

Monthly Newsletter

January 2026

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! We would like to thank you for being a valued part of the Little Assets community. We are truly grateful for the trust you place in us to care for and educate your children—it is a privilege to be part of their early learning journey.

As part of your child's growth and development, some children will be transitioning to new rooms this month, beginning 26 January 2026, unless advised otherwise. Our educators will work closely with your children to ensure this transition is a positive, smooth, and supportive experience. Transition periods will begin this week to help children feel comfortable and confident in their new environments.

We are also delighted to welcome several new children and families to our centre this month. A very warm welcome to our new families—we look forward to building a strong and supportive partnership with you.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's transition further, please feel free to speak with your child's educators or contact the office—

Dency Patel- Director



Dear Families,

Thank you for joining us at our Christmas and Graduation celebration last month. We truly appreciated your presence and had a wonderful time celebrating together as a community.

As we head into the New Year, we are excited to share some meaningful changes in our program. We will be increasing the use of handwritten observations and individual portfolios for each child.

While we will continue to document learning on Story Park, we are also committed to capturing children's learning in more authentic and visible ways within the classroom. To support this, we will be using tools such as sociograms, mind maps, and a Wonder Wall. Thank you

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

Warm Regards,
Dikshya-Educational Leader



Christmas Party

HIGHLIGHTS



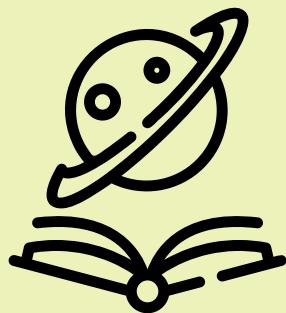
Graduation Party 2025



Days to Remember



1st Jan
New Year's Day
(Public Holiday)



2nd Jan
National Science
Fiction Day



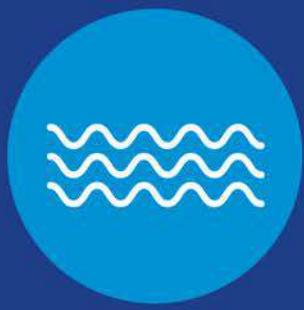
10th Jan
Houseplant Appreciation
Day



17th Jan
Kid Inventors' Day



Australia Day(public
holiday)



Drowning

National Statistics

Drowning is one of the leading causes of unintentional death for Australian children. Statistics from *Australia's National Drowning Report* by the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia shows that in 2017/2018:

Children 0-4 years

18 CHILDREN DROWNED.

Drownings in swimming pools accounted for 67% of these deaths.¹

Children 5-14 years

9 CHILDREN DROWNED.

Lakes/dams/lagoons (22%), the beach (22%), and bathtubs/spa baths (22%) were the leading locations for drowning incidents among this age group.¹

Non-fatal drowning incidents are also a cause of concern as they can result in long term effects such as brain damage and permanent disability. Statistics from the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia show that on average for children under 5 years of age there are more than 7. non-fatal drowning incidents for every drowning death.²

Why children are at risk

Children are adventurous and enjoy exploring their environments. They are often attracted to water but have little understanding of the danger that it poses. The physical build of young children also places them at risk as they are 'top heavy' and prone to falling into water due to a lack of balance.

Drowning can occur quickly and silently - 20 seconds and a few centimetres of water is all it takes for a toddler to drown. It's not only large bodies of water, such as pools and the beach that put children at risk; baths, ponds, buckets, eskies, pet's drinking bowls and other small bodies of water are also drowning hazards. Paddling drowning incidents or playing in flood waters has also resulted in

Common causes – how and when

Children 0-4 years

- Swimming pools are the most common location for toddler drownings making up 67% of all cases followed by bathtubs which account for 22%.
- Children falling into water account for 78% of drownings.
- Evidence suggests that a large number of drowning deaths in backyard pools are a result of pool barriers that are faulty or non compliant with Australian standards and the absence of active adult supervision. ³

20 SECONDS AND A FEW CENTIMETRES OF WATER IS ALL IT TAKES FOR A CHILD TO DROWN.

Children 5-14 years

- Lakes/dams/lagoons (22%), the beach (22%) and baths/spa baths (22%) were the most common locations for drowning among this age group.
- Swimming and recreation was the most common activity being undertaken at the time of the drowning incidents, accounting for 56% of all deaths in this age group.
- Under-estimating the strength of currents and over-estimating swimming ability are common mistakes for this age group.

