



Tiggers Childcare Centre & Kindergarten
895 Toorak Road, Camberwell 3124

Tiggers Childcare Centre & Kindergarten

CENTRE MANAGER NEWS

We are certainly well into the new year now. The children have all been very busy doing a lot of art work and decorating their rooms. The children in the ELC have been answering questions about themselves which Gemma is displaying in the room. It will be interesting to see what changes for them by the end of the year.

We have had new grass laid in the ELC & large yards. It is looking fantastic and is growing well. Hopefully we will be able to use our new grass areas soon as I know the children have been waiting eagerly for the day they can run and roll on the grass.

We do have a few vacancies still available at the centre so remember to let anyone know who is looking for care, as you will get \$100 credited to your account for each family you refer to our centre. For more details please feel free to come and chat with me.

Della

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Centre Availability for 2010

We have a few permanent positions left at the centre. Please let Della know if you want to pick up an extra day for your child. On occasions we also have casual days available so please check with the office if you need an extra day on a casual basis.

Room/ Days	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Baby Bilbies					
Wombat Room	*				*
Turtle Room					*
Gumnut Room	*		*	*	*
Early Learning Centre	*				

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

VACANCY

March 2010

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR CHILD'S BAG?????

Do you know what is in your child's bag? It is extremely important that your child's bag does not contain anything dangerous to children in it. Often we use the same bag on the weekend and have a habit of putting other items in the bag. At Tiggers the children have access to bags as they are stored in the children's rooms so please make sure you remove all dangerous objects. This includes but is not limited to: medicines –both adult & children, money (coins) and lighters. Please check your child's bag to make sure it is safe for child care.



HATS

Please remember to bring a labelled sunhat for your child each day they come to Tiggers. Most rooms have hat pockets where you can keep your child's hat so that you don't forget it. We do have a "No Hat, Play in Shade" policy at our centre.



MEDICATION

Please be sure to hand any medication that your child may have to a staff member. It is extremely important that medications are not left in children's bags. A medication authorisation form will need to be completed if your child will need medication during the day. Before giving medication to children staff will ensure that it is in date, if prescription medicine that it is for the person listed, check the dosage and dosage for child's age.



Important Upcoming Events for March

Monday 1st – Friday 12th March – Centre Photo's

Amanda Gillott will be at the centre each morning to capture beautiful natural photo's of the children.



Tuesday 2nd March – Dr Suess Birthday Celebrations

Come along dressed as your favourite Dr Suess character

Monday 8th March – Labour Day Public Holiday – Centre Closed

Wednesday 17th March – St Patrick's Day

Come to Tiggers dressed in Green as we have a green day.



Monday 22nd March – World harmony Day Celebrations

Children are encouraged to come dressed in cultural costumes as we talk about other cultures.

BABY BILBIES ROOM NEWS

February has been a very busy month in the Babies room. We've been welcoming lots of new friends to the room including Isabelle, Jacob, Zara, Annabel and Louis who are having lots of fun getting to know the other children and staff. We have been focusing on the developmental areas of fine motor and cognition skills by providing the children with experiences that encourage development in these areas such as bead frames, musical instruments, rattles, shape sorters, blocks and pop up toys. These activities promote use of the hands and create an element of exploration therefore promoting achievement of our chosen goals. We have also welcomed a new staff member to our room – Alisha Haynes. Alisha will be in our room as our third staff member and is proving to be a great asset to our team.

We would also like to wish a very happy Birthday to our February babies – Ella, Yhonatan and Elise who have all celebrated their first birthdays with us this month.

The children in the babies Room really enjoy singing and music. Our favourite song at the moment is 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star', sing this song with your child and see how many of the actions they can do with you:

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!

Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!



We would like to remind parents that it is very important to ensure that bottles and dummies are labelled with your child's name.

Brooke, Steph & Alisha



STAFF PROFILE

Name: Brooke Perry

Position at Centre:
Qualified – temporary
babies room leader

Favourite Food:
Lasagne

Last Book you Read:
Fearless 14 – Jannet
Evanovitch

**What do you do in
your Free Time:**
Care for my beautiful
twin boys!

Favourite Colour:
Purple

**What music are you
listening to at the
moment:**
Lady Ga Ga

**A special skill that you
are good at:**
Singing/music



WOMBAT ROOM NEWS

The Wombat Room would like to welcome Kyla, Millicent & William to Tiggers! This month in the Wombat Room we are focusing on furthering our self help skills. The children are currently learning to place their used bibs into the washing basket after meals. We are also in the process of getting the children to bring their used dishes to the trolley and empty the contents into the scrap bowl. Around the room we are concentrating on activities that promote the children's social development. Such skills as turn taking, conflict resolution, solitary & parallel play will further develop over time through home corner & imaginative play areas i.e. reptile corner.

Thank you to the parents that participated in the information night. We had a successful turn out. The information that was covered on the night was on program planning & the general planning process. The parents that attended on the night said they had a greater understanding of the process now and what we do in the room.

A reminder to parents – please bring in a labelled drink bottle & family photo for the room.

Thank you

Sara, Liz & Anjali



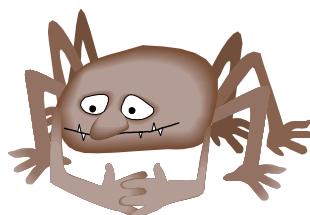
Incy Wincy Spider

The incy wincy spider
Climbed up the waterspout

Down came the rain
And washed poor incy out.

Out came the sunshine
And dried up all the rain

So the incy wincy spider
Climbed up the spout again!



Staff Training

March: Safe Food Handling

Centre staff participates in monthly training sessions on different topics. Staff will have discussions on each topic and engage in small group activities to help keep their minds fresh. Staff will also focus on policies



Staff Meetings

We hold monthly staff meetings in order to maintain the best possible care environment for you, your child/ren and the centre staff.



