

August 2010



11 George Street,  
North Strathfield 2137

## Fiona Childcare Centre

### From the Manager

#### Opening Note

We have been very busy over the past month with several centre events taking place. We thank the families and children who took part in these events and we hope to see such wonderful participation in the future.

#### Open Day

We had an excellent turn out for our open day that we held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, both from new and existing families.



We enjoyed a delicious sausage sizzle prepared by Martina and Fiona's fiancé, Johnny.



The lucky door prize which was a food hamper was won by a visiting family.

Inside this issue:

**Page 1**  
**From the Manager**

**Page 2**  
**From the Manager**  
**(continued)**

**Page 3**  
**Centre Availability**  
**and Upcoming Events**

**Page 4**  
**Policy of the Month**

**Page 5**  
**Teddy Bears Cottage**  
**Room News**

**Page 6**  
**The Monkeys Room**  
**News**  
**&**  
**The Squirrels Room**  
**News**

**Page 7**  
**The Squirrels Room**  
**News**  
**(continued)**  
**&**  
**The Elephants Room**  
**News**

**Page 8**  
**The Elephants Room**  
**News (continued)**  
**&**  
**Kitchen News**



The children (and some of the adults!) had lots of fun on the jumping castle.



The children enjoyed other activities, including face painting which was done by Reanon.



#### Enrolment Forms

If you have not returned a Fiona Childcare Centre enrolment form, it is really important that you do so immediately. It is a Children's Services Regulation that all children have a completed enrolment form on the premises. Previous enrolment forms have been removed from the service, so new forms will need to be completed. You can find spare forms on the office bench in the foyer.

Dear Parents,  
Do you have a special talent? We would love you to join us at the centre and share your special talent with the children. Your talent may include anything from cooking, playing an instrument or speaking another language.



## Centre Availability

Please check the table below for centre availability for August 2010.  
If you require more days please contact us ASAP so that we are able to assist you where possible.

Room/ Days	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
The Teddy Bears Cottage (0-15 months)	*	*	*	*	*
The Monkeys (15-24 months)	*	*	*	*	*
The Squirrels (2-3 years)	*	*	*	*	*
The Elephants (3-5 years)	*	*	*		

\* Indicates availability on that day  
Please Note: These vacancies may change daily.



## Up Coming Events:

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August: Fancy Dress Up Day**  
Wear your favourite costume

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August: Crazy Hat Day**  
Colour you hair or wear a funny hairstyle

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August: Red Day**  
Wear your favourite red clothing and participate in lots of red activities

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August: Daffodil Day**  
Wear your favourite yellow clothing and bring along a daffodil to support cancer research

## Policy of the Month

### Holiday Fee Discounts and Public Holidays Policy

#### **Objective**

To ensure all holiday Fee Discounts and Public Holiday Fees are correctly applied to each families account.

#### **Explanation**

Families are entitled to fee relief for planned holidays and are charged for public holidays. Centre Managers must understand the criteria for these situations.

#### **Implementation**

The Family Assistance Office will continue to pay Child Care Benefit for up to 42 unexplained absences per year; this includes holidays taken by families. Families can apply for a 50% reduction to their gap fee, for up to one weeks bookings pro rata of attendance days per financial year, using the ADM F1.14 Holiday Application Form giving a minimum of two weeks' notice.

The 50% holiday discount will only apply to families that have applied for the discount using the correct form within the required notice period.

The discount will only be applied to families that are following the centres fee policy , by keeping their fees two weeks in advance prior to their holidays.

Discounts will be applied to accounts AFTER the holidays have been taken to ensure correct discounts have been applied.

Centres must close for all state gazetted public holidays and families will be charged at full gap fee for these days.

Casual bookings for extra days are welcome.

We understand that families may need care on days outside their permanent bookings or may like to sap a day due to public holidays or illness.

Casual days will incur a \$5.00 administration fee to cover the change of ratios of staff and administration involved and will be subject to availability in the required room.

No fees will be charged to families when the centre closes over Christmas – New Year period.

