



Kirrawee Child Care Centre Newsletter

January – March 05

Welcome to the New Year. A year in a child's life is very important as the brain of a child is still developing, still storing experiences to call upon and benefit from in years to come.

Bearing this in mind we spare no effort at this Centre in making such experiences as happy and useful as it is humanly possible. We can only succeed with the parent's help and involvement.

While we appreciate the demands on you and your time, we invite all parents to get involved and get to know how we care and provide a developmentally appropriate and safe environment for all the children at the Centre.

All the staff at the Centre are happy to see and listen to you at any time. The team leader this year is Ms. Pam Shaw. The new addition to the staff team is Ms. Evi, who will be mainly in the Wombat room. Evi will graduate with an Early Childhood degree from Macquarie University March this year.

So far Penny should be back from her maternity leave by August if not before. We hope she will be visiting more often as Jake now can entertain himself in the pram.



One important change is the 30% Childcare Government rebate. It is claimable at the end of the financial year, which means **parents must collect and keep all their receipts**. A second receipt will be costly. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Please feel free to see me if the Centre can be of further help to you. See you at the Parents Meeting.

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Wombat Room



Wombat Room News - February 2005

Welcome back to our "old" Wombat children and welcome to our "new" Wombat children! The children who have moved up from the Possum room have been thrilled to "graduate" into the "big room", as they call it, and are settling in very well. They are very proud of themselves and are enjoying all of the activities in the Wombat Room.

We are looking forward to all of the exciting activities planned for the centre this year and will be following these up in the Wombat Room. We are particularly excited about seeing the chickens hatch and we will be learning a lot more about what hatches out of eggs!

Storytime:

In the next couple of months we will also be reading some great stories - some old tales such as the Great Big Enormous Turnip, and some stories by well known authors.

Storytime is a fabulous time for developing language skills (comprehension and expression), thinking/ cognitive skills (making predictions), reading skills (how stories work, participating in story telling, memorising stories over time, learning letter recognition & matching sound), social skills (listening, turn taking, confidence in joining in story telling & discussions). Please remember to check the Wombat Room notice board for information on the children's interests and investigations they engage in each month.

Interests so far: Dinosaurs, hot/cold, numbers, bugs, transport.

Maths:

We are doing lots of counting - we count everything - our fingers, other people's fingers, the children, things in books. We are learning (or consolidating knowledge from last year) number-recognition & also 1 - 1 correspondence.

This last skill is the more difficult, but very important: it means that when we count 5 fingers - we count to 5. The best way you can help your child develop 1-1 correspondence is by doing lots of counting - the forks at the table, plants in the garden, people in your family - almost anything can be counted.



Possum Room

A big welcome to all our new children and parents and to the children and parents returning from last year. Welcome!!!!

During the first few weeks of the year we will be focusing on settling the children into their new environment and a routine. This will enable the children to become familiar with their surroundings and their carers.

The 2 to 3 year old room is known as the Possum Room. The children will begin to know that the Possum Room is their room.

Already the children are beginning to take an interest in certain themes. We have been singing Old Mac Donald had a Farm. We have a wall hanging where the children can participate in the song as well as learn about the farm animals and their sounds.

We will continue this theme for a number of weeks. If any parents have anything they would like to contribute to our farm animal theme we would greatly appreciate it.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful year ahead with the children. Parents please feel free to visit us any time.

Pam, Laura and Corinna

The Program

At the centre we are implementing a new style of programming called the Emergent Curriculum.

Emergent Curriculum is where the teachers guide rather than instruct the children. The curriculum is based on children, teachers and parents interests. It encourages children to explore and investigate their environment and the journey is ever changing. The room environment is set in a way that supports the children to explore, learn, collaborate, reflect and communicate. It is almost like a second teacher.

The benefits of Emergent Curriculum are:

It is developmentally appropriate

It encourages children to participate actively

It supports children to make choices and work collaboratively in their learning

It is also evolving and open-ended. One theme may evolve into a new theme with the guidance of the children

It is flexible and meets the children's own interests and needs

It gives teachers and parents the opportunity to share and explore their knowledge and experience

It helps children to build on what they already know

It supports both individual and group needs

If you would like to discuss this further please feel free to ask the staff as we would be more than happy to speak with you and hear your thoughts.

Parents, please look at our board in the Possum and Wombat rooms. You will notice that we have already begun to do our programming based on what the children have shown interest in.

Toilet Training

If you are in the process of toilet training your child or you would like to begin toilet training please come and ask the staff. We are very willing to support you with this area of development.

Nappies

Could parents with children that are in nappies please supply 3-4 nappies per day that we can keep in their nappy basket located in the nappy change area. A staff member will be able to show you where these are kept.

