



Annie Dennis Children's Centre Newsletter

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March 2011

Dates To Remember 2011

2011

Friday 11 March	Crazy Hair day – come to Annie Dennis with a crazy hairdo/colour.
Monday 14 March	CENTRE CLOSED – Labour Day
Monday 21 March	Committee meeting 7.30pm
Friday 25 March	Welcome Night – Come along and meet or catch up with families.
Friday 10 April	Kinder-Last day of Term I
Monday 25 April	Easter Monday – CENTRE CLOSED
Tuesday 26 April	Anzac Day – CENTRE CLOSED
Wednesday 27 April	Kinder – First day of Term II

President's Report

Hi, I'd like to welcome everyone, especially new families, back to Annie Dennis Children's Centre for 2011. It's great to see everyone settling into their new routines (or getting back to old ones) for the year.

The Committee of Management has hit the ground running this year. First I'd like to introduce new members Mira Smith, Danni Jarrett, Carolyn Wary and Becky Sharpe. And it's great to see members continuing on from last year: Leanne Giardina (Possums & Grasshoppers), Emily McKie (Grasshoppers & Joeys), Janine Cooper (Grasshoppers), Daphne Morros (Grasshoppers), Cathy Pryor (Possums & Rainbow), Sue Lawson (Grasshoppers), Angela Ditchmen (Rainbow), Steve Reimann (Rainbow & Joeys) and Helen Gibney (kinder).

If you have any issues you'd like to bring to the Committee this year, you can contact me directly, or get in touch with a Committee member who you may know from your child's room. Don't forget the pockets on the wall outside the kitchen for dropping off letters and/or documents.

This will be a busy year for the Committee as we prepare for some major changes to the childcare sector from 2012. You may have heard the words 'COAG', '15 hours of

kinder', 'early learning framework' and 'learning outcomes' over the past year or so. It all adds up the what is called the National Quality Agenda. Darebin Council is running information sessions this year for Committees to help us come to grips with these changes, which are aimed to improve the quality of childcare across the board.

The legal aspect the Committee and the Centre have to take on board is the change to licensing and accreditation. These will no longer be separate processes, and will come together as an 'Assessment'. From 2012, all kindergartens, childcare, after-school care and family day care centres across Australia will be assessed in the following areas:

1. Educational program and practice
2. Children's health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements (including the number of staff looking after children)
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Leadership and service management

I'm sure you'll all agree that this is an important step forward for childcare in Australia, in terms of improving the care of our children. But one of the other benefits will be a greater recognition of the work that staff in childcare centre's undertake everyday. Here's an example of how this works.

Last year, as those of you with children in prep this year will know, all kindergartens were required to prepare very detailed transition reports for schools. According to Heather Barnes, from the state department of education, one of the outcomes of this has been the response from schools about the value of kindergarten, and the work that kindergarten teachers do. At the information session last Tuesday night, she revealed how amazed they were at what was going on in kindergartens these days. Prior to the transition reports, many teachers were under the impression that kinder was 'just playing'. Kindergarten teachers have lobbied long and hard for parity with school teachers, and it's great to see positive outcomes from such initiatives.

Staff have an important role in these changes. The first area of assessment 'Education program and practice' requires staff to link children's experience to the following Learning Outcomes under the Early Years Learning Framework, which is part of the National Quality Agenda:

1. Identity
2. Community

- 3. Wellbeing
- 4. Learning
- 5. Communication

All our early childhood educators piloted the new documentation method in 2010, and we'll be seeing more of it this year.

As well as the new 'Assessment' criteria, there are specific changes to ratios and contact hours that will impact on the running of the Centre.

Here's a basic timeline of how this will pan out:

- 1 January 2012** Birth to 24 months - ratio of 1 staff member to 4 children
- 1 January 2013** Universal access to 15 hours of kinder/preschool, for 40 weeks per year in the year before school
- 1 January 2014** An early childhood teacher will need to be in attendance all of the time when long day care and preschool services are being provided to 25 children or more.
 - Within each long day care centre or preschool, half of all staff will need to (or to be actively working towards) a diploma-level early childhood education care qualification or above, and the remaining staff will all be required to have (or be actively working towards) a Certificate III level early childhood education and care qualification, or equivalent.
- 1 January 2016** 25 to 35 months ration: 1 staff member to 5 children
- 1 January 2016** 36 months to school age 1 staff member to 11 children
- 1 January 2020** A second early childhood teacher, or another suitably qualified leader, will need to be in attendance all of the time when long day care and preschool services are being provided to more than 80 children.

