



Flinders Children's Centre and Tji Tji Wiltja Preschool

122 Tassie St, Port Augusta - ph. 8642 2067

Meeting place for teaching, learning and play for the whole family



Newsletter— Term 1, Week 1, 2023

We would like to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all of our new and returning children, families and carers. We are looking forward to another exciting year of growth and learning in 2023.

After the long Christmas break we will begin the new year by setting up kindy routines and rituals that provide familiarity to children allowing them to wonder and predict what is happening in their environment. These familiar activities can provide comfort to children allowing them to feel more secure and confident. Please refer to Page 3 of this newsletter for an outline of the rituals, routines and activities that make up your child's kindy day.

A warm and friendly welcome to our new teacher Aunty Yuri



Hi, my name is Yuri. I am thrilled to work at Flinders Children's Centre. This is my second year working as a preschool teacher in Port Augusta. Before coming to Port Augusta, I worked as a co-educator in a private early learning centre for 4 years in Adelaide. I grew up in a small country town in Japan and have fond memories of playing in the beaches, mountains and rice fields. My love of language led me to study English literature in university and study abroad in the United Kingdom. After graduation, I worked as an English teacher in Japan; however, I could not give up my dream of living overseas again and decided to move to Australia in 2013. It's been almost 10 years since I began my adventure in Australia, and its culture, land and people continue to amaze me.

I advocate for children's play, through which they learn and connect with others. Also, I am strongly interested in music education as my hobby is playing the piano and singing! I look forward to meeting children and families at Flinders Children's Centre and growing together in the community.

Governing Council

A sincere thank you to Alice Archibald for accepting the nomination as Chairperson for our Governing Council. At this stage the Governing Council AGM meeting has not been set as we are waiting to finalise our 2023 budget. These meetings are an important aspect for the running of the kindergarten and we encourage all parents to attend. We are currently seeking nominations to fill the small roles of treasurer and fund raising organiser. Please speak to a staff member to register your interest.

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Kindy Tops:

Please speak to a staff member if you would like to purchase a kindy top.

Cultural tops: \$40

Coloured tops: \$12

A snapshot of what we have planned for the first few weeks of kindy...

Below you will find some of the amazing learning we have planned for the start of this year. Please join our Facebook group to view a weekly wrap of photos that capture activities from the week.

- **Numeracy table** will focus on sorting by colour with tweezers. This supports the children to read, analyse and use data, notice attributes about objects, use fine motor skills, problem solving, trial and error.
- At home you could help to develop your child's sorting skills by including them in activities such as:
 - ♦ Sorting clothes by colour
 - ♦ Matching socks and shoes
 - ♦ Helping with adding ingredients to cooking
- **Block corner with cars, people, building and trees** - Provides opportunities to practice skills such as fine motor, imaginative and dramatic play, numeracy (formation and location of objects), problem-solving, trial and error, social skills such as turn taking and negotiation of roles.
- **Puzzles** - problem-solving, trial and error, fine motor skills, numeracy (formation and location)
- **Home corner - African Dramatic play** dramatic/imaginative play, creativity, social skills such as negotiation and turn taking.
- **Story Table** - Handa's Surprise - literacy and storytelling, imaginative play, exploring identities with felt pieces.
- **Mobilo** - building, construction, fine motor skills, creativity
- The children will also be learning the correct procedure for washing their hands to ensure they don't get sick.
- **In group times** We will be reading the story Handa's Surprise with lots of stories, singing, movement and games. As well as other art and craft activities that will focus on the story. With an emphasis on key words and concepts from the story.
- At the same time we will be focusing on self identity and getting to know each others names.
- If you have time it would lovely if you could watch a video of Handa's Surprise with your child. There are lots of links available that you can Google.
[HANDA'S SURPRISE Picture Book Animation - YouTube](#)

And of course.....
There will also be lots
and lots of inside and



Daily Procedure — Rituals, Routines and Activities

Morning routine

- 8:45 Children arrive at kindy and settle into a free play or a planned activity.
- 9:30 Bus children are greeted and join in activities with their friends
- 9:45 Morning group time. (Children gather on the mat with their teacher)
During this time the role is called and children join in with the singing of a good morning song. The whole group participate in our Acknowledgement of Country ritual and 3-5 children are chosen to put up our kindy flags (over the term all children will have an opportunity to participate).
Sometimes the children will listen to a story and/or participate in a finger play song.
- 10:00 Children transition to washing their hands before having morning tea of fruit.
- 10:15 Outside free play

Lunch routine

- 11:30 Children get prepared for the pre-lunch group time by washing off sand, getting changed if wet, putting shoes on and finding their hats. Children in nappies are checked and changed if required.
- 11:45 Pre-lunch group time.
Role call, stories, games and singing and finger-play activities
Children transition to washing their hands before having lunch
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:15 Children transition back to the mat area to engage in numeracy play activities
- 12:40 Relaxation time is offered to children who require some quiet relaxation time
Other children will engage in planned learning activities relevant to our literacy program and designed to develop fine motor skills such as; drawing, painting, gluing and cutting.
- 1:00 Outside free play

Afternoon routine

- 2:00 Children are prepared for afternoon group time by washing off sand, getting changed if wet, putting shoes on and finding their hats. Children in nappies are checked and changed if required.
All children are involved in the afternoon pack up
- 2:15 Children transition to wash hands and prepare for afternoon tea
- 2:25 Children form a group and prepare to farewell their friends who go home on the bus.
- 2:30 Bus leaves
Remaining children will share in their recall of activities from throughout the day. Looking at photos /videos and sharing their learning. Play a short game, sing or listen to a story.
- 2:40 Goodbye song

Change to dismissal procedure.



To maximise children’s learning a slight change has been made to our dismissal procedure. Please note.. children will now be released to parents as a ‘WHOLE GROUP’ no later than 2:45 each day. If you arrive early we would appreciate your patience in waiting. This will ensure there are no interruptions to our final group session—which is a crucial part of the learning program. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we implement this new change.

A and B choice behaviour strategy...

This year we will continue to use a behaviour strategy program called “A & B Choices”. It is a behaviour program whereby we talk about;

A choices being good choices (choosing to share, work cooperatively, listen to friends, teachers, parents, include friends in play, take turns, care for our friends, complete a task etc)

B choices being not good choices. (hurting friends, not listening to friends, teachers, parents, unable to share or work cooperatively, breaking something that a friend has worked on, not following rules or routines, yelling, being unfriendly eg saying your not my friend etc)

We are about to introduce the program to the children and it will be used on an ongoing basis.

If a child is making a “B” choice, (eg throwing sand) we would say

“You are making a “B” choice when you throw sand. You need to make an “A” choice, what could you do?”

It helps them differentiate between good and not good choices and generally in most cases, helps them to change their choice / behaviour. If they continue to make a “B” choice such as throwing sand, they are then redirected to another area of play.

Please note, we never refer to “B” choices as “bad” choices as we don’t want to give children the message they are bad. They are simply making a “B” choice—a not good choice.

I have found the “A & B choices” program, a really effective way of children learning about behaviours—and the choices they can make. I have never found using strategies such as time out / sitting on a naughty chair / standing in a naughty corner etc. very effective. Children in these situations, generally do not learn about behaviour and will keep on misbehaving (making B choices).

Children may take the “A & B Choices” home and make reference to it. You may even wish to use the concepts at home. Don’t hesitate to speak with one of the staff if you want more information about the program.

