**Attendance at Salisbury Kindergarten**

Regular attendance at kindergarten is essential to support children to develop in all areas to their full potential. Research has found that poor attendance can become a pattern that may continue into school. This would impact negatively on the child’s educational progress and future success.

**Please give us a call:** Families are asked to call or text in if their child will be away. It is especially important for families to call if the child has an infectious illness. This will enable staff to inform other families about the illness. If no contact has been made by the end of the week, a member of staff will call the family and enquire about the child’s absence. If the child has missed 20 consecutive sessions and no contact has been made between the centre and family, it will be assumed that the child has left the centre and their enrolment will need to be re-registered.

**Child not wanting to come?:** If you are having difficulty getting your child to come to kindergarten please speak with staff. Many children have separation anxiety but staff have been trained to deal with issues. Regular attendance will eventually ease the anxiety in the child and adult.

**Should they come every session?:** YES, if they are well. Regular attendance helps the child to form friendships with peers, settle into the routine and therefore become a functioning member of the kindergarten. Most importantly, regular attendance will support your child in all areas of their development.

**Just Playing?:** Please be assured that children at kindergarten are learning just as much as they do at school. Our program is play based and our philosophy is that children learn by exploring, problem solving and participating in hands on activities that interest them. Play is young children’s work. It is essential that they have the opportunity to discover and participate in hands on activities before entering into formal schooling structures. The Director and Teachers all have a 4 year University degree in Early Childhood Education and our support staff are all experienced and participate regularly in professional development.

**Absences affect the kindergarten:** Absences are noted according to a code in the roll book. Staff discuss attendance regularly at staff meetings and data is regularly sent into head office for analysis. Our staffing numbers are worked out on attendance figures from the previous term. Low attendance may mean less staff allocated to the site in the future!

**Closure days:** Kindergartens are permitted to have 2 closure days per year for staff to attend training and development as a team or participate in professional development at the centre.

**Excursions:** We try to hold an excursion each term relating to the topics being investigated at the kindergarten. We will endeavour to ensure that all children have the opportunity to attend by keeping the price low. We encourage you to allow your child to attend if possible as the learning experiences are valuable. Adults are often required to support and are welcome to come along.