The Committee and the Kinder Review subcommittee are working together with Lara on how to best implement these changes. It's a lot of new information to take in so we will organise an information display in the foyer further down the track. In the meantime, if you are interested in finding out more, please check out the state government web page here: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/earlylearning/nqa.htm#H3N100ED>

In other news, we are working towards a revamp of the website, and plans to make it more user-friendly and 'live' than it currently is. If you have any feedback on the website or newsletter distribution, please get in touch.

Many thanks,
Victoria Harrison
 President

Director's report

A big welcome to all new families to Annie Dennis, especially families experiencing child care for the first time, and welcome back to those families returning in 2011. All the children are settling into their new rooms and are busy making new friends.

We understand that it's also a settling in time for parents, adjusting to childcare, separation struggles and in many cases returning back to work too. If you or your child care having difficulties settling in or if you are uncertain about or have any issues during the year, don't hesitate to approach me, Anna or your child's carers, we will be more than happy to have a chat.

I hope that everyone has had a safe and restful summer holiday, a chance to let go of the usual routines, relax and enjoy being with family and friends. Thank you to Morena, Janaina and family for looking after wombat and fluffy koala and to Fiona and Jane for coming to the centre during their break to feed billy boy and the chooks.

As a community based centre, parent involvement and participation is vital. Your level of involvement is up to you. You can assist at working bees, help organise social events, do some gardening during the day, take projects home eg paint, repair equipment. We appreciate all the help we can get and, it is a great way to meet families and get to know the staff better too. Let us know what you can do to help around the centre.

On another note, last year the City of Darebin reviewed the Kindergarten Centralised Waiting list process. This year the process for allocating children has changed. Families can apply for kindergarten in the year prior to attendance between **1st February and the 30th April** (on or after the next business working day). Allocation preference will be made to priority groups (children with additional needs and vulnerable children and families) and children currently using the same service. All other allocations will be prioritised based on the total number of points allocated to each application. Information sheets and application forms can be obtained from www.darebin.vic.gov.au/kindergarten or from our office.

While on the subject of kindergarten, this year we increased our 4 yr old kindergarten sessions from 3 to 5 sessions for the sessional group in order accommodate the high number of 4 year olds on the waiting list. Due to the kindergarten review process the allocation process was delayed from July to October 2010. Due to timing with allocations and other unknown factors we are now experiencing vacancies in 4 yr old kindergarten for 2011. If you know of families or hear of families who are interested in kindergarten for their 4 year old, let them know that we have places available. Families can directly contact the office or email us to for more information.

Lastly, don't forget our **Welcome Night and Easter Egg Extravaganza** is happening on **Friday 25 March**, come along and join in the fun, meet other families and staff

too. Let us know if you can help out on the night, cooking sausages or selling drinks at the bar.... we need your help to make the night a success.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Lara Di Benedetto
Director

PAYMENT OF FEES

Annie Dennis Children's Centre operates on a break-even budget. The main source of income is your childcare fees. For this reason it is important that fees are paid on time.

There are a number of payment methods to pay fees. Our preferred payment method is for the automatic transfer of fees - arranged through your bank or by internet banking – as this gives us certainty of payment.

We understand, however, that this arrangement does not suit everyone. For this reason we also accept cheques or money orders.

Cash payments for childcare/kinder fees **will not** be accepted by the office.

1. DIRECT DEBIT

You may arrange with your Bank for your childcare fees to be automatically transferred from your account to the Annie Dennis Childcare Centre's account on a fortnightly basis. You will need to provide your bank with ADCC's bank account details, which can be obtained from the office.

2. INTERNET BANKING

You may transfer your fees directly from your account to the ADDC's account via internet banking. It is possible set it up so that your fees are transferred automatically every fortnight. You will need to provide ADCC's account details (see paragraph 1) and please insert your child's or family name in the "description of transfer" field.

