What a great start we have had to the 2016 preschool year. Everyone has settled in really well and despite the group being on the large side the additional staff member we have this year has made a big difference.

The children are busy and purposeful in their play and are quickly learning the routines. Something we have been hearing quite a bit however is ‘I can’t!’

Now for those of you who have had children in kindy before you will already know that ‘I can’t’ is a phrase that we will always challenge children on! Here’s why:

Carol Dweck (psychologist) talks about the power of our beliefs. We can either have a Fixed Mindset or a Growth Mindset. People with a fixed mindset believe that their potential is determined at birth and their intelligence and personality are carved in stone. If you have a Growth Mindset you believe that your true potential is unknown.

As educators we would encourage all of our children to develop a Growth Mindset - then their potential is limitless. Throughout the year you will read and hear more about how we support the development of Growth Mindsets in our planning and programming, how we can support the ongoing development of dispositions for learning and how children can use their executive functions and self-regulation to support learning. Children aren’t born with these skills but they are born with the potential to develop them. Our role (as educators and parents) is to support the development of them.

One way we have begun to do this is through our Glitter Jars. These are great for helping children participate in relaxation and the way they are doing this is through impulse control and self-regulation. Watching the glitter ‘go wild’ and slowly calm down is teaching the children about how our minds and bodies can also calm down.

How can you help? There is one very simple way! Turn ‘I can’t’ into ‘I can’t do that yet’, or ‘I need to keep trying so that I can’ or even ‘I’m still learning but I’ll give it a go!’ Show your child that you have confidence in their ability to take on a challenge.

Why don’t you think about what sort of mindset you have?

Robyn
We are back where we belong! We have hit the ground running since returning for the 2016 kindy year. For the past three weeks we have all been extremely busy getting to know each other and the routines and transitions of the day. Along the way so much learning has already been evident. *Children are taking responsibility* for the morning routines; carrying their own bags, finding their name rocks, storing their belongings and settling into the preschool day. Some days are easier than others but we are always there to support both children and families in this process.

Children have been playing with and alongside new friends and teachers and are sharing in what makes them special. It has been wonderful hearing about the children and families of our Kindy community. We have shared some Family pages, Sharing books are almost ready to go out, lots of games and songs have been had to learn each other’s names, little interviews with our teachers to gather important snippets of children's lives have been enlightening, self-portraits are on display and finally our family picnic, which was a lovely way to spend time together as a community.

We aim to continue to foster this *sense of belonging* throughout our year together, because we feel it’s so important for children to feel secure and safe in their surroundings to better equip them with the confidence to learn and grow.

Other highlights of the term so far:

- Naming and getting to know our kindy chickens; Henny Penny & Polly.
- Creating our own Quarry.
- Chinese New Year celebrations.
- Explorations into sea shells and creatures.
- Making glitter jars for mindful relaxation.
- Meeting Hardy’s new puppy Rhonda!
  - Pancake making with Jane.

We are looking forward to so many more exciting learning experiences too (Nature challenges, Library & Big Buddy visits and Bush Kindy to name just a few)…

Sayonara

Kathy, Jodie and Jane 😊
We have had a great start to Occasional Care this year with so many happy children coming for their sessions. We have enjoyed having the whole kindy space to use and it has given our younger children a chance to explore some of the areas of the kindy that they might not have had a chance to use before. We begin each session in our Occasional Care room where we have been settling in with quiet activities. We then check who is at Occasional Care each day by looking for our photos and putting them up with our names on the whiteboard. Then, depending on the children’s interests, we usually head outside. We have enjoyed lots of digging in the sand and water play. We usually have our fruit outside and then if the children want to, we end the session in the big Kindy rom exploring the block and home corners.

However, if the children’s interests lead us in a different direction, the session can run entirely differently. As was the case the other day when our all boys group wanted to make a helicopter! We headed straight into the big Kindy room to the making table and two boys made a helicopter while the others explored gluing and sticky tape techniques. Then we found the cars in the block area and we didn’t get outside until after our fruit. It is so fantastic to work with these small groups of children and let them take the lead in their learning.

At the end of our session we have stories and songs. This routine helps the children to know the session is coming to an end and get ready to go home. I’m sure you’ve heard some of our favourite songs. These include Wiggly Woo, The Wheels on the Bus and Row Row Row your boat. We always sing Sayonara at the end of our session just like the big kids. If you would like the words to Sayonara I can give you a copy to practise at home. Also, if children would like to bring in a story to share at the end of the day, I am happy to read special stories from home.

Finally, just a couple of reminders, please remember children need a hat and a sun safe top on at Occasional Care. Our sun smart policy says children’s shoulders need to be covered by their tops, so please no singlet tops. Also, please apply sunscreen to your child before the session as we spend a lot of time outside and we don’t apply sunscreen during the session. Also, fees must be paid at the start of each session to allow for our accounting to take place efficiently. Remember to ring and cancel any sessions you are not attending before 8.30am. If you are ringing to see if there is a space for a session, please do not ring before 8.30am as we will not be able to allocate any spare spaces before this time. So far this term there have been vacancies in both the Monday Morning and Afternoon sessions so if you want an extra session on your off week give us a call after 8.30 on Monday.

