

## Centre Manager AGM Report.

I am honoured to stand before you as the newly appointed Centre Manager for Golden Square Kindergarten in 2023. It has been an incredible year, and I am thrilled to share some of our accomplishments and experiences with you all.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for the wonderful kindergarten community that I have had the privilege of being a part of this year. Our dedicated teaching team, including Carol, Jennifer, and all the educators, have truly created a nurturing and enriching learning environment, not only for our children but for everyone involved. The care and support they show to one another are truly admirable and set a beautiful example for the children under our care.

I must also acknowledge the incredible reputation of our kindergarten, which is a testament to the countless hours of hard work and dedication put in by all of you over the years. It's a reflection of the quality of education and care we provide here at Golden Square Kindergarten.

Now, let's take a moment to reflect on the highlights of this year. We celebrated our first full year in our new Chum building and successfully launched the 15-hour funded kindergarten program for our 3-year-old groups. Our group numbers have remained steady, with the Emus (long days) welcoming some new additions during the third and fourth terms, while our Penguins group maintained a consistent number of 33 children throughout the year.

The inclusion of 3-year-old groups brought new energy to our team, with the addition of two teachers and five new educators who have proven to be valuable assets to our kindergarten community. It's not always easy to adapt to a new environment, but they have all shown dedication and a willingness to learn and contribute to the GSK way of education.

For our pre-kindergarten crew, the privilege of educating children away from their parents for the first time is a significant responsibility. This year, especially, when many children spent more time at home due to the ongoing pandemic, transitioning to kindergarten was a monumental step. The first two terms were focused on building trusting relationships, which involved lots of cuddles and reassurance to instil the idea that parents would come back and that they could trust us. We used visual cues to help them understand the concept of time and when their parents would return. We've patiently answered endless questions like, "Where's my mum?" and wiped away the tears of worried little faces as they experienced being away from their families, including their older siblings who have returned to full-time school.

The care and patience displayed by the pre-kindergarten team this year have been heartwarming to witness. Not once did I see a child left sad and unattended. Many times, I witnessed educators with multiple children huddled around them, seeking comfort and reassurance.

As we entered terms 3 and 4, things started to settle down. The children realised that their parents would return, and kindergarten wasn't so scary after all. They relaxed and began to embrace the learning opportunities available to them. Little personalities started to shine through, and we had the pleasure of sharing stories and celebrating achievements.

I would like to take this moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the pre-kindergarten team for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. I look forward to starting this incredible journey all over again in 2024.

Our 4-year-old groups are nothing short of a masterpiece. Each group has its own organised systems in place to ensure the smooth running of the program. However, this organisational structure doesn't detract from the hard work and dedication I witness every day in building trusting relationships with both children and their families. Our teams are responsive to the individual needs of each child and celebrate their achievements daily. They consistently advocate for the child's voice to be heard in the programs, allowing these young learners to have agency over their own learning.

I feel incredibly lucky to witness these meaningful interactions between educators and children. The proud and confident faces of our children as they navigate the kindergarten is a testament to the value of these interactions.

Other achievements to share from 2023 include:

We had our national assessment and rating back in June. This was a time to showcase our wonderful Kinder, and following on from previous years, we were awarded for our hard work with another exceeding rating. Thank you to everyone who contributed to helping us get ready for the assessment. Special mention to Carol and Dani for typing and retyping many sections of the QIP.

The installation of the bike track during the term 3 holidays has, of course, been well-received by all the children. Thank you, Dani, for championing this.

We have recently had Grant, our IT person, upgrade our computers and software programs. It was not an easy job; however, I think we are almost at the end now. Thanks, Grant.

I would like to personally thank Carol and Jennifer for their continuous support throughout this year. Learning the COM style of running a Kinder has been a huge learning experience for me, and having these exceptional women supporting me has really made this transition worthwhile.

I would like to thank the Committee of Management; this group has remained strong all year while navigating new territory. Thank you for your time and patience as we all learn together. Thank you to Jacki for coming on as President for the final part of the year.

Lastly, to the teachers and educators, wow, just wow! You all bring your own qualities to the team, and you all shine in your own ways. I value our conversations and your ideas, big or small. You are all open to a laugh and contribute to making my day brighter. I look forward to what you have to bring in 2024.

2024 is looking to be another successful year for GSK. Enrolments are almost full, and staff allocations are complete.

We are welcoming one new Cert 3 qualified educator, Meagan, to the Penguins team and saying goodbye to Tara, who has secured full-time hours at BDAC Kinder.

Goals and plans for the Kinder include upgrades of the old Chum kitchen and office, as well as making a start on the playground upgrade. This includes the installation of shade sails at each entrance as well as in the playground.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to Golden Square Kindergarten. Together, we have created a nurturing and enriching environment for our children to thrive, and I look forward to the exciting journey that lies ahead in 2024. Thank you.