



# Valley View Kindergarten Newsletter

Term 1 Week 1 2024

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## What's Happening in Term 1!

Welcome to term 1 at Valley View Kindergarten. We are really looking forward to working with you and your children!

Throughout the year our priorities focus around: children recalling and recounting information (developing elaborative reminiscing skills—see handout attached from Ovia Health) and building our mathematical language skills.

In Newsletters and through emails and conversations we look forward to working in partnership with you in making this preschool year as magical and exciting as ever. There will be opportunities for Parent/Teacher Conversations and discussions around your child's progress throughout the year.

We will be providing a Book Based Learning program focussing on Rod Campbell stories—including 'Dear Zoo,' as the first book. The Book Based program focusses on the development of phonological awareness skills such as recognising rhyme, syllables, letter names and sounds. There are also a variety of numeracy and literacy activities suggested. With our large and beautiful outside learning environment the children will be involved in water play activities, utilising loose parts and a variety of nature play activities. Through these play based opportunities, the children will be learning important skills also.

## Housekeeping/Important Dates:

**Mon 29 Jan— First Day back for blue group 8.30-3.20.**

**Tues 30 Jan—First Day back for red group 8.30-3.20**

**Friday sessions for Blue Group Weeks 1 and 2: dates— Fri 2 Feb and Fri 9 Feb**

**Friday sessions for Red Group Weeks 3 and 4: dates— Fri 16 Feb and Fri 23 Feb**

**Adelaide Cup Day—Mon 11 March—No Kindy**

**PUPIL FREE DAY FOR TERM 1:**

**Tues 12 March—No Kindy**

**Good Fri— 29 March, Easter Mon 1**

**April—no kindy on this day**

**Last Day Blue Group – Wed 10 April**

**Last Day Red Group—Thurs 11 April**

## Governing Council News

Attached to this Newsletter is some information about our upcoming Annual General Meeting. Without parents and families forming the Governing Council we can't operate so we would really love as many people as possible to be on our Governing Council. We hold 2-3 meetings per term and we have a lot of fun. Our AGM will focus on sharing information from 2023 and then electing office bearers including: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Fundraising Coordinator.

**Annual General Meeting: Mon Feb 26 2024 at 7:30pm**

At Valley View Kindergarten we have a **Blue Group** that attends on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8.30—3.20 and for the first 2 Fridays of the term (8.30-3.20).

The **Red Group** attends Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8.30-3.20 and in Week 3 and 4 on Fridays (8.30-3.20).

During the sessions your child will take part in a number of different learning activities and will learn the rituals and routines of the day.

Please ensure you let us know if your address or contact details have changed. Can you also please notify us if your child has any new medical conditions or allergies.

**In the Main Kindy room on a Display Board there is information about Valley View Kindergarten's Learning Journey. It focusses on our Cycle of Planning and in particular a on Elaborative Reminiscing. Please have a look at this and you're welcome to provide feedback There will also be opportunities for community involvement and learning.**

## Our New Butterfly Garden

An important celebration of our wonderful learning community achieved in 2023. A great place to say 'goodbye,' to Mum and Dad or to share a chat.

**Further Program News:** Soon a fees notice will be placed in your child's notice pocket (inside the main double doors). The fees help us purchase resources and materials for your children. They include a Kindy T-shirt. Kindy T-Shirts will be distributed soon.

Hopefully you will have all received your child's Information pack over the holidays and have got your child to draw a picture of themselves and have filled out their 'entry profile.' Thank you so much for doing these things and returning them as soon as possible. This helps us with the development of your child's portfolio which you are welcome to look at anytime with your child. These can also be found in the cupboards when you enter the Kindy.

When collecting your child from Kindy it's best to collect them early rather than late as this can cause distress. Please speak with educators if you have concerns about this. In the interest of the children's safety the gate will be locked at 9:30am and unlocked at 2:30pm. Just ring the Kindy if you require assistance.

If you have any questions or queries please ask.

Information about our 'Play and Chat' Speech Commission will be sent out shortly also.



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

## Reminiscing: Reasons to talk to your toddler about the past

Do you remember your first day of school? What about your first word, or your first step? The point when toddlers and young children start to create long-term memories is different from person to person, and there's no telling when Baby's long-term memories are going to start forming, but by talking to her about the past, you can help her build the mental framework she will need to support those long-term memories when they start to form.

### The benefits of reminiscing

Talking to toddlers and young children about the past - their own past specifically, not the Big Bang, or wooly mammoths - helps them to develop autobiographical memories, or the way they think about their own lives. This includes building up their emotional knowledge by talking about the feelings associated with memories. Emotional knowledge is an important ingredient for helping toddlers to develop empathy, which leads to healthy socialization, as well as an understanding of her own feelings.

Beyond that, reminiscing, and helping children build a mental picture of the past, can even help build narrative skills, or thinking of life in terms of a series of causes and effects - a series of interconnected stories. Strong narrative skills can help with later reading comprehension.