3. CHEQUE

You may write a cheque made out to **Annie Dennis Children's Centre Inc.** each fortnight. The cheque should be posted into the locked box mounted on the wall near the office door. Please write your child's name on the back of the cheque.

4. MONEY ORDER

You may pay your fees by money order, purchased at a Post Office. The Money Order must be made out to Annie Dennis Children's Centre Inc. and have your details written on the back.

IDENTIFY YOUR PAYMENT

Payments made by Direct Debit or Internet transfer directly into the Annie Dennis account must be identified with your name or your child's name.

Unidentified payments **cannot** not be processed. If your payment for fees does not appear on your invoice it may not have been processed, please contact the office.

SUNSMART

Remember the five sunsmart rules for all the family.

1. Wear a hat
2. Wear loose clothing that cover most of your skin
3. Wear 30+ sunscreen- apply every 2 hours
4. Seek the shade between 10-2 (11-3 daylight saving time)
5. Wear sunglasses

HATS OFF FROM 1ST MAY

HATS AND SUNSCREEN CAN BE PURCHASED FROM OUR OFFICE

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Music and Movement with Teresa and Blaga returns every second Monday from 21 Feb (Monday children only). Babies' room will commence Music and Movement in Term II.

SECURITY OF THE BUILDING

The security of the children is extremely important; do not disclose this code to anyone who is not authorised to pick up your child.

Please be aware of not letting strangers into the centre when you open the door to enter or exit the building. Unless you know the parent, please close the door behind you. Any visitors are then required to ring the doorbell to be attended by staff.

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES

We have children enrolled at the centre that are allergic to:

NUTS and NUT PRODUCTS

This means these PRODUCTS and FOODS that MAY CONTAIN TRACES OF NUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS cannot be brought into the centre.

If a child is exposed to even small traces of these products they are allergic to, it can trigger an acute severe allergic reaction called **anaphylaxis**. If you are unsure about what is unsuitable, speak to us in the office, Dolores our cook or the staff in your child's room.

Our 'allergy and anaphylaxis' policy is available in the foyer and from our website www.anniedennis.org.au

It is recommended that children have breakfast at home prior coming to the centre.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Children enjoy celebrating their birthdays with each other and part of that celebration is sharing a cake. Due to children's allergies we follow the centre's Allergy and Anaphylaxis management policy (see above) and strongly ask parents to observe these guidelines. Check all food packaging thoroughly, food that does not comply with our policy guidelines will not be offered to the children.

To ensure that all children can partake in the birthday celebration always check with your child's educators to determine the most appropriate food to bring along for your child's birthday. We have cake recipes available that are suitable for all children's allergies and therefore allow all children to participate as group....and eat cake too!

Try this EGG FREE, DAIRY FREE CHOCOLATE CAKE

- 1 2/3 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup cocoa
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup water
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla essence

1. Heat oven to 180 degrees
2. Mix flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda and salt with fork in an ungreased square pan
3. Mix in remaining ingredients
4. Bake for 25-30 mins

FAMILY GROUPING –WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

In the mornings we 'family group' in the Joey room. This means children from all age groups come together for a short time as staff are rostered on to commence at different times in the morning. As the staff arrive, children and staff then move together to their rooms. The mornings start off with 3-4 staff and only a few children, this gives staff an opportunity to set up rooms, do safety checks in preparation for the children's day. The older children enjoy interacting with the older children and the younger children are often curious about the older children, siblings also have time together. By 8.30-9.00am all the children are in their own rooms and begin their programs.

ADCC BOOK EXCHANGE

You may have noticed we have set up a very comfortable seating area in the foyer for families, children and other visitors to the centre. We would like to encourage

families to use this area to relax, sit and enjoy some quiet time or..... take the time to read. Book areas are an important part of the children's rooms and an appreciation of books/reading comes when children are given the opportunity to sit with their educators or with you to listen to a book. It's for this reason we have set up a book exchange in which families can bring in children's books, novels etc and exchange them for ones on the shelf..... keep the cycle going and enjoy the one on one quiet time with your child.

HUNGRY BOX DONATIONS

The children enjoy using box construction to create many things. Please keep us in mind when recycling at home.

Bring:

Tissue boxes, toothpaste boxes, paper towel rolls, small make up boxes, perfume boxes, small to medium sized boxes that can fit into our hungry box in the foyer.