If you have any questions about Occasional Care please don’t hesitate to chat to me.

Jane
As most of you would know we had our Family Tea and AGM last Wednesday Night which was well attended by many families. On this night the Annual Report for 2015 was presented (and will be available on our website by the end of this week). If you would like a hard copy let Robyn know and she will get one to you.

Our Governing Council for this year was also elected and we have 17 enthusiastic members with a mix of new faces and returning families. Many thanks to everyone who has been elected. If you are wondering who they are- they have a red spot next to their name on the notice pockets.

A particular Thank You and Welcome to Amber Flavell who was elected Chairperson. Our ‘outgoing’ chairperson Micha Sleep has taken a step to the side to take on the role of Treasurer. We would like to thank her for her time as Chairperson and also for her enthusiasm to take on a new challenge! Thanks must also go to Cath Thomas who was our Treasurer last year and is stepping down from this role, but remaining on the Committee.

We have quite a few snippets this week

- **Our beautiful grey Arucana chicken Polly has started to crow!!**
  
  Unfortunately this means we will need to find a new home for him, so if anyone has a good home for a rooster please let us know.  
  
  (Robyn also has a beautiful white and black spotted Hamburg Rooster if anyone else wants a rooster!)

- **Help please! - We have a few ‘odd jobs’ that we would love someone to help us with.**
  
  - Are there any plumbers (or just handy people) out there who may be able to clean out our drain for our pond? It seems to be full of dirt!
  
  - We have a possum box firmly attached to the branch of a tree that has fallen down. We would love someone with the right tools to remove it and put it in another tree for us.

- **Jobs Roster**
  
  You would have all received a Job Roster at the beginning of the year. If you could please check and see what your job is and when you are rostered on that would be great. By having each family take on one small job a term it helps to keep our costs down as we don’t have to pay to have these things done. If you didn’t get one, please let us know and we will get one to you.

- **Fees**
  
  Just a reminder that Preschool Fees are now due and can be paid by EFT or cash/cheque. If you are having difficulty paying the fees please see Robyn or Tash and we can discuss options for payment.

  If you have paid by EFT please complete the bottom of the fees invoice with the details and return to us.
• **Notice Pockets**

We have new notice pockets this year which can be found hanging in front of the windows on the verandah. This has freed up the locker area and makes them more visible for all. Please note that the names are at the bottom of the pockets so **you need to take the notices from the pocket with your child’s name on, not the pocket below the name.**

Please check your child’s notice pocket every day.

• **Child Profile Forms/ Family Page/ Sharing Books**

Each family recently received a Child Profile to complete for their child. This information helps staff in their planning for the individual children in our group. If you have not yet returned this form (or don’t remember getting one) could you please do so this week? We are also keen to receive all of the Family Pages (which each child shares with the group) and Sharing Books that may still be outstanding. We would like to have all of the Sharing Books out for access by next week, but staff do need time to get them organised. Thanks.

• **Recycling**

What can be brought in to kindy? We use a lot of recycled material at our Invention Table and other areas and appreciate the donations from our families. We would love you to bring in empty boxes for making, offcuts of wood (not cca treated or too hard), rolls from glad wrap etc. (not toilet paper) and even wrapping paper, cards etc. We use old magazines but are aware of the content of these—would prefer nature, animals, gardening etc. to gossip mags! We don’t use containers that have had cleaning chemicals in and would ask that any milk cartons be well washed out.

If in doubt, check with staff—could you also please check that there is only useful material brought in as it takes staff time to sort through bags of recycling and pull out the useful things?

• **Grievance Procedures- Parent Concern or Complaint Policy**

Please note that the centre/departmental policy is available in hard copy at the centre or can be located on our website at [www.woodsidepre.sa.edu.au](http://www.woodsidepre.sa.edu.au)

• **Links with Woodside Primary School**

We have developed close ties over the years with Woodside Primary School and have found that these regular visits between sites aid in the eventual transition to school of all children, regardless of where they will attend. This week we will begin our fortnightly visits up to the school library (we will take ½ the group each fortnight on a Tuesday) and we will also have a visit from the new Reception class on Wednesday. In a few weeks’ time we will have our first Big Buddy visit when the 4/5 class come down to spend some time with us.
February
24th- Mrs Coad’s Reception class to visit.
10am

March
1st- Governing Council Meeting 7.30pm at kindy

8th- **Closure Day**- no kindy today as all staff will be attending the NaturePlaySA conference.
10th- Big Buddy visit to kindy
14th- Adelaide Cup Day- no Occasional Care Sessions
25th- Good Friday- no Playgroup
28th- Eater Monday- no Occasional Care

April
1st- Child Family Health Screenings at kindy. (Families involved this term will have had appointments made already)

6th- **Bush Kindy excursion**

13th- Last day of term.

May
3rd- First day of Term 2. We start with a 3 day week this term (Tues, Wed, Thurs).