Key messages for prevention⁴

1. Supervision

- Keep a constant watch on your children around the water and don't be distracted by your phone.
- Active adult supervision involves focusing all of your attention on children at all times, when they are in, on or around the water. Do not expect older children to look after their younger siblings. Children have short attention spans and can be easily distracted.
- Remain within arm's reach of toddlers to ensure you can get to the child in time if something goes wrong.
- Older children still need to be supervised by an adult who is ready to enter the water in case of an emergency.
- Always take children with you if you leave the water area.

2. Reduce the hazard

- Use safety barriers, such as pool barriers, to restrict access to water.
- Remove hazards such as pot plants and chairs from pool barriers to prevent children climbing on to them and over the barrier.

• Do not prop any doors or gates open as this may allow children access to a body of water.

• Create a safe play area to separate children from bodies of water such as swimming pools and dams. This is especially important on farms and larger properties as very young children have been known to follow family pets to water over very long distances.

• Regularly inspect and maintain your pool barrier and gate to ensure that it is working properly. Weather conditions and general wear and tear can affect the performance of your pool barrier.

• Water familiarisation lessons can assist in teaching children to swim while also helping them understand water safety.

4. Resuscitation

- Learn CPR and update your skills regularly so that you are prepared in the event of an emergency.
- Resuscitation posters are a good reminder to keep around pools and spas.

Kidsafe is here to assist you. This information is of a general nature. If you require specific advice please contact us to discuss further.

Kidsafe Australia | www.kidsafe.com.au | national@kidsafe.com.au



References and links

1. Royal Life Saving Society Australia. National Drowning Report 2018. https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/23197/RLS_NDR2018_ReportLR.pdf
2. Mahony, A, Barnsley, P, Peden, AE, Scarr, J (2017) A thirteen year national study of non-fatal drowning in Australia: Data challenges, hidden impacts and social costs, Royal Life Saving Society – Australia. Sydney.
3. Royal Life Saving Society Australia. National Drowning Report 2016. https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/18085/RLS_NDR2016_ReportLR.pdf
4. Royal Life Saving Society Australia. Keep Watch. <http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/programs/keep-watch-toddler-drowning-prevention-program>



Chef Prahlad

From the Kitchen

French onion dip



Ingredients

LEMON JUICE 65G

SOY MILK 300G

SALT 10g

SUGAR 20g

WHITE WINE VINEGAR 30gm

VEG OIL 1300G

BROWN ONION 70gm

CHOPPED CHIVE 60gm

FRENCH ONION SOUP MIX 80gm

SILKEN TOFU 100G

Method

COMBINE EVERYTHING EXCEPT OIL & CHIVES IN THERMO. BLEND ON SPEED 10 FOR 20 SECONDS. KEEP THERMO ON SPEED 10 QUICKLY EMULSE WITH VEG OIL UNTIL $\frac{3}{4}$ OIL IS COMBINED AND THICK ONCE MIX STARTS TO THICKEN HEAVILY START SHAKING THE THERMO AND BLENDING REMAINDER OF OIL. FOLD THROUGH CHIVES AT END.

New Year Information for Families

As we welcome the New Year, we'd like to share a few important reminders and focus areas to help keep your child safe, healthy, and happy while in our care.

☀️ Sun Safety

With warmer weather continuing, please ensure:

- Your child arrives with sunscreen applied
- A labelled hat is provided each day
- Appropriate cool, sun-safe clothing is worn

We will reapply sunscreen throughout the day as needed.

💧 Hydration & Healthy Eating

Please provide a labelled water bottle each day

We encourage healthy, nutritious food to support children's energy and wellbeing

👕 Spare Clothing

Ensure your child has weather-appropriate spare clothes in their bag, including a change of underwear

🤝 Wellbeing & Transitions

The New Year can bring new routines and emotions. We will continue to support children's:

- Emotional wellbeing
- Confidence and independence
- Positive friendships and social skills

📅 Communication

Please continue to:

Check Story Park regularly for updates and learning stories

Let educators know about any changes at home that may affect your child's day

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another year of learning, growth, and fun together!



We WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE MEET TODAY, THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE OF THE KULIN NATION, AND PAY MY RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING

Thank you for reading our newsletter