Do NOT bring:

Egg cartons, food packaging boxes, toilet rolls, large boxes (we only end up recycling big boxes)

JUNK JUNK JUNK

Don't forget to bring along any junk or preloved treasures that you have around in the home, we are very resourceful and can use just about anything indoors and outdoors for the children to play with and create in their play. Please ensure that items are safe to use.

Some ideas- wooden crates, bamboo poles, wooden bowls, rope, baskets, garden pots, large pieces of fabric

WELCOME

We have welcomed Simone to our 4 yr old kinder program, Snez to our babies room, and Melinda to the Rainbow room in 2011.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Doreen and Heath on the birth of Luke Ashley born on 17 January.

FORMALISING ENROLMENTS

We are still trying to 'formalise' enrolments for a number of new children that have commenced care. All children and families are required to have a Child Reference Number (CRN) and Family Reference Number. These numbers link you and your child to our centre through the Family Assistance Office (FAO). So, if you are intending to claim Child Care Benefit (CCB) to reduce your daily fee or claim CCB as a lump sum at the end of the financial year you must register and complete paperwork from the FAO. If you have completed all the necessary paperwork with the FAO and your child is still an 'informal' enrolment, contact the FAO on 13 61 50 and ask that you and your child are made 'active'. If you are unsure on what to do, please see Lara or Anna in the office.

MULTIPLE PERCENTAGES

The FAO applies the relevant CCB% for the number of children in approved care at the time of calculating fee reductions. These CCB percentages applied by the FAO for families with two or more children in care are referred to as "Multiple Child Percentages".

Please let the FAO know if more than one child in your family is using approved care. It is also important to let us know so that the multiple child count can be reported weekly through attendances. Other approved services are Family Day Care, In home Care, Outside school hours care and Long Day Care.

ALLOWABLE ABSENCES

An allowable absence is one where you can still claim Child Care Benefit for a day when your child is absent. A child is allowed up to **42** absent days per financial year without your Child Care Benefit being affected. You DO NOT need to provide any documentation eg doctors certificates for the 42 days, however any subsequent absent days taken will need to be supported by documentation.

Centre fees are payable when children are absent due to illness/holidays and public holidays.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Fees are payable on all Public Holidays. If your child attends on a day that falls on a public holiday you will be able to pick up an extra day in lieu at no charge. Priority will be given to children who have accrued extra days due to public holidays over parents requesting additional days. In lieu Public holidays are only valid for the current year. Please see room staff about picking up these extra days.

IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT

Please call the centre if your child will be absent. This will be important for us to know so that we can list your child's name down on the "Absence List" so that children who have days in lieu can pick up extra days. It is also important to let us know if your child is sick so that we can report any contagious illnesses/ communicable diseases to other families and/or the Health Department.

OUR MENU

Our menu is on display in the foyer on the blackboard. The centre attained the Start Right Eat Right Award; this award recognises centres best practice in nutrition and food service in long day care settings. The process involved evaluating our menu to ensure the children receive 50% of their recommended daily intake while in long day care. Dolores has changed the menu and recipes have been altered. You will find our menu, ingredients list and Dolores yummy recipes on the trolley outside the kitchen. We welcome your ideas/ suggestions and recipes.

HEALTHY EATING

Good nutrition and a balanced diet will help your child grow up healthy. Whether your child is a toddler or a teenager, you can take steps to improve nutrition and encourage smart eating habits.

- **Have regular family meals** – Children like to predictability of family meals and it's a great way to catch up. Family meals also offer the chance to introduce your child to new foods.
- **Stock up on healthy foods** – Younger children will eat mostly what's available at home. You can use the following guidelines: work fruits and vegies into the daily routine, aim for 5 serves per day, keep fruit and vegies on hand ready to eat, serve good sources of protein eg lean meats, eggs and nuts, choose wholegrain cereals, limit fat, limit fast foods and limit sugary drinks
- **Be a role model** – Children will follow your lead, by eating fruits and vegies you'll send the right message. Another way you can be a positive role model is by limiting portions and not overeating. Try to keep a positive approach when it comes to food.
- **Avoid battles over food** – Give children some control, but limit the kinds of foods available at home. Let them decide if they're hungry, what they will eat from the foods served, and when they are full.
- **Involve children in the process** – Talk to children about making choices and planning a balance meal. Some children may even want to shop for ingredients and prepare the meal. In the kitchen, select age appropriate tasks and at the end of the meal don't forget to praise the chef!

