



Kirrawee Child Care Centre Newsletter

April – June 05

Since our last news letter the Centre has been busy organizing and preparing for the rest of the year.

Here are the highlights of what will take place.

The children's dance lessons will commence on Monday 2nd of May. The teacher Mrs. Rhonda Pickering, who is one of the Senior Dance Teachers at major children's dance academies in the Shire. Mrs. Rhonda has many years experience, loves children, cares for them and understands their physical and postural needs. Parents are welcome to come and watch between 10.30am and 11.30am every Monday.

On Friday 22nd April the Yoga Children Class will commence. This class will continue every Friday between 10.30am and 11.30am. Yoga is a form of complete education that can be used with all children because it develops physical stamina, emotional stability, intellectual and creative talents. It is a unified system for developing and balancing the total personality of the child. Ms Renee and Ms Maritza for the School of Yoga for Children will conduct the class every week. Parents are welcome to come along as well.

Children's school readiness and preschool program are progressing well. Parents please feel free to arrange a meeting with the teacher Ms. Anna (Wombat Room) or Ms. Pam (Possum Room) and look at your child's developmental records and progress.



The centre welcomes Anna, our new Early Childhood Teacher.

Undoubtedly her years of experience will soon be reflected in the children's development and behaviour.

An addition to our existing table of events for the year is the hosting of the Sutherland Belly Dance Group. This event will be taking place on Thursday 12th May from 10.30am. It is a regular event and the children love it, and we at the Centre are sure parents will enjoy it too, so make a family day out of it. All parents and grandparents are invited to attend the event and to stay for a Middle Eastern lunch, which will be provided by the centre. Next parents meeting is on **Wednesday** 11th May 2005 at 6.10 PM. We would like as many parents as possible to attend, as the agenda is full with interesting issues like lunch, food for the children, administering panadol, and any other issues you would like to put on the agenda. Naturally childcare and supper is provided.

We look forward to seeing all parents there.

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Wombat



Room

Wombat Room News - April 2005

In the Wombat Room we have thoroughly enjoyed cooking. So far this term we have baked cakes and shared them with the Possum Room. We also baked green cakes for our St. Patrick's Day celebration.

We have also made jelly cups with Fruit. We cut the fruit up and made the jelly. Then we mixed it all together and put it in the fridge to set.

We made pop corn, funny face iced biscuits and we loved making our fruit smoothies. They were yummy.

We have been enjoying interesting science investigations including growing our own grass using birdseed.

We learnt about Australian animals including kookaburras. We saw a family of kookaburras in the tree in our playground.

As part of our science investigations we learnt about healthy food and why it is so good for us. You can ask us and we will tell you why healthy food is good for you.

We have had a full few months and look forward to the next few months being even more exciting with a new teacher and lots of new things to experience.

Jacqueline, Lisa and Anna

Possum Room

We are already through a quarter of the year and it is moving very quickly. So is the growth of all the children. They are developing and **growing** and learning so quickly it is fascinating to watch them.

Here in the possum room these first three months we have been learning about farm animals, jungle animals, the ABC and counting to 5.

The children have also been learning the word 'stop' and know the hand signal for stop. This has been **learn't** through reading Stop Elephant Stop and the wall chart we have on the wall. Some of the children know the book Stop Elephant Stop word for word. They love to participate in the reading and the actions.

We have also been doing a lot of dancing. We thoroughly enjoy dancing to Wiggly woo and Hi 5. During the music sessions we have also played the musical instruments and love making lots of noise.

We will continue our counting and ABC theme throughout the coming weeks. We will also begin to look at transport and colours. If any parents have anything they would like to contribute to our themes please feel free to do so.

Pam, Corinna and Laura



Parent Involvement/Participation Plan

Dear Parents

At the centre we believe parent involvement and participation is of the utmost importance.

It is a way in which you - the parent - can be involved in the daily activities and to participate with your child and the other children who attend the centre.

