Did you know that a circle is not always a circle?

You can draw a circle, but as soon as you cut it out it is no longer a circle? Do you know what it is? (If you can hold it, it can't be a 2D shape)

Our focus on Making Learning Visible this term has been on the numeracy and mathematics that occurs all around us every day.

We have not been doing more maths, we have been noticing and highlighting what is already occurring.

We have also been thinking about the language we use with children. You may have heard staff and children using some new or unusual names for shapes, blocks and patterns this term. (If you’d like to know more we have placed some information around the centre to support our own learning. Or ask us and we will try and explain the difference between a number, numeral, number name and digit??!)

So what do the terms numeracy and mathematics mean?
Mathematics- a body of knowledge that has been invented by someone- the rules and conventions of how they work
Numeracy- how we choose and use these rules and conventions to deal with a situation in life (using them for a purpose)

Children have been challenged to understand and articulate the learning that is occurring by:
- using mathematical terms in their communications (noticing, patterning, mathematics)
- noticing numeracy in their environment (e.g. - numeracy walk, recording observations, natural mandalas)
- seeing staff model the mathematics and numeracy concepts that they are using
- exploring pattern making in their play (e.g. building symmetrical skyscrapers)

Parents have been challenged to consider when and where maths occurs by:
- completing the Mathematics in your Home Survey (thanks to those who have done so) and highlighting the learning that occurs at home everyday
- reading and observing our daily & weekly displays about the learning that children have been involved in during the preschool day (Sharing Books, Discovery Table)

Staff have challenged themselves and each other to:
- have a better understanding of the numeracy and mathematics we are observing in play
- understand our view of the child as competent and capable of complex learning and to reach a shared understanding of this.
- demonstrate our own growth mindsets around new learning that may challenge what we were taught at school.
- commit to additional time and professional learning to develop our own knowledge and skills.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Kelyn
Winter has well and truly arrived, but we haven’t let the rain slow us down. We’re so busy learning and discovering in the outdoor environment, that we don’t even feel the cold!

Having our own wet weather gear at Kindy means that we are always ready and prepared to play outside during winter. Please bring a pair of rubber boots and a raincoat to keep at Kindy for your child (if you haven’t done so already). We would love everyone to experience all of the learning opportunities that playing in the rain has to offer.

Outdoor play involves children in using their senses to make discoveries. Sensory exploration helps children develop a connection with the environment and to understand their place in the world:

Looking “What changes do I notice?” – Trees losing their leaves, dark clouds in the sky, frost etc.

Listening “What sounds can I hear?” – The wind blowing, water dripping, thunder, splashing etc.

Smelling “What does Winter smell like?” – Smoke from fires, fresh rain on leaves, hot soup etc.

Touching “How does winter feel?” – Slippery puddles, wet equipment, cold hands, squishy mud etc.

Tasting “What can we taste in winter?” – Rain falling into our mouths, ice, soup, mushrooms etc.

Being outside in the rain, leads to playing in the mud, this leads to MUDDY FOOTPRINTS! To protect our carpet from mud stains, we have introduced a No Rubber Boots Inside Policy. Please ensure your child arrives at Kindy wearing “normal” shoes. They will be able to swap their shoes for rubber boots when they go outside to play, and then change back into their normal, mud-free shoes when it’s time to come back inside.

As Term 2 draws to a close, it’s good to reflect on all of the wonderful learning experiences that we have been involved in.

Programme Highlights

- Our second Nature Kindy Day – We spent the day interacting with nature. The children demonstrated that they are developing confidence and a strong sense of belonging to this natural environment.
- Our Stick Nature Challenge – We have enjoyed collecting sticks, sorting and classifying sticks, imaginative play with sticks, building and constructing with sticks, and decorating sticks with paint and yarn bombing.
- Jungle Disco – We all enjoyed creating our own dance moves, dressing up as jungle animals and dancing the night away together!
- Numeracy Walk – We explored the local area to find shapes and numbers in the environment. We have been using mathematical language to describe 2D and 3D shapes.
- Mindfulness/Relaxation Time – We have been practicing sitting still like a frog and focussing on our breathing to calm us down and prepare our brains for thinking and learning. We have been developing our self-regulation by learning to resist the urge to pop bubbles that are blown in our direction!
- Mud Day – Activities include: mud painting, finger painting and face painting, jumping and sliding into muddy puddles, cooking mud pies in our mud kitchen, sensory play with clay.
- Pyjama Day - to celebrate the last day of Term.