FROM THE KITCHEN

The children devour this at afternoon tea time, try it at home I'm sure it will be huge hit.

TUNA DIP

1 x 125 gms of cream cheese

1 x 180gms can tuna

2 tablespoons parsley

2 tablespoons of lemon juice

Blend all the ingredients in a food processor, serve with pita bread or rice cakes.

Bon appetit

Dolores

IMMUNISATION UPDATE

It is important that you inform us of any immunisations your child has received since enrolment at the centre. A child whose immunisation information is not up to date will be treated as an unimmunised child in the event of an immunisation preventable disease outbreak at the centre; therefore they will need to be excluded from the centre.

Please ensure that your child's Immunisation information is updated regularly in the office. Further information can be obtained from our parent resource area or next door at the maternal and child health centre.

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

The centre has a Sunsmart and Clothing Policy.

Clothing Policy- Children's clothing should allow freedom of movement in order to play safely. Clothes that fit properly, without being too loose or tight allow children to move freely and comfortably and participate in different experiences. Parents are asked not to dress children in clothing, such as long skirts, which may catch on climbing equipment.

Shoes for safe play and comfort- We ask parents to dress their child in well fitting, safe and comfortable footwear.

- During Summer- preferably closed toed sandals- minimise injuries to toes while riding bikes, running. Children should not wear thongs, slip on shoes, jiffies, crocs or dress up plastic shoes. These shoes do not provide support to the back of the foot/heel and are dangerous when climbing, riding bikes, running.
- During winter- closed footwear, such as boots or sneakers. Children should not wear gumboots. We provide these for outdoor play if necessary.

Sun protection- Preferable for children to wear clothing that covers as much skin as possible. Singlet tops and shoe string strap dresses do not offer enough protection and therefore not permitted. Staff will ensure children are dressed according to the guidelines as stated. Alternative clothing eg t-shirts will be provided if children are not adequately protected during outdoor play. Bucket style, legionnaire or broad rimmed hats offer protection to the face, neck and ears. Baseball caps do not offer enough protection.

CENTRE CLOSING TIME

The centre closes at 6pm in the evening. Parents are asked to arrive at 5.45pm so that information about the children and their day can be exchanged. This gives parents time to collect their child's bag/belongings and sign out. It is out of courtesy that families acknowledge that at the end of the night, the staff are tired and would like to leave on time.

If you are running late due to transport cancellations or circumstances beyond your control, call the centre to inform staff of your arrival time. Families who

continuously arrive after 6.00pm will be fined a late fee.

This year all the 4 yr old kinder children attend kindergarten for a minimum of 10hrs and 45 mins per week, as a result our session times have changed. If you are running late due to transport cancellations or circumstances beyond your control, call the centre to inform staff of your arrival time. Families who continuously arrive after the kinder session end time will be fined a late fee.

THE 4 YEAR OLD KINDER SESSION TIMES ARE:

GROUP A	GROUP B	
Monday	1.30pm-4.45pm	8.45am-12.30pm
Tuesday	8.45am-12.30pm	1.30pm-4.45pm
Wednesday	1.30pm-4.45pm	8.45am-12.30pm
Thursday	8.45am-12.30pm	1.00pm-4.45pm
Friday	8.45am-12.00pm	1.00pm-4.45pm

3 YEAR OLD KINDER SESSION TIME:

Thursday 9.00am-12.00noon

POLICY

The following policies have been reviewed and approved by the Committee of Management at the last Committee meeting in March:

Dental Health

- Food Safety

- Hazardous Products

- Nappy and Toileting

- Sun Protection

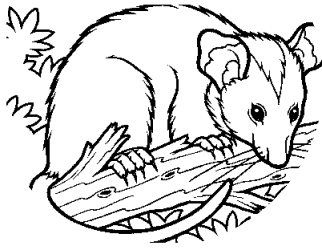
- Clothing

- Administration of Medication

- Hygiene

All policies are in the foyer of the centre so feel free to have a read of them when you are next in the centre.

