



SMITH STREET CHILDREN'S CENTRE NEWSLETTER...

July Issue

NEWS FROM MICHELLE.

Michelle is currently working on the new centre policy manual. When a new policy is created we will display it on the parent information board that is being created in the foyer area. When the new policies are displayed we do encourage parent feedback. Your feedback ensures that we are creating policies that reflect the centre and its families.

NEWS FROM THE MELISSA

Enrolment Forms:

We still have a few children that do not have enrolment forms on the premises. It is a **legal requirement** that parents provide the new enrolment form, a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunisation. If you have not already brought this information back then please do, as we will be getting tough and not allowing children to stay at the centre until all information is given.

Christmas Closure Dates:

The centre will be closed for two weeks over the Christmas Holidays. The last day of care for the children will be Tuesday 23rd December and will re open as of Tuesday

Anaphylaxis / Food being brought into the centre:

Over the last couple of months Catherine has been very busy in the kitchen creating a menu that can accommodate all of our children in the centre. Anaphylaxis is life threatening and needs to be taken very seriously. It is our duty of care to keep every child safe but this becomes increasingly hard to manage when children have food stored in bags or are eating food from home

when arriving at the centre. Anaphylaxis allergies are not restricted only to nut allergies, so when food is being brought from home without realising you could be putting another child's life in danger.

We provide five nutritional meals during the day, so there should be no need for additional food. The only time food should be brought from home is if it is a child has special dietary requirements.

We ask that parents please see the importance of not bringing food into the centre. We especially ask that no food be stored in your child's bag at any time. Staff will be discarding any foods that are found in bags.

All staff will be attending a training session on Anaphylaxis management on September 11th and time will be allocated to practising using an epi pen at every staff meeting starting with in august. This will ensure that all staff are confident in the procedure in case it is ever needed. Please come and speak to myself if you have any concerns over this matter.

Asthma Action Plans:

There are still a number of children that require an Asthma Action Plan for the centre that do not presently have one. Asthma is an unpredictable illness that can become life threatening in minutes. Staff have training in the emergency management of an asthma attack, but we need to know the best form of treatment for your child if an emergency ever occurred.

If your child does have asthma then an Action Plan and your child's medication needs to be present every time your child is in our care. We know that it can be hard to get to the Doctor but if it can save your child in an emergency then it is worth taking the time.

Bottles / Milk / Water Jugs:

Parents hopefully would have noticed the purchase of water jugs for the rooms. We have sent all water bottles home to parents, as we felt that individual cups that are cleaned every day were more hygienic for the children. The water jugs also provide opportunity for the children to develop their independence and self help skills.

We have also introduced milk at morning tea and afternoon tea. This will reduce the need for cows milk to be brought into the centre. We are aiming to develop the independence skills of the children in the toddler's room, reducing the need for bottles as all milk will be offered in cups. For dental hygiene water will be offered as well so all milk will be washed from the children's teeth. Please speak to the staff in the rooms to discuss what is best for your child.

Change of Clothes:

Please ensure that your child always has at least two changes of clothes in their bags at all times. If your child is new to toilet training then additional clothes are again required. We do not have spare clothes on the premises so it is very important to have spare clothes at all times.

Toys From Home:

It is becoming increasingly hard for staff to supervise the amount of home toys being brought to the centre. It is the centre policy that if children want to bring something from home they choose a book or a soft toy for rest time. No war or super hero toys should be brought to the centre or kept in children's bags. In this environment these toys encourage anti social behaviours and make it increasingly hard to supervise children who are sneaking out of the room to go through bags.

Staff will not be responsible for any toys that are lost or damaged. If it is not your child's show and tell day then parents will be asked to take all home toys with them.

Ongoing Work In The Centre:

I hope by now everyone will be starting to see improvements around the centre. The garden's are starting to take shape, we have new lights and staff have been attending a number of training sessions collecting fresh new ideas to help with the development of the children. But there is still a lot more to come. Over the next few weeks we will be having our new blinds installed, our carpet squares will arrive, lights in the outdoor play yards, a new front door that closes properly and a new stove and dishwasher for the kitchen. But there is still more to come... We will be putting together an equipment order over the next couple of weeks, which we are all looking forward to. This is an ongoing process but the changes are starting to show 😊

Parent Participation:

Our centre will always have an open door policy meaning that parents and family are always welcome. At anytime parents would like to show off their skills to your child's friends then please feel welcome. We would love mums who can dance, or dads that can cook, or granddad's who are great at telling stories.

What is in your Child's Bag?:

What should be in your child's bag? Spare Clothes, undies, socks, and maybe a soft toy for sleep time. What shouldn't be in your child's bag! Medication! Medication should never be left in your child's bag. Please take all medication out of bags and hand it to staff. It is so dangerous as children have access to their bags at all times.

Room Vacancies:

We have a number of vacancies in the Toddler and Kinder Rooms. If anyone is looking for extra days please see Melissa.

Thank you for another great month at Smith Street Children's Centre. My door is always open and we love feedback on how you think the centre is going. Please remember to bring back your care requirement form for 2009 so that we can try and accommodate.

KITCHEN NEWS:

Children's Favourite: **Wholemeal Honey Oats Slice**

150g Margarine
450g Honey
6 spoons 'no egg' powder, mixed with equal amount of water
450g Wholemeal self-raising flour
1 ½ tsp baking powder
1 ½ tsp cinnamon
300g Oats

Preheat oven to 180C. Beat the butter and honey together, add the egg powder. Fold in the flour, baking powder and cinnamon. Add the oats. Press onto a well – greased shallow baking tray. Bake for 30 mins or until golden brown and firm to touch.

