



Kirrawee Child Care Centre Newsletter

July – September 2005

The last six months have been really exciting as is evident in the children's' development and behaviour.

The next six months will be just as exciting as Penny will be easing her way back from her maternity leave.

Also as from the next school term 18th July 05 the Centre will be providing before and after school care from Oyster Bay Public School and Taren Point Public School also we will be servicing St Joseph's Primary School.

This new service will be available to all Centre's users. Please feel free to speak with and see the Director if you need such service or need to enrol your child in one of those schools.

The children are enjoying the food provided by the Centre, they eat well, and their eating habits and palates have improved as they are experiencing a variety of food, colours, and textures.



Next week the children's checklist will be available please make sure you collect your child's copy, and feel free to see the Director if we can be of further assistance.



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The Wombat Room

Welcome to the winter season! We have been having lots of fun and learning many new skills in the past few months. We have been working hard on our school readiness while learning a number of new interesting things through the *Emergent Curriculum* approach. Information about your child's learning and progress is evident through what is displayed regularly around the room.

The set-up of the class is designed to allow lots of different types of learning with many choices of activities available at all times. It is also created to encourage social interaction amongst all children, a very important developmental milestone at this age.

Each child has their own portfolio which is regularly updated. You may see it any time with the Wombat Room staff. Children also have a book with all their school readiness activities which you may take home each week. It would be appreciated if you glue or stamp in the loose pages and complete any unfinished work (if your child chooses to do it.)

The Wombat Room children have been learning and developing many skills which are evident through the checklists which we have recently completed. These skills include; alphabet, colours, maths concepts (number skills, opposites mass, size, length...), name and sight word recognition, basic science (especially animals and insects) group story writing and making group lists and charts about various topics of interest.

We've had various visitors including the local Fire Brigade, Belly dancers, Colgate and the Shire library. Children enjoy these activities as well as Dace class on Mondays and Yoga class on Fridays, all at 10.30am.

We will continue to learn lots more as we progress through the year, and include Multicultural perspectives which begin with NAIDOC week (Aboriginal and Islander celebrations) from July 4th to 8th. Please feel free to discuss your child's learning and progress at your convenience.

Anna, Corinna and Laura



The Possum Room

Half of the year is already over and it has been a very busy time. The children's checklists have been completed and their growth is wonderful to experience. If any parent would like to look through their child's portfolio please do not hesitate to speak to myself or Fikry. It would be a pleasure to share this with you.

We have been learning about colours. Red, Blue, Green and Yellow. Many of you would have taken home some of the children's beautiful art work.

We have also been learning to recognise our names in print. Many of the children are doing very well with this activity. You will have noticed the cut outs of them on the walls with their names attached. The

children are very proud of who they are.

As you know we have begun dancing and yoga over the past few months. The children thoroughly enjoy these activities and love to participate. The photos in the foyer of the centre tell you their stories. We welcome all parents to come and visit during these activities and even participate with your children.

The new food catering is beginning to settle in well. The children are more adventurous and try all the food that is served to them. We talk about how healthy the food is and how important it is to eat well.

We had a visit from Colgate and the children learnt how to brush their teeth and keep them healthy. We have also done activities on transport and read and sang "the wheels on the Bus." The children enjoyed singing and learning the actions.

We will continue learning counting and the ABC all year. If you would like to contribute any themes let us know.

Pam and Corrine

The Program

At the Centre we have implemented 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 Room and on the front wall in the Wombat room. You will notice that we have already begun to do our programming based on what the children have shown an interest.

Toilet Training

If you are in the process of toilet training your child or you would like to begin please come and ask the

staff.

We are very willing to support you in all areas of child development.

Nappies

Could parents with children that wear 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 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, even in winter. 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 water play and the children love water. Also some children may have accidents, such as, spilling their drink,

Meal Times

The catering of the meals has been a real success in the centre. Children are becoming less and less reluctant to try new foods and now happily sample those that may seem a little unusual and unfamiliar to them.

The food is nutritious, low in salt, sugar and any other unnecessary additives and meets children's daily requirements. Please see staff if you need any further information.

Morning tea is now at 9.30am, lunch at 12.00pm and afternoon tea is at 2.30pm.

Drink Bottles

We are also asking 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.

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 to those parents that have already contributed.

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.

Involvement of Family members

Thank you to Hannah's dad for bringing in the Guinea pigs and showing them to us. We are happy to have parents involved in any way and your children really appreciate it.

You can come in with recipes, as children love to cook or you can;

- :read or tell a favorite story
- :talk about your job
- :bring in photos and other items and talk about your childhood, holidays etc....

Parent background information forms

We thank the many parents who returned the forms promptly. If you have not received or returned one yet, please see staff and we will be glad to give you another one. These forms are important in staff programming for your child's individual needs and interests.

Dance and Yoga classes

Mondays we have Dance classes which the children really enjoy. Over time, even the reluctant ones are now taking part.

Fridays we have Yoga, a wonderful way to end the weekend. Children stretch, imagine, relax and use their thinking skills when asked who or where they would like to be today.

All classes begin promptly at 10.30am in the Possum room and 11.00am in the Wombat room. If any parents wish to attend on days they are not enrolled, please contact the

Centre, whether your child attends regularly on this day or not, you are very welcome to have them come for the duration of the activity. Please remember to ask staff for permission notes and payment details when applicable.

Table of Events for 2005

July 29th @ 10.30am
CSIRO Lab on Legs

August 17th @ 11.00am
Library visit

September 17th
Fete

September—TBA
National Simultaneous Story time

September—TBA
Reading Morning Tea

October—TBA
Disco

November 2nd and 3rd
School photos

December 9th or 16th
Graduation and Christmas party

December 23rd
Centre closes at 12.00 noon

January 9th 2006
Centre re-opens at 7.30am