Leanne Giardina
Vice President



Possums room report

A warm welcome to all new and existing families to the Possums room. Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to all the mums, dads, grandmas and grandpas that have come in these past 6 weeks and helped their child settle and become familiar with staff and new surroundings. Our 6 week orientation period gave us a great opportunity to get to know all the children, your families and your child's routines- likes and dislikes. Hopefully over this time you have felt more confident in leaving your child at the centre knowing that they are safe, settled and feeling secure. As children are now staying longer days you may notice there may be a few tears at drop off times, this is completely normal and should become less frequent as the weeks go on. Parents are always most welcome to call the centre during the day to check how their child is... A quick phone call may help any worries that you may have. ☺

Due to the success of the orientation period we can now focus on striving towards the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework outcomes that provide support necessary for every child to learn and develop. In addition to the VEYLDF we also will be working towards creating a portfolio for each child which will become a celebration of the individual child as well as documenting group learning in a group reflection folder. Please take the time to check both of these out as they will become a great tool for keeping informed on what's been happening in the room and also give you a glimpse into what your child's day is like while in the Possums.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Renee, Snez and Danielle



Joeys room report

Hello to everyone.

Firstly we would like to welcome you all back for another fun filled year.

The children have settled quickly & easily into their new environment exploring all the play areas.

- completing the puzzles on their own.

- building towers with the legos of 7 or more blocks, then sorting them into the same colours (a sign of early maths).

- we have been singing lots of songs

We have noticed that the children are remembering the actions to songs and requesting songs they would like to hear us sing. They show us by using the actions to prompt us to sing. The children's language skills are developing rapidly with many children able to say two to three word sentences –this is further developed through our singing. Thank you for your feedback about how much your child is enjoying all the singing in the room. We have created a song book of the various songs the children enjoy, so that you can take home & sing, sing, sing with your child.

The children are developing confidence in their physical abilities, easily manoeuvring the toy lawn mowers, trikes and climbing by themselves onto the climbing equipment.

They are becoming increasingly independent quickly learning to identify their drink bottles by their photograph, finding their own lockers and putting their belongings away & getting them by themselves.

It has been a very relaxed start to the year for the children and we look forward to assisting the children on their way to becoming creative independent people.

Until next time.

Helen & Bia



Pandas room report

It didn't take long for the children to settle into their new room and yard and the play and learning is now in full swing.

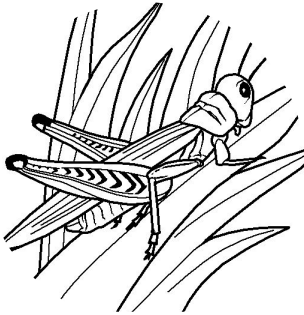
Recently children have expressed a lot of interest in science based discovery focusing on the natural environment. This interest was sparked when Sarah inadvertently brought some caterpillars into the room while collecting leaves for an imaginative play space. The children were very excited to discover the hitch hiking caterpillars hidden away in the leaves and we soon made a home for them in an insect enclosure. Over the last few weeks we have continued to care for the caterpillars, bringing them fresh leaves, and also to study them. Children are noticing that the caterpillars are eating the leaves very quickly and growing in size. This interest has also extended into a curiosity about other insects and creatures so we have been reading books about insects and even ventured out into the yard on a "Bug Hunt".

Dramatic play involving shopping has evolved into "mums and dads" caring for baby dolls. It seems we have a sickly bunch of babies on our hands as they are always crying and being put to bed "because he's sick". To help the children take care of the babies Kay has created a doctors area where the dolls can be taken for much needed treatment, for ailments including "sore ears", "vomity tummies" and "germs"!

To read more about these activities and the other things happening in the room please take a look at the Panda Room Reflection Book, which is just outside the room.

Thank you,

Sarah and Kay.



Grasshoppers room report

A huge welcome to all of our new families and existing families.

We have spent the past couple of months orientating, familiarising and getting to know the children and their families. We have a wonderfully diverse and colourful group of children that have so much to share and bring to the room.

The children are beginning to familiarise themselves with the room routine, staff and peers.