Bookings for children recommence on the first business day after January 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

# The Teddy Bears Cottage

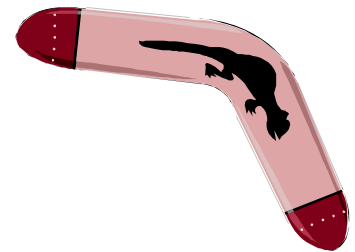
## Room News



In the Teddy Bears Cottage over the past month, we have continued our focus on creating a range of Aboriginal artworks. These have been put on display in the room and the idea of this area of focus is to encourage the children early on to respect and appreciate different cultures. Next month, we will be introducing other cultures to the children.

We have also introduced four new songs to the children. These songs include *Gallumph Went the Little Green Frog*, *If You're Happy and You Know It*, *Five Cheeky Monkeys* and *Once I saw a Fish Alive*. If you would like the words to any of these songs, Nursery staff will be more than happy to give you a copy so you can sing them at home also.

Aimee is our newest permanent staff member in the Teddy Bears Cottage. Aimee has completed her Certificate 3 in Children's Services and plans to also complete her Diploma in Children's Services. Aimee has had two years experience in Childcare and is very excited to be part of the Nursery Room's team. She will be working alongside Susie and Martina. Ashley has been moved to the position of Centre Floater so that she can gain experience with all age groups. Please feel free to introduce yourself to Aimee, if you haven't already done so because she would love to meet you!



## The Monkeys Room News



During the month of July, the Monkeys have been looking at the Alphabet and numbers 1-10. Some of the monkeys are beginning to recognise the first letter of their name, and as a result of this, we have been offering experiences that reflect this. These experiences include collaging the first letter of every monkeys name, singing alphabet songs and looking at letters in the environment.

The monkeys have also shown an interest in counting, which has also resulted in a variety of activities being offered. These activities have included looking at books with objects to count, number books, numbers displayed on the wall with objects to count, counting the number of children in the room each day, counting body parts.

We have also started cooking classes with the Monkeys. In the photo's on the right you will see the monkeys helping to make playdough. We will be continuing these classes over the next month, cooking a variety of recipes.

Karen, Dilru and Reanon

## The Squirrels Room News



Over the past month, we have been focusing on the under the sea theme. We have done this by reading stories at language and literacy group times and singing songs. We also have



engaged in many creative experiences, where the children made different creatures that can be found under the sea, and put these on display in the room. The children were also offered blue playdough, representing the ocean, and were encouraged to create sea creatures using a variety of cutters.

We have another new staff member who has joined our team in the Squirrels Room. Her name is Noha and she will be the new Room Leader. Noha has completed her Diploma in Children's Services and she is enjoying the fast pace of the Toddlers! Priyanka has also returned from her trip overseas to her position in the Toddlers Room. So please don't hesitate to approach both Noha and Priyanka and say hi.

Noha and Priyanka

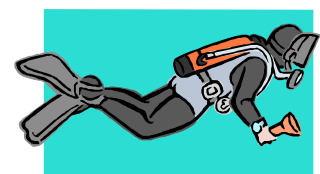
## The Elephants Room News



Over the past month, the Elephants have continued engaging in their School Readiness Program. This included focusing on the letters A-E by practising writing the letters, recognising the letters in words and the sounds that each letter makes. We have also been focusing on writing our own names and recognising our names when written.

We have also been focusing on the ocean including sea creatures, transport used on the ocean and scuba diving. We have focused on these areas through books read at language and literacy group times, songs and art and craft experiences.

Some staff changes have been made in the Elephants Room to



meet the needs of the preschool children. Sadly we had to say goodbye to Seema in July. Seema has been replaced with Selina, whom many of you are already acquainted with. Selina has been working at our centre for the past one and a half years as a casual staff member and we are very lucky to have her now as a permanent staff member.

Fiona, who was previously in the Squirrels Room will be moved to the Elephants Room when she returns from her holiday on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Fiona is qualified as an Early Childhood Teacher in the UK and we feel the Preschool Room could greatly benefit from her knowledge. She will continue to implement a school readiness program in the room.

Joshua, Fiona, Selena and Erhron

### Kitchen news

We have a new cook and his name is Indraman. Indraman has completed his Certificate 3 in Commercial Cookery and his Diploma in Hospitality Management. Indraman has had experience catering, working in restaurants and hotels since 2007. A children's service is a new challenge for him which he is very excited about. If you would like to introduce yourself, please do so.