### Strategies for reminiscing

In studies that look at the way reminiscing affects children's developing memories, children whose parents had been coached in styles of reminiscing that encourage memory tend to remember the past in more detail at an early age. Evidence suggests that quality of reminiscing may be more important than quantity. This coached reminiscing means talking about the past in a way that's detailed, emotional, and collaborative. This is called elaborative reminiscing.

**Detailed:** Detailed reminiscing goes beyond talking about the fact that an event happened - it means talking about the process. "Remember when we went to the beach?" is a start, but "Remember how hot the sand at the beach was when you first took off your shoes?" starts at the beginning, "Remember how yummy our picnic lunch was - until the sand blew into it?" ties in specific events, and by the time you and Baby get to "Remember how cold the water was when the wave flew up and splashed you?" the memory is set in the context of the rest of the day.

**Emotional:** One of the biggest benefits of reminiscing is the way it starts to teach children to think about their futures in the context of their pasts. Children whose memories help them make connections to their pasts can get angry but then start to remember how lashing out in anger wasn't helpful in the past. Children who are scared of something that's happened before will eventually remember how they came out unharmed last time. Talking about the past in terms of emotional response helps to put memories in the right emotional context. "You looked a little scared of the waves, but you were still curious enough that you didn't leave," puts the memory of seeing the ocean into an emotional context, and puts words to feelings she might not have known how to describe before.

**Collaborative:** One of the most key ingredients in reminiscing with your toddler, though, is her participation. This comes both in the form of asking questions - "What did you think about that?" "And how did that make you feel?" - and by responding when she does chime in. If she remembers, "Cold," that memory might guide what part of your beach-trip you talk about next.

Reminiscing might seem like an activity that only comes up when you're around old friends, but you're one of the oldest friends Baby has, and talking about the past with her is a great way to prepare her for the future.

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## Sources

- Federica Artioli, Elaine Reese, Harlene Hayne. "Benchmarking the past: Children's early memories and maternal reminiscing as a function of family structure." *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*. 4(2): 136-143. Web. June 2015.
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- Robyn Fivush, Katherine Nelson. "Parent-child reminiscing locates the self in the past." *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*. 24: 235-251. Web. 2006.
- Elaine Reese, Rhiannon Newcombe. "Training Mothers in Elaborative Reminiscing Enhances Children's Autobiographical Memory and Narrative." *Child Development*. 78(4): 1152-1170. Web. July/August 2007.
- Karen Salmon, Elaine Reece. "The Benefits of Reminiscing with Young Children." *Current Directions in Psychological Science*. 25(4): 233-238. Web. August 10 2016.
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## **Valley View Kindergarten Annual General Meeting**

A good way to get to know other families, staff and what is happening at kindergarten is by attending kindergarten Governing Council meetings.



**The Annual General Meeting will be held on Mon 26  
Feb 2024 at 7:30pm**

This will be a **special evening for all**. A special guest speaker (Gianna Parente) will also attend to discuss your child's speech and language development.

This evening may be an opportunity for you to become a member of the 2024 Governing Council. By becoming a member you will have the opportunity to develop new skills and friendships and also have a say about what happens at your child's kindy.

### **Approximate Time Table as follows:**

**7.30 p.m.** Chairperson welcomes everyone.  
Guest Speaker – Gianna Parente – Speech Pathologist

**8.00 p.m.** Annual General Meeting

- Annual Report
- Financial Report

- **Governing Council members nominated including**

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Fundraising Coordinator - Committee

- **Elect members for the following subcommittees**

**Garden, playground and maintenance subcommittee**

**Fundraising subcommittee**

**A number of Vice and Deputy positions will also be nominated.**

**Please find information attached with regards to the above mentioned positions.**

- *Date set for the first Governing Council Meeting.*

**nibbles and drinks will be served**

**8/8.30 p.m.** Evening Close



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Yes/No \_\_\_\_\_ will be attending the AGM. I am interested in the

\_\_\_\_\_ position in the Governing Council.



**Perhaps you would like to be one of the following:**

**Role of Chairperson:**

Chairs meetings and ensures decisions are made by consensus or voting.  
Is the spokesperson for the Governing Council and kindergarten.  
Ensures decisions of the meetings are carried out.  
Gives a report at the Annual General Meeting.  
Consults with the Director.

**Role of Secretary:**

Writes up the minutes of meetings.  
Provides a copy of minutes to the Director, staff and Council members.  
Attends to any correspondence as instructed by the Governing Council.

**Role of the Treasurer:**

Ensures monies received are paid into the centre's account authorised by the Governing Council as soon as is practicable.  
Ensures that a report of finances is submitted to Council meeting.

**Role of Fundraising Committee:**

Formulates a plan for major fundraisers during the year.  
Oversees and coordinates fundraising events.  
Keeps a record of events for future reference.  
Writes a report to present at AGM.

**Role of Playground and Maintenance Committee:**

In conjunction with the Director, consider maintenance issues.  
Coordinate tasks to be done.  
Ensures tools and materials are available for tasks.