There has been a lot of talk about our families and pets, therefore we would like to see them. If you could bring in a photo that we could link to during the day we would appreciate it.

We have discussed what we did and saw during our holidays. Camping and cooking seem to be the two main topics of interest, therefore we have extended these areas into our educational program and the children really seem to be enjoying these experiences as well as others being offered. By linking into the children's interests we allow children to feel a sense of Belonging, importance and the opportunity to extend as well as share their learning. As Thursday / Friday parents are aware, Kate has left Annie Dennis to move back to Canberra and we wish her well and thank her for her time at Annie Dennis. We are pleased to have Catherine in our room on these days.

A few reminders :

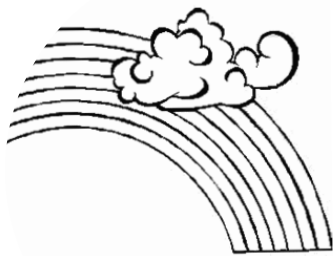
* Could you please keep toys brought from home to a minimum. Only toys used to help settle/rest should be brought in, as no responsibility will be taken for lost or broken items.

* Remember to sign your child in the book upon arrival and departure, as this is a requirement In case of an emergency evacuation.

* Lastly, please feel free to share weekend experiences, upcoming events or any information that you feel would benefit your child's time and learning in the Grasshoppers room.

So, feel free to approach Effie, Jasmine and Catherine any time to discuss your child or just for a chat.

Effie, Jasmine, Catherine



Rainbow room report

Welcome back to all the children and parents, and a warm welcome to the new children and their families.

We have had a great start to the year. The children have settled well into the rainbow room and are showing great interests in exploring a variety of topics.

We have had discussions on the Titanic and explored the area of who it was made by? And why it sank?

Dramatic play has been the main focus for the children. A hair dressing salon was set up. This is where the children explored the different processes of hair styling using utensils such as brushes, curlers, mirror's and exploring the life style of a hair dressing salon.

The children have been developing their creative skills through easel painting, drawing and through the use of a variety of scrap materials at the making table.

Just a reminder to all parents that we have a communication book. (On the table next to the sign book) Feel free to write down any suggestions or ideas, interests that your child may have, that can be incorporated into our educational program.

As you all know Ariel is away on holidays and will be returning very soon. We look forward to seeing her when she returns and hearing all about her holiday to Thailand.

Melinda

Three Year Old Kindergarten

Welcome to all the new families to Annie Dennis and we look forward to getting to know you better over the year.

What a huge success it has been having three year old kindergarten in the Rainbow Room. The children have all settled in very well and are enjoying access to the big and small yards. They especially love the guinea pigs and have already had a visit to see the rabbit and the chickens. You would never know this is the inner suburb, it feels more like a farm yard.

The orientation process where the parents stayed for shorter sessions was a great opportunity to meet all the families and to allow the children to familiarise themselves with the environment with a parent close by. We were quite surprised when it came time for children to stay for the full session without their parents. It went very smoothly it; we were definitely expecting more tears. Fluffy koala and wombat (guinea pigs) worked hard that morning.

We offer the children a variety of educational play experiences to ensure we cater for all interests and to encourage children to engage and communicate with each other. Of course the messy play has been very popular so if your child comes home covered in mud or paint you will know they have had a great day. Last week we offered finger paint and the children chose what colour to use, they were very excited to see blue and red made purple, yellow and blue made green and all the colours together made a yucky brown.

Group time was also a lot of fun with the children really enjoying the songs we sang together. The favourites were "Hickory Dickory Dock", "5 Cheeky Monkeys and "The wheels on the bus" we also had a dance to the "hits of the 80's" where Jane and I had to join in for a boogie.

We will end each kinder session with a group time which is a great opportunity to come together and talk about our day and any other topics of interest as well as learn new songs and play games. When coming to pick up your child you are welcome to wait in the small yard and then we will open the door to the room when the session finishes. Remember to look in the Reflections Book to see what the children are enjoying in the room. If you have anything you would like to discuss or make a time to talk to us please let us know.

Thanks

Helen and Jane



Four Year Old Kindergarten

The kinder room is abuzz with the children settling; getting to know the play areas, each other and the routine. "Where is the paper? I can't do it. When are we going to have circle time? I'm hungry. Can I go and see the chickens? When is my Mummy coming to get me? I want a turn."

