



**Flying Start**  
for kids



**3-year-old  
preschool partner**

**2026**

## **Vanessa Harvie, Director**



Welcome to Lighthouse Early Learning! When I'm not at Encounter, I enjoy long walks, exploring our beautiful Fleurieu region, gardening and spending time with my Husband, our three children and their extended families, and my first grand baby, who brings so much joy to our lives.

I have worked in Early Childhood Education for over 25 years and feel truly blessed to have led such a positive, passionate, and talented team here at the Lighthouse, for the past two years.

Together, our team is dedicated to creating a warm, welcoming environment where children feel safe, supported, and confident to explore, learn and discover through play. I am so excited to meet all our Early Learners, and look forward to partnering with families, as each child begins their unique journey here at The Lighthouse.

## **Kara Toming, Administration Officer**



## **Casual Staff**

**Jodie Guidi, Co-educator**

**Lisa Crane, Co-educator**

**Judy Fincham, Early Childhood Teacher**

**Billie Ellis, Early Childhood Teacher**



3-year-old preschool partner

# Meet the Joey's Team ...



## Jess Pater, Teacher

Welcome everyone! I hope you all had a safe and happy holiday break. I'm so excited to get to know the new early learners and their families. To those returning, a very warm welcome back.

This is my third year teaching the Joey's at Lighthouse Early Learning, and I feel so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of your child's learning journey. I am passionate about creating a safe, nurturing environment that encourages kindness

curiosity, and strong relationships. I love supporting and guiding children to feel confident in themselves as they explore, learn, and build independence through play-based experiences.

In my spare time, I enjoy being outdoors, going camping, and playing sports. I'm really looking forward to a wonderful year together filled with learning, growth, and fun.



## Celeste Torok, Teacher

Hello, I'm one of the Joeys teachers, and this year marks my 18th year teaching in the Early Learning Centre at Encounter. I absolutely love working with our little learners and am constantly inspired by their creativity, imagination, and beautiful sense of wonder. I have a strong passion for nature play, and I enjoy creating learning experiences that allow children to explore, discover, and connect with the world around them.

When I'm not at Encounter, you'll usually find me at one of our stunning local beaches, walking my fur baby Daisy, or enjoying a coffee and swim at Horseshoe Bay.

I'm really looking forward to the year ahead and getting to know all of you! It's going to be a wonderful journey together.



## Judy Fincham, Teacher

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with excitement for the upcoming school year. I am thrilled to be returning as an Early Learning Teacher. With over 30 years of experience in education, specialized training in early childhood education, and having taught for one semester last term, I am passionate about creating a nurturing and inspiring environment for our students.

Each Wednesday, we will engage in a variety of musical activities, movement exercises, and fun games designed to encourage physical skills, confidence, and teamwork. I look forward to partnering with you to support and encourage your child's growth and development.

In my spare time I enjoy gardening, yoga and walking my fur baby Frankie. I look forward to working with your child as we embark on this exciting journey together.

## Co-Educator Team Members



## Tarina Falanga, Co-Educator

## Emma Andrewartha, Co-Educator





LIGHTHOUSE  
Early Learning ■



# 2026

## Four Year Old Kindergarten Program

### Vanessa Harvie, Director



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Billie Ellis, Early Childhood Teacher



# Meet the Kangaroo's Team ...

## Tori Williams, Teacher



Welcome to the Kangaroos in 2026! I am thrilled to be your child's Kindy teacher this year. I'm a wife, mum to two energetic kids, and to our lively Border Collie fur baby, Ziggy! As a family, we love the outdoors, whether it's camping under the stars, soaking up the sunshine at the beach, or exploring nature on long walks.

Teaching is my true passion. 2026 marks my 12th year at Encounter, with 10 of those spent in the Early Years. I've had the joy of spending the past six years teaching Foundation, and I'm now so excited to bring that experience into the Early Learning Centre.

I absolutely adore working with young learners. Every day is filled with curiosity, growth, laughter, and those magical 'firsts'. I'm especially passionate about nurturing children's social and emotional development and wellbeing, helping them build confidence, resilience, and strong foundations as they prepare to start school in 2027.

Here's to a year of learning, discovery, and joyful moments together in the Kangaroo's!

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## Co-Educator Team Members



### Jess Bridges, Co-Educator

### Heidi Zadow, Co-Educator



### Donna Richter, Co-Educator

