It is often easier to see what young children can’t do than what they can. It is an ongoing challenge to draw a line between what we need to do for children to keep them safe and healthy and what we can expect them to do for themselves. The phrase “competent and capable learners” is often used by educators to describe children in early childhood. If we see children as competent and capable, we will allow them the time, space and independence to try new challenges and to keep on trying if they don’t master a skill straight away. By keeping our expectations high and not rushing to do things for children, we send them a clear and powerful message that “I believe you can do it”.

*It took my son a long time to learn to tie his shoelaces. Over and over again I watched him make a loose bow which would come untied within minutes and I would fight the urge to take over and quickly tie a nice tight double knot. Sometimes I asked if I could help, but he always said no, he knew how to do it. And he did know how. He just wasn’t very good at it…yet. My instinct to help was natural but to do so would have sent a message that “you can’t do it so I have to do it for you”. I would be making him “helpless” rather than allowing him to be the competent and capable learner that he is.*

Every child is rich with learning potential.

Our turtle Crush died last weekend. We broke the news to the kindy group and many children shared their experiences with their own pets. We have decided to get some fish for the tank. We also have frogspawn in our display case so we may have tadpoles and frogs as well!

Kindy families are asked to pack morning tea in a separate container in their child’s. We want our competent and capable kindy children to learn to recognise when they are hungry and to manage their morning tea routine independently. If your child’s morning tea is in their lunchbox, they won’t be able to use their independence as the kitchen is restricted for safety reasons. Some children are hungrier than others at morning tea time, depending on when they had breakfast and how much they ate. You can adjust what you send accordingly; a child who has eaten a big breakfast may only need fruit. For those of you who have had March 6
Parent Information Evening 7.00-8.30pm
March 11
Governing Council 6.30pm
March 20
“Family Time Fun” Session 7.00-9.00pm

PLAYGROUP

Playgroups are gatherings of parents and young children, usually in a kindy or early childhood centre. The purpose of playgroup is for parents to develop supportive networks with other parents and for children to socialize and try new activities with the security of having a parent nearby.

With Bizzy Bugs, Rhyme Time and Story Time on Friday mornings, there is a lot on offer for children in Jamesotwn and our Playgroup ceased in 2013 due to lack of interest. However, we have maintained our membership with Playgroups SA, so re-establishing the group would just require a few interested families and somebody to be the co-ordinator. We could accommodate Playgroup on alternate “non kindy” Mondays. If you are interested in having a Playgroup, email: Alison.Arthur669@schools.sa.edu.au
children in child care, remember that at shared fruit time many children eat less than a full piece of fruit. If children don’t eat much at morning tea time and then become hungry in the afternoon, we encourage them to eat their leftovers. It’s great to see them independently recognizing and acting on their body signals.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

Kindy News...
Kindy children read a book called “Big Rain Coming” and looked at the dot paintings in the pictures. We are making a dot-painted backdrop for the koalas, echidnas and emus we have made. We have been learning to walk safely in a line (a few fire drills have given us some valuable practice) and on Tuesday we walked to the Jamestown Community Library where Mrs Broad read us some stories.

Wallabies’ News...
On Wednesday we planted flower seeds in potting mix. We are using cardboard pots that can be planted straight into the garden once the seedlings have grown.

Puggles’ and Joey’s News...
We found a beetle in the grass. Hope put it into a bug viewer so that we could see it close up. We got a surprise when it flapped its wings and flew away! Hope has made an apple tree for our pin board and we are the apples! Each child’s apple (showing their name and photo) is placed on the tree when they are at child care. Our goal is to create a sense of belonging and to develop the children’s awareness of print through allowing them to “read” the apples. That’s all for now from the JCCC team!

Do you have a concern, question or comment? Please talk to us via informal chat, phone call, email or face to face meeting. Strong partnerships and open communication between families and staff have a positive impact on your child’s experience.