



Learn, play & grow

Level 1, Suite 803  
Murnoning St. Point cook Shopping centre  
Point Cook, VIC 3030

# Giant Leaps Early Learning Centre

## Giant Leaps 2009

Dear Parents, Friends and Families,

Welcome to another fun filled edition of the Giant Leaps monthly newsletter.

You may have noticed that Giant Leaps participates in many charity fundraisers to which all proceeds raised are donated to the charity. Once again Giant Leaps will be conducting a fundraiser; however on this occasion the money raised will be used to create natural aesthetics within the centre. Plants, natural items and materials will be purchased to help stimulate the children's natural curiosity of naturalistic intelligence. The team of Giant Leaps would like to incorporate nature awareness and appreciation in the programs; by offering children opportunities to grow various vegetables and plants whilst observing the plantation process. In order to help support Giant Leaps with this fundraising process, we ask that families take home a chocolate fundraising box which will be provided by the centre to sell. Each box will contain various chocolates valued at \$1.20 each, the total value of the box will be \$30.00, and for each box that is sold Giant Leaps will receive 50% of the proceeds.



<b>Inside this issue:</b>	<b>Pg</b>
News from Laura and Bernadette	1
Centre Availability	2
Philosophy, Broad Goals and Policy Reviews	2
Reminders to parents	3
Curriculum Design	3
Nursery Room news	4
Toddler Room news	4
Junior Toddler Room News	5
Pre- Kinder Room news	5
Kindergarten Room news	6
Super Hero Play	7
Holidays	7
Star member of the month	7
From the Kitchen	8
Parent Resources	8
Fact Sheet – Head Lice	9 & 10

## Centre Availability

We have days available in most of the rooms throughout the centre. If you would like to pick up an extra permanent day these days will be available as of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

Room/ Days	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
<b>Nursery</b>	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Junior Toddler</b>	*	*		*	*
<b>Toddler</b>	*	*	*		*
<b>Pre-Kinder</b>	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Kinder</b>	*	*	*	*	*

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



## Philosophy, Broad Goals and Policy Reviews

### ***Food & Nutrition***

- ◆ Food Safety policy
- ◆ Meals, Snacks & Water Policy
- ◆ Nutrition & Cultural Preferences Policy
  - ◆ Allergy Policy



## **REMINDERS TO PARENTS**

### **HATS**

Although the weather has cooled down we ask that you ensure that there is still a hat in your child's bag every day they come to FoxKids. At the centre we have a policy of '**NO HAT NO PLAY**'; this means that if your child doesn't have a hat then they will not be able to participate in outdoor activities.

## **CIRRICULUM DESIGN**

Dear parents,

The curriculum that is implemented within Giant Leaps Early Learning Centre is based upon regarding children and parents as the first educators, and teachers as co educators. The fundamentals of the curriculum design are focused 8 developmental domains which are- Multiple Intelligences:

Logical- Mathematical-

Linguistic intelligence-

Spatial intelligence

Musical intelligence

Bodily Kinaesthetic intelligence

Interpersonal intelligence

Intrapersonal intelligence

Naturalist intelligence

The class room environment caters for a self – selection process where children are able to direct their own meaning and learning. Additionally teachers provide children with a variety of resources and activities where group and individual learning projects are planned and implemented.

Programme design:

Weekly Vidual diary- photographs are taken of the children

Individual portfolios for all children- observations, progress development through the year

Teachers reflective diary- evaluations, follow- children's' extensions ideas incorporated

Fortnight programme

Self- selection process.



Portfolios are kept in the archive container for parent's perusal.

### Nursery Room News

Welcome to another edition of the newsletter. We are excited to announce that the babies have moved across in the Nursery room on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Due to Low numbers on Mondays and Fridays we will continue playing with the Junior Toddlers. In regards to the program, we have been focusing on the babies' individual development, the babies are all at different miles stones of sitting, walking, crawling. We have been praising and encouraging the babies through these transitions in order to stimulate their confidence. Until next time good bye from the Nursery staff



### Toddler Room News

The Toddlers would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new friends, Charlie, Jagger Sophie and their families. Our new friends have been settling in really well and are beginning to develop some wonderful friendships with many of the other children.

The toddlers have really been enjoying lots of outdoor play, and we are trying to spend lots of time outdoors, as well as offer indoor and outdoor play in order to provide children with various learning activities.

As the weather is becoming much cooler, we would like to extend a reminder to all families to provide labelled jackets for your child, so we can continue having fun outdoors.

The Toddlers have also been focusing on learning the alphabet and also numbers. The children have had many opportunities to learn the alphabet song as well as counting .The children seem to be enjoying the challenge and also have been participating in small group times. Coming up soon, we will be learning a personalized Toddlers room Jingle developed by the staff in the room, so please stay tuned.

