A big hello to all our new and existing families!

Wow what a big start we have had to the year.

This year our children and staff transitioned to their new rooms in February.

I was pleasantly surprised at how well all children and staff adjusted to our room changes as we did not only move up to the next room we actually changed our room positions the children, parents and staff handled the changes so well.

Thank you all for your patience during this time.

As you will have noticed our new kinder room is underway we have an expected completion date as of the end of June.

The children and educators have enjoyed watching this building process and it has really captured the attention of all children at the service there are some photos of the process on the end wall in our hallway for viewing.

As of the first week of February our new programming was introduced to all rooms and educators have updated all email addresses.

Educators have been emailing their daily reflections for each room to the families.

The feedback we have received and the parent input into your children's programs has been amazing any families that are not receiving the daily reflections could you please let staff know.

We are currently reviewing all of our policies and any changes resulting from the review will be clearly communicated to all parents. The process can take a considerable amount of time as there are a number of polices that we need to review.

Office reminders:

♦ Fees need to be two weeks in advance, 2 current week plus two weeks.
♦ Ezi-Debit forms need to be updated when you make a change to your booking to accommodate new fee, this needs to be actioned in writing.
♦ Holiday bookings two weeks in advance, please fill out holiday book located in foyer, please note public holidays are charged at full fee.
♦ All updates to current bookings or extra bookings to be filled out on forms located in foyer and posted in orange box located on office door.
♦ Please be aware that you are only entitled to 42 absent days per annum. Once you have reached 42 days any other absent days will not have CCB attached to your account, therefore full fee will be charged.

Diary Dates

♦ 22nd April Earth Day
♦ Kinder excursion to SuniTAFE Library every Thursday commencing 23rd April
♦ 25th April ANZAC day
NOTE there will be no holiday observance for this day
♦ 10th May Mothers Day
♦ 20th May Dress up in your pyjamas Day :)
♦ Monday 8th June
Queen’s Birthday
Public Holiday, TAFE Kids Inc. is CLOSED
Hi, Parents and families, I think I've met everyone at last. I would like to thank all the Parents for making me feel so valued and welcome. It is very encouraging to receive the emailed feedback from you all, cheers Beth :)

I'm in the office Monday—Friday 8am to 1pm

Just a reminder to Parents and families that 2 weeks notice is required for a Holiday booking in order to receive the 50% off gap fee rate. To register your holiday you will find the “Holiday folder” in the foyer at TAFE Kids Inc.

Contact TAFE Kids Inc. Phone: 50223791
Email: tafekids@sunitafe.edu.au
Email: brhodes@sunitafe.edu.au

Please refer below showing how many places are available each day in each Group.

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We have had great start to 2015
We have welcomed lots of new children into Group one.
We have enjoyed getting to know the children and their families.
Drop off time is one of the best parts of my day. Getting to see the smiley faces entering the room to spend the day with us.
Our aim is to continue to strengthen the relationships between educators, children and their families, being able to provide the best possible care and education for your children. We plan to do this in conjunction with all families and their input. This allows us to provide a program around your child’s interest, thus gaining best possible outcome.
Our daily reflections are now up and running. This email communication has opened a great avenue for parents to enjoy.
Feel free to use this avenue to communicate with us.
CONNECT with Group 2

Welcome to the first news story from Group 2 for 2015!

It has been a very exciting and busy time for us as we welcome all the children into a new room, yard and year of fun and learning. Over the past month we have been getting to know all our families and children. Learning about the children's interests, responses and needs, so far we are all settling into our new room and roles quite well. The children are content, relaxed and full of curiosity and enjoyment of, and for, play and learning. Some of the experiences we have been providing for the children have involved new challenges, such as extending their skills on a variety of obstacle courses, providing for the differing skill levels of all the children. We have discovered which of the children really flourish with tackling new challenges and which prefer a gradual approach until their confidence has built up, helping us get to know the children, their methods, thought processes and the best way that we can provide for them to learn and discover here at TAFE Kids. Art and painting has been another thrilling experience for the children, revealing their obvious joy at the activity as they repeatedly return for more turns, creating colourful works of art, based on their own thoughts and ideas. We have been collecting some of these masterpieces to place in your child's portfolio, but there should soon be some in the art box for you all to take home and enjoy. Sensory play has been the other really exciting activity that the children continually show enjoyment of, hurrying to participate each time something is on offer. So far the children have been able to enjoy lots of sand, water and mud play, play dough, finger painting and rice play. These are all open ended activities, which gives the children lots of time explore, discover and repeat the things that they enjoy. We would like to let all our families know that we welcome and value any and all input you are able to provide, as it will assist us with providing for each child as the individual that they are, ensuring they thoroughly enjoy their time here at crèche with us. We look forward to incorporating your thoughts, ideas and suggestions within our program over the coming months.
Connect with Group 3