The last few weeks have flown by as we support the children in growing comfortable with the kindergarten environment and each other. New friendships have blossomed and children have developed a sense of what happens in a session. Much of the routine is taught through singing, which makes learning more fun and tunes the children's ears into sound (providing a foundation for the development of reading and writing skills).

The chickens are one of the best settling "tools", not only for the kindergarten children, but for all the children in the centre. If your child isn't settling easily, why not start the day by checking the eggs? The children are gaining confidence at catching Cracker, Egghead and Penguin and take turns at feeding them each day (building awareness of living things and a connection with the environment).

Storytelling at the end of the session is an important part of connecting with each other and building up a sense of belonging. We have been drawing the curtains and telling stories around the candle, which both groups have responded positively to. The best listener has the opportunity to blow out the candle and make a wish. A story which has captured the children's interest is Rapunzel, and we have told it throughout the day spontaneously by request of the children. On Monday the Group A were invited to draw Rapunzel on large sheets of paper as they imagined it. Look for these stories displayed around the room.

Look out for Sophie's "Rapunzel is outside. She's playing on the swing" and Lucinda's representation: "That's Rapunzel. That's the tower. And that's the puff of smoke that the witch puffed out."

Now we have mastered the names of all the children, we look forward to learning the all parents' names and getting to know you better! If you have any questions about your child's time at kindergarten Fiona is available by appointment every Friday morning. Appointment sheet is located on the kindergarten noticeboard ☺

Fiona and Simone

THE EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK

**BELONGING,
BEING &
BECOMING**

CHILDREN ARE CONNECTED WITH AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WORLD.

Children are taking turns jumping onto the big blue mat. Harper jumps as high and as far as he can. Sophie is next, "I'm scared". Hi:"I can push the mat for you", Harper pushes the mat closer..."There you go" Sophie jumps tentatively on to the mat. Dan:"I don't need it close". Harper helps Sophie to move the mat further away.

After looking at the silkworms Maya decided to see if she could find any out in the yard. "Is this a silkworm?" holding an earth worm. J:"No that is an earth wormIs a silkworm a worm Maya?" M:"No!!!!!!.....it's a caterpillar!!!!"

CHILDREN HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF WELLBEING

Daniel has been playing "footy" with Luca, Jack and Dan. "I'm tired". Daniel comes inside, stands in front of the bookshelf, chooses a book and sits on the couch by himself to look at it. When he has finished he puts the book back on the shelf and goes back outside.

Children are building a house for "Billy Boy". Bubbles:"Where can Billy Boy's bed be?" Kobe:"I think here next to the chimney". B:"Okay.....he will need a kitchen". Jude:"He already has a kitchen.....here". B:"Well.....I think he might need another one here". J:"Okay". K:"This block can be the fridge". B:"Or the oven.....I think it should be the oven because the fridge needs to be bigger". K:"I'll get a bigger block for the fridge".

3 year old kinder

CHILDREN HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF IDENTITY

Zoe loves to have a cuddle with Bernie when she is feeling sad. Kristopher knows exactly what to do when he first arrives at kinder and he always gives Jane a big cuddle and says hello.

J:"What do we do when someone gets hurt?" Jack:"Say sorry!" That might be something that you need to say, but what is the most important thing to do?" Lachie:"Check to see if they are alright an if they're not you get a grown up!" Dylan:"And you stay with them until they are better".

Look at me!!!!

Xavier was not sure about the Kookaburra puzzle, (even though he is very good at puzzles), but he sat at the table for 20 minutes until he had finished it.

CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS

Luca, Dan, Daniel & Jack spent most of the morning near the sandpit building a golf course using diggers, trucks, spades and sand. A couple of weeks later they were back at the golf course building a cafe and making the food for the cafe.

At the playdough table. Alex:"Look Jane... I made all these cookies for Bernie 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15, 16,17,18". J:"Do you think Bernie will be able to eat all those cookies?" A:"Well.....not all at the same time.....she can have these many for her breakfast and these for her lunch". J:"What about for her dinner? Bernie gets very hungry at dinner time". A:"Oh,.....well I'll have to make some more".

CHILDREN ARE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS

See all other boxes