If you have any questions please feel free to speak to a members of staff in the Toddlers room

Many thanks

Miss Crystal, Miss Tiffany & Miss Julie



**Miss Crystal**



**Miss Tiffany**



**Miss Julie**

### **Nursery Art Work**

The Nursery room have been engaging in a rage of art and crafts: pasting and hand prints

Teaching implications: Small muscle dexterity skills, eye hand- coordination, imagination, creative.

### **Indian Culture and cultural costume**



### **Song displays in various languages**



July 2009

## Junior Toddler Room News

Junior toddlers have been very busy in the room this month with lots of artwork being done. The children have also been enjoying stories and songs, and the children are now joining in with the actions. Many children have been reaching developmental milestones with walking and talking. The children have also been busy with construction blocks, transport and puzzles.

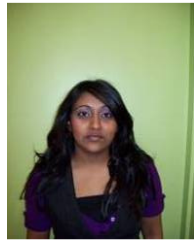
The focal point of the curriculum has been based upon multiculturalism, please refer to the pictures below

Thank you,

Miss Annemarie, Miss April & Miss Nicole



**Miss Annemarie**



**Miss April**

## Pre-Kinder Room News

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our new friends Bojan, Aisha and Chloe who have recently joined Pre- Kinder. They are settling in well, learning new skills in regards to independence and self- selection process in the room.

Pre- kinder have been working extremely hard learning how to recognise and have begun to write their names. In assisting the children's memory and perception, flash cards have been created to use at language and literature sessions. The cards include number perception and mazes. Most recently the children have completed a 48 piece puzzle which is a great effort in their small muscle dexterity skills and also problem solving skills. Additionally, artificial vegetables have been incorporated in the room encouraging children's perception about healthy eating habits.

Parent's you also may have noticed a student on placement from Victoria University: Thank you to Gracia who has assisted in the children's learning process and room presentations.

Many thanks,  
Miss Ally



**Miss Ally**

## **Self- selection process**



## **Kindergarten Room News**

The kindergarten class have been concentrating on different group projects associated with language and literacy skills. Additionally the children have formed a great interest in art and crafts, and have been producing many art forms.. Very soon, there will be a box allocated within the room with the children's names and their art work will be available to take home.

The focal point in the curriculum is based upon a learning project about families, so if you could please bring in a family photo that we could display on our family tree it would be much appreciated!

The children each have a work book, which gives the children the opportunity and myself to focus on key learning aspects on an individual basis. If you would like to view the children's work please feel free to ask Marcela or myself.

Most recently the children have really enjoyed experimenting with cooking and making their own sandwiches. Cooking will be further introduced into the curriculum offering children a variety of recipes to follow. Parents if you would like to participate, or like to introduce an aspect or have a skill or time to spare to help in the Kinder it would be much appreciated to assist in the children's growth and learning. We would like to introduce guest speakers and parent contributions so please feel free to speak to Marcela or myself in regards to sharing your talents or time in the Kindergarten.

Regards,

Miss Madelyne and Miss Marcela



**Family Photo**

## **Super Hero Play**

It has been a concern amongst staff and parents in regards to the superhero role play that children are mimicking. I have given this subject much thought and we have tried to incorporate the role play creatively within the curriculum, however due to children being injured; Giant Leaps will no longer be encouraging super hero play. I kindly ask that all parents help support this decision by reviewing what children are taking to Giant Leaps by refraining to allow children to dress up as their superheroes i.e. Spiderman, Batman, superman, etc.



## **Holidays**

Please note that families can apply for a 50% discount on their holidays for a week of childcare. The holiday form is located in the front foyer. The discount applies to one week during the year and will be calculated on the CCB Gap fee if applicable. Additionally a 50% discount will be applied to family accounts which are booked in on public holidays.



## **Star member of the month**

Congratulations to Julie whilshire and Teena Laroiya who has received Star member of the month for their continuing dedication and commitment to the centre. Your enthusiasm and vivacity makes you a welcome guest within Giant Leaps Early Learning Centre. Parents please note that each month a staff member will be elected in the Giant Leaps team meetings based upon their devotion and enthusiasm toward Giant Leaps.



## **FROM THE KITCHEN:**

Hello my name is Belinda, and I commenced at the centre at the end of February. I just wanted to mention that I am having an absolute blast cooking up healthy tempting meals and snacks for the children. I find that my position is very rewarding as the children seem to be enjoying the menu that I'm serving.

The children in the pre- Kinder and kinder are encouraged to serve their own lunches and to participate in cooking classes which I conduct once a week. The children are provided with a demonstration and then I assist the children with the recipe and preparation. So far we have made fruit rockets, fairy bread, and sandwiches and put various spreads on rice cakes. Parents, I have lots of other exciting things on the menu that the children will be implementing.