Amy   Denise   Tania   MaryAnne   Mikayla

We have had a very busy month already!

The children have shown an interest in learning about different fruits and vegetables. Over the month we have been looking at pictures of different vegetables at group times and preparing different fruits for our afternoon snacks. The children really enjoyed making the fruit kebabs! In the coming weeks we intend on developing a vegetable patch for the children to care for with assistance from educators.

We have also introduced box construction into the room. The children really love this experiences as it fosters their creativity. The children have to problem solve how they are going to put the different boxes together so they balance and don't fall down. As well as adding different craft materials.

The children have been really interested in reading stories especially at group times. Our favourites over the past month have been “There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Mozzie” and “If Your Happy and You Know It” these two books have a lot of repetition throughout the story and the children really engage at group times. Many of the children know the story lines and help read them with the educators. We have started reading “Nanna's Carrots” which follows on with the children’s interest in learning about vegetables.

We look forward to another busy month ahead! Please do let us know if you have any feedback or anything that we can add to our curriculum!
Connect with Group 4

A big hello to all of the Group 4 families! The Group 4 team are excited about the new year and look forward to forming positive partnerships with you to make your child’s learning environment a fun and nurturing one. We have planted grass seeds and now have green grass filled pots for our garden. Looking after our grass has become a part of our daily routine. We always have volunteers to help us water the grass.

What busy learners we have been! We have been focusing on counting, colours and letters. The children have shown a lot of interest in these three areas which has been great to see. We have been practicing our counting with the button boards providing lots of opportunity to do this. We worked out it takes 48 coloured buttons to fill a board. That’s lots of counting! The boards also helped us become more familiar with our colours, with us asking questions like “Can you find 5 yellow buttons? Or 4 green ones?”

Many of the group can tell us what their name begins with or even their sibling’s name. We have been using magnetic letters, hidden letters in sand trays and letter collage activities to extend on their new found understanding of key literacy concepts. In our dramatic play area we have had a market set up to extend on some of the children’s interests in going to the shops. This play area was quite popular with the children filling up the trolley or baskets with various fruit items to buy at the market stand. Involving the cash register was also another way we could play around with numbers, using little cut off timber bits from our nature tub as money. Group 4 has been quite creative with the wooden blocks. We have witnessed some fantastic creations. We have seen some very big car tracks, tunnels, bridges, ramps and houses. Group 4 children love to paint and we have experimented with different tools to use to paint with, paint brushes, cotton tips, sponges and cars. Please feel free to come in for a chat.

Naomi, Chelsea and Jarrod
Connect with Group 5

Hi kinder families, hope the Easter bunny is good to everyone.

The children are loving the rope ladder experimenting with different ways to interact it and spinning around.

Some lovely friendships have developed in the kinder room it’s nice to watch when all the children choose to play together in one big activity whether it be art or imitative play.

All aboard the bus Alyssa is driving us to the movies. It’s been quite exciting watching all the changes, and the workers are happy to answer any questions the children have about what they are doing or the equipment that they are using.

Ethan and his cheeky personality showing through (”do you like my new hair style?”)

We have been doing Gummy Bear Zumba, which the children really love we do it once and they ask for more, it’s really a good workout at the end of the day.

We have been really interested in the solar system and we are in the process of making our own.

We have found out that the Sun is the largest object in our solar system and that if we went to Mercury a tin can would melt, the Atmosphere on Venus would crush us but we can visit Mars it’s not too hot we just have to worry about the dust storms we will find out about the other planets over the next couple of weeks.

