

# Kindergarten Information

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Kindergarten at Secret Harbour Primary School. My name is Barbara Singleton and I am an early childhood trained teacher. I have been teaching for 25 years and started my career in Holland where I was born. I have been at Secret Harbour since 2005 and this is my 7<sup>th</sup> year of Kindergarten. I am very excited to teach your children this year as I love my job. I believe the early childhood years are very important in your child's education. It is in those years that we can establish a love of learning and develop positive attitude towards schooling.

## Learning in Kindergarten

In Kindergarten the children develop social skills and learning skills through play.

Play is a valued process for children's learning. Thinking imagination, story telling and communication. The play of our Kindy explores many different aspects; like sensory, explorative, physical, creative, role and dramatic play and games with rules.

We also focus on the development of motor skills. The children participate in craft activities to develop their early drawing and writing skills. It is important for your child to develop their arm movement prior to learning to write and that they hold their pencil correctly. Once children develop an incorrect pencil hold, it is difficult to change it later. The correct way is included in this handout.

We also spend time developing the gross motor by climbing, balancing, throwing and other exercise activities during class.

# Literacy

The focus in Kindergarten will be on:

- Children will learn to speak in front of a group and learn to listen with their whole body.
- Children will learn to rhyme, syllabication of 2 and 3 syllable words and how to follow 2/3 step instructions.
- Children will learn the distinction between pictures, letters, numbers, words and sentences. The direction of print and book handling skills.
- Children will learn to recognize their own name and other children's name. They will learn to write their own name onto their work.
- Children will learn that letters make sounds and they will learn to recognize the letter and make the sound that goes with it. We focus on the SOUND and not on the letter NAME. We use the JOLLY PHONICS programme which teaches the children the sound through an action and a song with each letter.
- Children will listen to stories and learn about characters, beginning, middle and end of a story. We talk about the author of a book and the title of a book.
- We use the Talk for Writing programme, where we learn a story by heart with a story map and small world activities so then after a few weeks the children are able to retell that story.

# Numeracy

The focus in Kindergarten will be on:

- Counting with a one to one correspondence.
- Learning the counting principals; the last number counted is how much it is, if you move your items it still will be the same amount and each object can only be counted 1 time.
- Subitising and Partitioning
- Positional language (behind, under, in between etc)
- Playing mathematical games
- Days of the week and different times of our day.
- Colours, shapes and patterns

There are some useful APP's to support this learning we do in class:

## Literacy APP's

- Jolly Songs
- Letter Sounds (Jolly Phonics)
- Pocket Phonics

## Numeracy APP's

- Monkey Maths
- Montessori Cards and counter activities
- Tiny hands

## Home Support

When we start our Jolly Phonics, I will send home a booklet with the first set of sounds. It will be great if you look at these with your child and "practise" them, this can be done in a light and short way. This will help your child to remember the sounds and recognise the letters.

At Secret Harbour School we use the NSW FONT. We encourage you to use the same font at home. I have included a copy of this font in this handout.

## Practical routines

- Doors open at 8.35, please try to read the big white board on our veranda each day before you come in as this is one of the many ways for us to communicate with you. Other ways will be by letters in your child File. Please empty your file every day in the morning and or afternoon. We also communicate by our school app and the classroom app SEESAW. SEESAW is a great app that let us post and share photos of your child's work and activities in class and we can send each other messages through the app too. You all must sign the form first in able for us to start this app. I will explain more about this in our information session.
- In the morning the children can do an activity at the table or a puzzle / book on the mat. It is nice to play with your child for a little while and then say your good byes. The children get a change to play and communicate with each other before we pack

away, this gives the children time to settle and socialize with their peers.