In the kitchen Window I have placed a suggestion box and welcome your ideas for the children's lunches or snacks to temp them.

Parents please note that if your child is having a birthday I will be making a cake so they can share with their friend's in their room.

Please feel free to approach me in regards to your child's dietary requirements or concerns.

Regards,

Belinda Pendergast  
Centre Chef

### **Menu Display**



**Chef Belinda**

## **PARENT RESOURCES**

Parents,

Please note there are a variety of resources for parents to borrow, if you require further information on a particular topic, please do not hesitate to speak with Laura or Bernadette. Giant Leaps is also focusing on quality area two for accreditation: Partnership with families. Additionally, multilingual accreditation booklets are available in the front reception.



**Accreditation Information Multilingual**



## Head lice (nits) - treatment and control

Head lice are small, wingless insects that live, breed and feed on the human scalp. They do not carry or transmit disease. They have been around for thousands of years and, given the chance, will move from head to head without discrimination.

### **Head lice facts**

A female louse will lay between three to eight eggs (nits) per day in the hair, within 1.5cm of the scalp. These eggs resemble dandruff but cannot be brushed off. Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head to head. They can only crawl.

People get head lice from direct head to head contact with another person who has head lice. This can happen when people play, cuddle or work closely together. Head lice are most common among

children and their families. If your family has head lice, tell anyone who has had head to head contact with them, so that they can check and treat their family if needed. There is no need to treat the whole family, unless they also have head lice.

Concentrate on treating the affected person's head. There is no evidence to suggest that you need to clean the house or the classroom. The only linen that requires specific washing is the affected person's pillowcase this should be washed in hot water (at least 60°C) or put in a clothes dryer on hot or warm setting for 10 minutes.

The itchiness may not disappear immediately after treatment. Persistent itch is not a reason to repeat the treatment.

### **Finding head lice**

Half of the people who have head lice never scratch their head so itching is not a reliable sign. Lice can be hard to spot because they move quickly. The easiest and most effective way to find head lice is to follow these steps weekly:

**Step 1** Comb hair conditioner on to **dry, brushed (detangled) hair**. This makes it difficult for lice

to grip the hair or run around.

**Step 2** Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.

**Step 3** Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs.

**Step 4** Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least four or five times.

**Step 5** If the person has been treated recently and only hatched eggs are found, you may not have to treat them again since the eggs could be from the old infection.

**Step 6** If lice or eggs are found, the person should be treated.

### **Treating head lice**

The two preferred treatment options available for treating head lice are the 'conditioner and comb' method and the use of an insecticide.

### **Using insecticide products**

Any head lice treatment product you choose should carry an Australian Registered or Listed number.

If you use lotions, apply the product to dry hair. For shampoos, wet the hair, but use the least amount of water possible.

Head lice live in the hair and go to the scalp to feed. Therefore, head lice products must be applied to all parts of the hair.

Care should be taken when using these products:

- If you are pregnant or breastfeeding
- In children less than 12 months old
- In people who have allergies, open wounds on the scalp, or asthma.

All products can cause reactions. If you are unsure, check with your chemist or doctor.

Insecticide resistance is complex and common, so you need to check that the lice are dead. If the insecticide has worked, the lice will be dead within 20 minutes. If the lice are not dead, the treatment has not worked and the lice are resistant to the product and all products containing the same active compound. Find a product with a different active compound or speak to your chemist or doctor. No treatment kills 100 per cent of the eggs so treatment must involve two applications, seven days apart.

### **The conditioner and comb method**

If you choose not to use an insecticide, the comb and conditioner method described under 'Finding head lice' can be used every second day until no live lice have been found for 10 days.

### **Head lice combs**

Head lice combs with long rounded stainless steel teeth, positioned very close together, are the most effective. However, any head lice comb can be used.

### **Preventing head lice**

There is no product available that prevents head lice. However, tying long hair back and checking weekly for lice, using the conditioner and comb method, can help prevent the spread.

### **Things to remember**

- Head lice have been around for thousands of years and anyone can get them.
- Using the conditioner and comb method once each week will help your family control head lice.
- Head lice do not carry disease.

### **Where to get help**

- Your doctor
- Your chemist
- Your local government health department
- Department of Human Services, Public Health and Development Division Tel. (03) 9096 0000

### **This page has been produced in consultation with, and approved by:**

DHS - Communicable Disease Control

**Copyright** © 1999/2009 State of Victoria. Reproduced from the Better Health Channel ([www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)) at

no cost with permission of the Victorian Minister for Health. Unauthorised reproduction and other uses comprised in the copyright are prohibited without permission.

- This Better Health Channel fact sheet has passed through a rigorous approval process. For the latest updates and more information visit [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au).

Head lice