What a fantastic term it has been. Enjoy your holiday break and keep warm!

Jodie, Kathy and Jane
We have really embraced Winter in Occasional Care this term. It seems to rain every Monday and lots of Thursdays as well! In Occasional Care we adhere to the outdoor play policy of the Preschool so we try and go outside rain, hail or shine.

“Real learning occurs outdoors when the senses are ignited, curiosity is aroused and children explore nature.” (Woodside Preschool Outdoor Play Brochure)

Last Thursday really tested my resolve with this policy but despite the icy winds and sideways rain, when we got out there, I could really see how the children thrived in being in the elements. They were able to release lots of energy, they worked as a team to find shelter, they explored puddles and ponds together and the squeals of delight and happy faces reinforced my belief that 7 pairs of wet pants and 14 wet socks to change were worth it.

“We believe that each child has a right to a learning environment that engages the heart mind, body and spirit

We believe that we can support children to expand their thinking and enhance their desire to learn through play and exploration, spontaneity and risk taking

We believe that children have a natural sense of wonder and curiosity and have the right to a vibrant and flexible learning environment which provides powerful resources and builds connections with the natural world.” (Woodside Preschool Philosophy Statement)

If you would like to read more about Outdoor Play at Woodside Preschool please ask for one of our Outdoor Play Brochures, or you can find it on our website. I do ask that you help support this philosophy by providing gum boots and rain coats as well as a complete change of clothes each session your child attends.

Please note, Tash is busy working on assigning sessions for next term. Letters advising you of your child’s session will be sent out during the upcoming school holidays. Keep an eye on our Facebook page as Tash will advise when they have been sent out. Please ring the centre if you do not receive yours by the end of the holidays.

Cheers, Jane

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Fundraising events-
Community Raffle- don’t forget to keep those raffle books coming in- we keep 100% of the profits from this raffle so it is a great fundraiser. If you aren’t able to sell your tickets please return to us so that we can sell them with someone else. Don’t forget tickets are also available online if you want more. (Just search for People’s Choice Credit Union and you will find it. Type in Woodside Preschool as the organisation to support.)

Look out for our next fundraiser- Wheat bags and hot teddies as a winter warmer!
USB for PHOTOS - we take many hundreds of photos here at kindy and many of these go into Sharing Books. Last year we also offered to put a selection of individual photos of children onto USB sticks for families as a fundraiser. If you would like a USB of your child’s kindy photos (given at the end of the year) please place $20 in an envelope in the fees box with USB written on the envelope. We will provide the USB. **You will need to provide this to us by the end of this term (As you will appreciate it can be quite time consuming and is easier if we know in advance who would like one.)**

Parent Library - do you know that we have a selection of community resources and a Parent Library in the locker area? You can borrow these books along with the children’s books and in the same way- just record you name, date and the title of the book in the borrowing book on the shelf.

If you have suggestions for any topics or books you would like to see in the Parent Library let us know or put your suggestion in our suggestion box.

Website – after a few changes with DECD support and many hours of hard work by Tash our kindy website is now up to date and has new updated policies and photos. Have a look and see what you think. We would also be happy to receive any suggestions of things you would like to see on the Website. [www.woodsidepre.sa.edu.au](http://www.woodsidepre.sa.edu.au)

### DIARY DATES

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<th>Tues</th>
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<td>Occ Care Am Only</td>
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<td>Big Buddies</td>
<td>Playgroup 9.30</td>
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<td>Kindy Session all day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occ Care Am &amp; PM</td>
<td>Robyn away- Join</td>
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<td>July School Holidays</td>
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<td>First Day of term- Am Occasional Care</td>
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<td>Kindy sessions today</td>
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**Dates for your diary**