We are asking for parents, both mum and dad, to commit to visiting the centre and participating with the children. By this we mean coming along and reading a favourite story to the children, baking cakes, bathing the new baby or even an art or craft activity.

You can even come along and talk to the children about what you do at work.

You might work with the police, ambulance or fire brigade or even **just in an office. What you do with them they will love it; they will talk about it, and learn from it a great deal.**

You only need to spend an hour with the children.

We understand you all lead very busy lives, however, the children love having mum or dad or even the grandparents visit the centre.

So please think about the above as it is so important to have parents involvement and participation and this in turn supports the children's development.

Please feel free to talk to the staff about what you can do at the centre.

Thank you

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.

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

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.

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. Thank you to all parents who have kindly donated paper already.

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.

Toys

Some children are still bringing toys which are very precise to your child.

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.

Fundraising

Our first fundraising event was a great success. We raised \$1000.00. We have already purchased some items which have been on display in the foyer. The children are now enjoying the items in their rooms.

Thank you to everyone for the great effort that went into our fund raiser. It is greatly appreciated and without your support it would not have been possible.

Living Eggs

During March we had the Living Eggs Program at our centre. We had 11 eggs delivered and within 3 days we had 10 chickens hatch out.

Three black, two brown and 5 yellow.

The children had the opportunity to watch the chickens hatch out and see their feathers growing. The children squealed with delight as the egg broke in half and a yellow chicken appeared. This was a great experience for all the children at the centre. They had first hand experience of the chicks hatching out of the eggs and then growing their feathers and watching them drink, eat and sleep.

The children were also able to handle and nurse the chickens. Parents, please look at the story boards in the foyer as every picture tells a story.

The comments from a number of the children are precious.

Sutherland Belly Dancers

Come and see the Belly Dancers on Thursday 12th May from 10.30am. This will be a wonderful fun filled time. Lunch will be provided for all parents and visitors. A Middle Eastern lunch will be provided.

SEE YOU THERE

Easter Bonnet Parade

On Tuesday 22nd March we had our Easter Bonnet Parade. Many of the children made bonnets at child care. A number of children had the help of their mum's and dad's. The Easter Bonnets looked absolutely wonderful. Thank you to all the parents for their support with the making of the bonnets. Also thank you to the parents who bought morning tea for all of us to share. Due to the wet weather we could not get outside for our Easter Egg Hunt so the children were given a small bag of eggs to take home. Parents, please look at the story board in the foyer which shows the fun we all had during our Easter Bonnet Parade.

Disco

We would like to apologise for the postponement of the disco. We will, however, re-schedule this at a later date.

Parent Background Information Forms

Over the last couple of weeks staff have been handing **Parent Background Information Forms** out to all parents.

We would like to ask if parents would please return these forms as soon as possible as these forms will support and guide us with the development of your child. If you have any questions regarding these forms please do not hesitate to speak with Pam or Anna.

Table of Events for 2005

May—Thursday 5th @ 10.30am

Fire Brigade will be visiting the centre. (Unless there is an emergency call out)

May— Wednesday 11th @ 11.00am

Library Visit—All welcome

May— Thursday 12th @ 10.30am

Sutherland Belly Dancers visiting the centre. Lunch provided for all parents.

June— Wednesday 29th @ 10.30am

Colgate Dental Care

July—Friday 29th @ 10.30am

CSI RO—Lab on Legs Science Visit

August—Wednesday 17th @ 11.00am

Library Visit—All welcome

September— Saturday 17th

Fete

September—TBA

National Simultaneous Story Time

September—TBA

Reading Morning Tea

October—TBA

Disco

November—Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd

School Photos

December—Friday 9th—this will be an early evening event. More information to follow.

Graduation and Christmas Party

December— Friday 23rd @ 12.00 noon

Centre closes for Christmas break

January— Monday 9th 2006

Centre re-opens at 7.30am