Linda  Felicity
**Hot Cross Buns**

*Makes 12*

- 110g (1/2 cup) caster sugar
- 2 teaspoons dried yeast
- 250ml (1 cup) milk (at room temperature)
- 75g butter, melted
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 600g (4 cups) plain flour, plus extra, if necessary
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 225g (1 1/3 cups) sultanas or raisins

**55G (1/3 CUP) MIXED PEEL CROSSES**

**75G (1/2 CUP) PLAIN FLOUR GLAZE**

- 75g (1/3 cup) caster sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

**GETTING STARTED**

In a small bowl, combine a large pinch of the sugar with 125ml (1/2 cup) body temperature water, then sprinkle yeast over it. Stand mixture in a draught-free place for 7 minutes or until it becomes foamy.

2: Combine yeast mixture in a large bowl with the milk, butter and egg and stir to combine well.

Add flour, spices, dried fruits and 1 teaspoon salt, then stir until combined and a coarse dough forms (it may be necessary to use your hands).

Turn dough out onto a lightly-floured surface then, using your hands, knead dough for 10 minutes or until smooth and elastic, adding a little more flour if dough is sticky. Take care not to add too much extra flour or buns will be heavy.

Place dough in a large, greased bowl, turning to coat, then cover with plastic wrap and leave in a draught-free place for 1 to 1 1/2 hours or until doubled in bulk.

Using your fist, gently punch dough down to deflate. Turn dough out onto a lightly-floured surface, pat into a rough round shape, then ask an adult to cut into 12 even-sized pieces with a large, sharp knife.

Roll each piece into a ball then place, 6cm or so apart, on a greased tray. Cover loosely with a kitchen towel and stand in a draught-free place for 1 hour or until doubled in size. Grease base and side of one 58x30cm (or base and sides of two 29x16cm) baking dish(es) and pre-heat oven to 200°C. Using a metal spatula, and taking care not to deflate buns, place in dish(es), spacing them evenly apart.

For crosses, combine flour and 80ml (1/3 cup) water in a small bowl and stir until smooth and combined. Place mixture in a piping bag fitted with a small, plain nozzle and pipe a cross shape over the top of each bun. Bake for 20 minutes, or until golden and risen, then turn out onto a wire rack and allow to cool.

For glaze, combine sugar, lemon juice and 80ml (1/3 cup) water in a small saucepan and slowly bring to the boil, swirling pan occasionally to dissolve sugar. Simmer over medium heat for 4-5 minutes or until mixture has reduced a little and is syrupy. Cool slightly, then brush mixture over top of buns. Buns are best served on the day they are made, but they will keep, frozen, in an airtight plastic bag for up to two months.
Kinder under construction!
TAFE Kids Inc.

Philosophy

We value the reputation our Centre has in the community of Sunraysia and acknowledge the long standing service that we continue to provided.

We aim to help children and families to become social, responsible and show respect for their environment in sustainable ways.

We believe that children are unique individuals who should be provided with experiences that are stimulating, interesting, challenging and developmentally appropriate within a safe, secure, positive and nurturing environment with dedicated and professional educators.

We promote different learning environments that promote many ways of knowing and learning to enable children to reach their full potential.

We employ a strength and interest based curriculum that allows each child to express success.

We strive to form strong, respectful and collaborative partnerships with families and communities in order to provide the best support for children's learning and development.

We aim to provide children with a sense of belonging and identity by providing a sense of place and connection to their community and environment.

We aim to ensure that all children, families and educators are valued as a part of the TAFE Kids Inc. community.

We believe that play is an essential tool for learning and is best supported by meaningful interactions with educators and families.

The Centre reflects as appreciation and understanding of diverse cultures, individually and respect for others. This is illustrated through our daily activities, programs and interactions.

We desire to provide a high level of quality and effective service by committing to ongoing learning, professional development and reflective practice that is respectful and responsive to children, families and educators and the community.

We wish to acknowledge the land we operate on and the native owners of this land.

Thank you for sharing your child's life with us!