- On Monday we have Mrs Corrina Huxham and Mrs Julie Cacic as our Educational Assistance and on Tuesday & Wednesday we have Mrs Jan Van Vliet (Mrs Vee, if it is too tricky to pronounce)
- If another person is picking up your child, please let us know and write it down on our arrangement sheet near the door.
- Please let the school or myself know if your child is not attending school. School number 95248100 or myself 0432678801 (text only please)
- We have fruit for our morning tea and children are encouraged to all eat a piece of fruit and then they can have something else healthy and nutritious. For lunch also Nutritious food and no chips, lollies or chocolate please.
- I also promote a wrapper free lunchbox, containers are much better for our environment.
- We do like to make your child's birthday special, so we do like to sing and feel free to bring a treat to share with their friends in class. We do have a child who has CELIAC DISEASE, which means GLUTEN FREE DIET AT ALL TIMES. You could make Gluten free cakes, or you could think of other treats like, Fruit Kebabs, Kinder Chocolate (gluten free) some popcorns are gluten free ( please check on package) but we will have an alternative treat for this child in our class for when the Birthday Treat is not Gluten Free.
- Our class Teddy: Miffy, loves to come for a sleepover with all children in our class. The children can take Miffy on their adventures. We encourage you to write and stick photo's or make drawings in the book that comes with Miffy. This will help your child to Show and Tell about their adventures with Miffy. Please look after Miffy and her belongings.

## Questions and concerns

Please feel free to come and approach me when you have any concerns or worries about your child, in the afternoon is a better time, as I like to welcome and attend to everyone in the morning.

If you would like to have a meeting with me, please come and make an appointment so we can sit down after school and have a chat.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Barbara Singleton

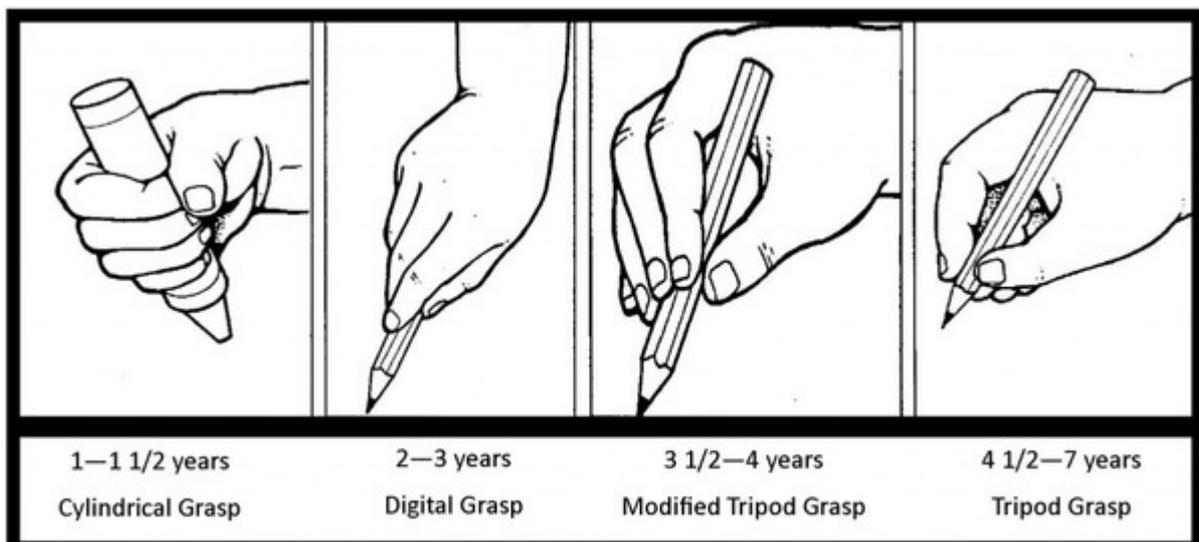
Welcome to  
**Jolly  
Phonics**



## Pencil hold

The pencil rest between the thumb and the first finger, the next finger prevents the pencil from falling and last two fingers are tucked away.

The hand rests on the table and the movement is through the thumb and the first finger.



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