pupil free day** and the centre is closed as staff will be attending a professional development day and the staff will not be at the centre on this day.

Our next **Governing Council meeting is on Thursday 13 September at 7 pm at the centre.** The Governing Council forms part of the management of the centre and these parents are your representatives. Their photos are display by the centre entrance. You are welcome as a visitor at any meeting. Please remember phone tree forms are due back on Friday 13 September.