Play is the key, which opens the door to life long learning.

Welcome back!!!!!!

I don’t watch a lot of television but I was indeed intrigued by a recent commercial I saw when I was visiting friends over the holiday break. It was about making time to chat with your family. At first I was rather confused about the amount of pressure a person was feeling but then it transferred into astonishment as I realised (ok I know it’s an ad) that the person was a parent who was finding it extremely difficult to relate to his own family. Now I know it is an advertisement but I sincerely believe that there are families like that even in our own community! Such a sad thought really. But as I have said in many newsletters before ‘giving time’ is something which doesn’t cost but it is something which is often more precious than monetary value. I was reminded only in the last two weeks by one of my own children and given such wonderful advice by them, that I really did not realise about the ‘preciousness’ of the time I had given my children as they grew up. They had realised how busy I was and gave me a very timely reminder about the quality of the time I had actually given them. Simple things, like picnics and trying to help them with their homework (even though they were and still are streams ahead of me with intelligence 😊). To be reminded about the importance of this commodity in today’s world by your own children is indeed very humbling and made me realise the extreme importance of the television advertisement. The time spent at the dinner table may only be half an hour but wow, how much information can be shared and how many problems can be faced when we share them together as a family unit! It is important I realise that even though we think as adults that we know everything and that our children are still learning, but in fact, I find that we can (and yes I have mentioned this before) learn from our children! It doesn’t matter how old they are, the way they see the world will always put a new lens on something which we see through often jaded eyes and miss some wondrous event. To be reminded of the importance and wonder of the world through children’s eyes is very precious. So I implore you all to take some time and just stop, listen and engage with your children, it will not only help them in their educational and life skills but also it will assist your own wellbeing as you slow down and reorganise your busy lives. As I write this I was reminded of an amazing home visit I went on earlier this year. The family was very busy with children of various ages of schooling and of course varying sporting interests which took them out many nights of the week. They had a ritual, a beautiful idea which they would not let go of no matter how busy they had become. Even though some days part of the family were in Adelaide for sport they maintained a special time where all the family would come together for a light snack of fruit and savoury to share with each other as they discussed various important events of every member of the family. No one was more important than the other and all members of the family were indulgent of each other’s stories and problems (if any) and would seriously listen….yes really listen, no matter how old the person was, because they realised that it was important to actively listen and not just hear what they had to say. Gosh I have been humbled so many times, by wonderful events such as this family visit and been so grateful for the many lessons that life has given me this year (although I may not have thought so at the time 😊) that I really do class myself as very fortunate! Remember time is a precious commodity but one we can freely give if only we try harder, and doesn’t our most precious commodity….our children, deserve our time?
We are also very lucky to have two Uni SA and one TAFE student joining us this term as part of their practicum placements in early childhood education. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to share our lovely centre and give them vital hands-on approach to children's education needs rather than just learning through textbooks or being told by a lecturer. They will be engaging in educational programs with your children as part of their own study requirements and they will also be under supervision of our own very diligent team.

Please chat with me or one of the other staff members if you have a concern at anytime or would just like to touch base with what they are doing.
Please remember our hot weather/skin policy requires a hat to be worn all year, this was discussed with all families upon enrolment of children at our Centre 😊

Below is an excerpt of our hot weather and skin policy. The full policy is in the policy folder on the shelf by the main rear entrance of the kindy building.

1. Hats are to be worn outside. Hats should be broad-brimmed, legionnaire, or bucket style.

   | Broad brimmed hat | Bucket hat | Legionnaire hat |

   Children without a hat will be expected to play inside the kindy or under the verandah

2. Children will be encouraged to wear shirts with collars and sleeves and longer style shorts/skirts.

6. Hats are to be worn all year round to ensure continuity. In the event of safety issues eg extremely windy day when going on a local walk which entails crossing roads. Then hats are to be stored in a bag and children will put them on when they have reached their destination.

Sources which assisted our policy and procedure planning and further reading
- The Cancer Council South Australia
- www.sunsmart.org.au
- Public and Environmental Health Act 1987 SA

THEREFORE  NO HAT = PLAY INSIDE OR UNDER THE VERANDAH!

All Kindy fees to be finalised by 6th November (unless a payment plan is in place 😊)

I will be placing a calendar with dates of events for this term in your communication pockets it will included…kindergym, the zoo excursion, graduation and twilight kindy so that you can place it on your fridge. Many families commented on the calendar we posted on our own fridge and back door last term that I thought I would share it with you and you can add some of your own family events😊
A bit of fairy tale fun for you to snuggle up with your child……it would be interesting to hear what the children and you have to say if you have the time to write it down. I would like to publish some answers (no names) in the next newsletter if that is okay? 😊

1. How many fairy tales have numbers in their titles? What are they?
2. What is the most popular animal figure in fairy tales?
3. What is a fairy tale? (This often gives the most amazing and delightful answers from children!)
4. How ‘long’ is “long long ago”? (Don’t worry we are all dinosaurs at one stage or another in our child’s life 😊)
5. Is Shrek a fairy tale?
6. What is your favourite fairy tale? Why?
7. How come it is always ‘once’ upon a time, why can’t it be ‘twice’ upon a time? Does this mean a lesson is learnt and never repeated? (wow that is deep; my mind hasn’t gone completely dormant 😊)
8. Did you ever really wish you could ‘wish upon a star’? (I will let you in on a secret…I know I do!)

A last(ing) word……….  

“The things that make me different are the things that make ME”  
A.A. Milne

So dare to be different being a clone of someone else just makes for a boring world ….Jacky 😊