When Your Child Comes Home Messy

Red paint in the hair? Blue paint on the jeans? Sand in the shoes?
Vegemite on a favourite shirt? White socks that look brown? Sleeves a bit damp?

YOUR CHILD PROBABLY.....

- Worked with a friend
 - Solved a problem
- Created a masterpiece
- Negotiated a difference
 - Learned a new skill
 - Had a great time
- Developed new language skills

YOUR CHILD PROBABLY DIDN'T....

- Feel lonely
- Become bored
- Do repetitive tasks that are too babyish
 - Do worksheets that are too easy
- Do sit down work that is discouraging

YOU PROBABLY.....

- Paid good money for those clothes
- Will have trouble getting the red paint out
- Are concerned the caregiver isn't paying enough attention to your child

YOUR CAREGIVER PROBABLY....

- Was aware of your child's special needs and interests
- Spent time planning a challenging activity for the children
 - Encouraged the children to try new things
 - Was worried you might be concerned

Young children really learn when they are actively involved in play.... Not when someone is talking to them. There is a difference between "messy" and "lack of care." Your caregiver made sure your child was fed, warm, offered new skills and planned messy fun things to do because that is how young children learn!

Send your child in clothes that can get dirty! Keep extra old clothes at the site for times when the child gets really messy. But remember, young children need time to just be kids.

BABIES ROOM NEWS

Dear Parents,

This month Kindy Groove started on Wednesdays. The children are getting to know the teacher and hopefully it won't be too long before they are showing you some of their cool dance moves.

In the creative area the children have been painting elephants, participating in free expression drawings, working their fingers into the play dough and mixing colours. There has been a few that also like to taste test ☺ The group has also been learning some new songs and actions which we sing throughout the day. If you have any questions please see the room staff.

Dena, Joanna, Julia, Tulay

TODDLER ROOM NEWS

Wow! Where do we start! We are heading into the 8th month of the year which means we are closer to Christmas than we think. The toddlers have been extremely busy participating in a variety of challenging and educational experiences. No doubt they have extended their memory and knowledge.

Areas that we have covered in the last month are NAIDOC Week, where you will see the children's boomerangs and handprints displayed. The children were able to look through aboriginal books from the library.

Parents also would have noticed that we are sending home the children's art work to be displayed and enjoyed at home. I'm sure there will be more coming, especially the large free expressive easel paintings they are loving at the moment.

At present the toddler's room are focusing on self help and independence skills. Children are encouraged to pour their own drinks from the water cooler during the day, into individual cups purchased by the centre. Also at meal times, children are choosing between milk / water and pouring their own drinks from a small jug. They are loving the independence and being able to learn on their own.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask any of the staff in the room.

Stef, Wan and Soo.

KINDER ROOM NEWS

Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to update you with all the events that have happened in the kinder room.

What a busy time, just look around the room and see your children's beautiful art work on display. We have discussed many learning topics, and the children have been very excited about the incursions planned this month.

On Tuesday 22nd of July Senior Constable B Sheppard from the Northcote Police Station came to the centre and discussed road safety issues with your children. Many comments were made and questions answered as we talked about holding hands, crossing roads, helmets, seatbelts and lots more. All of the children were eager to contribute and learn during the group discussion. They really loved the opportunity to get into the police car, listening to the siren and the flashing lights. "What a great experience"

To further the topic the children made a Thank You gift in recognition and appreciation of the police visit, the children decorated a beautiful card. We then were able to practise all the road rules learnt, as some children were taken to the post box at the end of the Comas Grove to post the card.

The mini excursion was very successful and in fact we will try to plan another one as the weather improves, so that all children can participate in this outing.

On the 30th July, to celebrate NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islanders Day), we have organised Annette from the Yarn Strong Sista to present a 2 hour show including puppets, story time, songs, music and face painting. As you know the children have really enjoyed the face painting on a daily basis to celebrate indigenous culture. The children and staff are very excited about this wonderful incursion. Thank you also for the contribution to the cost of this event.

We have also extended our family photo display due to the children's interests, as they often go over to the display to talk about themselves and their families. If you haven't brought in your family photo, please do so all the children can benefit from this experience.

To develop independence and self help skills, the room has introduced a drinking station where the children are serving their own drinks during the day. The children are also serving themselves at meal times using tongs. This was a challenge at first but they all seem to enjoy it and are mastering the tongs quite well. Meal times are pleasant now as staff can now sit and enjoy the social experience with the children.

Thank you for the writing books, please bring them as soon as possible so all the school aged children get the opportunity to practice alphabet formation,

writing names ect. These books are for free expression and children will be encouraged to draw and write at their own pace with guidance from staff.

Reminders:

Please encourage your child to only bring toys on their show and tell day as recently children have been swapping, losing and taking other children's toys home. To avoid these emotional situations please leave toys at home.

There is a treasure box in the room to allow children to keep their belongings safe and not in their lockers. (Sleep time toys and books)

Beanies and coats are to be labelled to allow children to play outdoors.

Drink bottles are no longer required so please take your child's bottle home if you have not already done so.

Computer Gym is now every Monday at 10.30am. Please see Toni for expression of interest at parent's expense.

Kinder Groove has commenced every Wednesday at 10am.

Thank You for supporting our ideas and allowing the children to grow and experience them, for all the great decorations and parent input into the program.

Feel free to use the communication book or make time to speak to the kinder staff.

Toni, Anna and Kathy.