Sheets

We would like to ask all parents with children in the Possum Room to supply sheets for their children for rest time. The sheets can be cot size. The sheets will be sent home for washing on the last day of your child's attendance each week.

Toys

We would like to ask that the children bring one soft toy for your for rest time only. It would be greatly appreciated if all other toys be kept at home as we do not wish for them to be broken or lost.

Hats

SLIP, SLOP, SLAP! Sun protection is taken very seriously at the centre. We have a centre policy where NO HAT NO PLAY is in place. If your child does not have a hat they will need to stay on the verandah. We do not supply spare hats for hygienic purposes. Hats can remain at the centre on the hook in their lockers.

Clothes

Please ensure that your child's clothes, hats and shoes are clearly labelled with their name. We would like to suggest that parents include 2 spare sets of clothes for toddlers and 1 spare set of clothes per day for pre-schoolers. On warm days we have waterplay and the children love water. Also some children may have accidents, such as, spilling their drink,

Meal Time

The children get very excited when it comes to meal time. They love to choose what they want to eat. Please remember that the contents of the lunch boxes needs to be as nutritious as possible. Please try to avoid chocolate, sweets and cordial that can cause holes in their teeth. The centre is a peanut free centre. Please note that Nutella cannot be brought into the centre and please check the muesli bars for traces of nuts and other foods that may contain nuts. For ideas on what to pack in your child's lunch box please click on our website: www.kirrawechildcare.com.au We have also attached some ideas in the newsletter.

Birthdays

When your child is having a birthday we would like to encourage parents to bring a cake so we can celebrate your child's birthday together. If you require any further information about having a birthday celebration for your child at the centre please do not hesitate to ask the staff.

Dress-Ups

The children love to dress-up and pretend play. They take on many roles and enjoy being someone other than themselves. We would like to ask for parents support, If you have any old shoes, handbags or gloves that you could contribute to our dress-up corner it would be greatly appreciated and enjoyed. Just one or two items would be fantastic. Thank you.

Spare Paper

At the centre the children love to draw, cut, paste and paint. We would like to ask parents if you have any spare paper you would like to recycle we would love to take it off your hands.

Lunch Boxes

Just a reminder to parents regarding lunch boxes. Could you please provide your child with a solid lunch box. The recommended sizes for lunch boxes are approximately 23 x 15 x 12cm or 25 x 13 x 18cm. This will make it easier to stack all lunch boxes in the fridge.

Drink Bottles

We are also asking for children to bring along their own drink bottles clearly named. Children will have access to their drink bottles at all times. Staff will refill their bottles throughout the day.

Fundraising

Every year the centre holds fundraising events to support us to raise funds to purchase new equipment and teaching aids for the centre. We hope that all parents will support us with our fundraising events this year.

Our first fundraising event is Cadbury Chocolate Fund Raiser.

The chocolates will be delivered on Monday 14th February. And Easter isn't far away so lets all get together and sell sell sell!!!!

More information will be going out to parents shortly.

Living Eggs

On March 7th we will be having a visit from Living Eggs. A number of eggs will be placed in an incubator and hatched out here at the centre.

This is a great experience for the children.

They will have a first hand experience of the chicks hatching out of the eggs and then growing into fluffy chicks. They will see them eating, sleeping, drinking and growing their feathers.

The chicks will be here for approximately 10 days. In order for the centre to run this program there is a cost of \$7.00 per child.

Attached is a permission slip which needs to be filled in and returned to the centre with the money by 28th February 2005.

If any parents would like to take any of the chickens home at the end of the program please let staff know by the 14th March.

Disco

The centre will be holding a Disco for all the families and friends on **Friday 18th March from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.**

The cost will be \$5.00 per family.

More information will follow closer to the date.

Please mark this date in your diary.

It will be a fun filled night for parents and children. Come and have a dance with your children.

Table of Events for 2005

February—Parents Meeting

Wednesday 2nd February—6.15pm

February

21st February 2005 Centre open for 11 years

February—Cadbury Chocolate Fund Raising

Monday 14th February to Friday 11th March 2005

March—Living Eggs Visit

Monday 7th March to Friday 18th March 2005

Cost: \$7.00 per child

March - Disco

Friday 18th March

Cost: \$5.00 per family

May—TBA

Fire Brigade / Police / Ambulance visit

June—TBA

Colgate

July—TBA

CSIRO—Lab on Legs Science Visit

September—TBA

Pixi Photos

September—TBA

National Simultaneous Story Time

September—TBA

Reading Morning Tea

October—TBA

School Photos

October—TBA

Fete

December—TBA

Graduation

During the year we will also be having Library visits