TURTLE ROOM NEWS

Another month has gone by in the turtle room and the children have been very busy. We are currently learning about shapes and colours. Children have been engaging in visual arts such as cut and paste and using the primary colours. We have also been learning our colours in Italian!

AlphaTykes is going well with the children. We have our lesson on Tuesday mornings but we also incorporate the lesson during the week in 'mat time' discussions. A true favourite that the children look forward to is Jitterbugs (dance). Children are encouraged to investigate rhythm & beat in groups and follow direction. Once again dance and songs are incorporated into mat time sessions each week.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our Parent Information Evening. Topics discussed included Programming, Room Set up, Separation Anxiety & strategies for Biting, toilet Training, from cot to bed and questions regarding childcare, once again thank you for your participation. If you would like to discuss your child's development one on one please make a time with Andy so she can answer your questions and concerns.

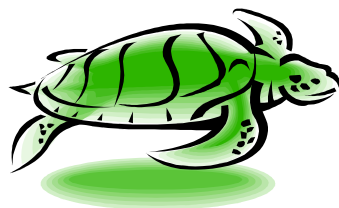
Calling all Volunteers!!!!

If you would like to be a part of a morning or afternoon with your child at our centre or if a grandparent would like to please let one of us know. This could be story telling, cooking, gardening or anything else of interest. This is a great opportunity to share a morning or afternoon with the children and be a part of the Tiggers family. It doesn't have to be a day that your child attends or that you work. The children love having their families coming in to help.

Just a reminder – please label your child's drink bottles, hats and belongings so they don't get lost and don't forget to have a look at your child's port folio's and add any comments or feedback.

Once again thank you for letting us be a part of your child's life as we continue educating them throughout the year.

The Turtle Room Team
Andy, Laura & Ashton



Occupational Health & Safety meetings

Occupational Health and Safety Meetings are also held each month. We cover topics such as back care & stress. Our Occupational health & Safety Supervisor at Tiggers is Steph.

All of these meetings allow staff to voice their opinions, concerns and issues on any subject they believe needs to be focused on.

If any parents would like any information on the Training Topics please see Della.



Please remember when entering and exiting the car park that you use the correct entrance & exit.



Please Note: that there is no right hand turn when exiting the car park.

GUMNUT ROOM NEWS

Welcome to another month in the gumnut Room. Eileen has been very busy with the children in the room and 'holding the fort' so on behalf of Tiggers we would like to say thanks to Eileen for doing such a great job.

We are happy to announce that Kylie will be starting in the room as the Qualified Room Leader on the 17th march and Eileen will continue in the room with kylie. We look forward to working with Kylie and sharing her ideas.

The children in the gumnut room have been practising their Italian and engaging with the AlphaTykes program on Tuesday mornings. This age group seems to be progressing well as they have the ability to remember and maintain the language Bravo Gumnuts!

As the children are now settling into the room we are starting to introduce limits, boundaries and Rules. Group discussions have revolved around appropriate behaviour towards each other and expectations within the room. More social play is occurring in this age group and this can be seen mostly within the dramatic corner with our puppet theatre and puppets.

Art work is a very big area of interest in the Gumnut Room and with our resident artist – Eileen there is always something creative going on! Children have been creating prints for us to use as wallpaper for the room using vibrant colours and stencils and stamps. Self portraits have been doing using a wide range of collage materials as the children looked at themselves in a mirror. Children have been discussing diversity and why we are all different and how great this is.

On a short note I would like to thank the parents who attended the Parent Infor5mation Night and Picnic Night. It is so important to get to know the staff and what we do to educate your children. So once again a big thank you to all who attended.

Eileen, Andy & Veronica.



Accreditation Update

We are due to hand in our next centre self study on the 4th December 2010.

We will all continue to work hard to ensure that we continue a High Quality Standard. We welcome parent input and feedback for our Accreditation.

Parent Input

At Tiggers we encourage and appreciate parent input. Parents can offer suggestions on such things as our menu, routines, programming, and ideas for centre events and provide us with valuable insight into their child.

We are continually trying to improve the quality of our care and the service we provide for families so all feedback is appreciated and taken on board.

Policy Review

For March we will be reviewing our **Centre Philosophy**. Please take time to read this and supply us with any feedback you may have.

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Hi Everyone. Well it's been a busy few weeks settling in and organising the ELC to ensure the program runs smoothly. I'd like to say again just how thrilled I am to be in the ELC with such a wonderful group of children and families, working with a dedicated passionate team.

Kindergarten is such an exciting time. Developmentally children are hungry to learn and broaden their knowledge. They are moving beyond the surface level stage and engage in deeper thought. Through "how" and "why" questions they are building a better understanding of the world and the way in which things work. This year the children will engage in various projects/units that will challenge these reflective and critical thinking skills.

The program continues to be underpinned by a play-based philosophy, yet we will offer more structure, preparing the children for later schooling. Each day a group session will be held in the morning (approximately 10am) and in the afternoon (approximately 2.30pm). These sessions are important to unite the children socially, and to develop focus, concentration, and listening skills. During these sessions we will focus on a variety of learning areas, i.e. literacy (letterland), numeracy, Italian vocabulary, specific topics that we are exploring etc; this is done in an informal and interactive manner. These sessions generate rich group discussions and highlight the children's knowledge, understandings, and thought processes. This is also a valuable time for the children to learn from one another as they listen and respond to their peers. Each day following lunch we will also have 'relaxation time'. During this time the children are encouraged to "rest their bodies and minds". We will engage in stretching, listening to quiet music, read stories, watch candles etc. As part of our end of day group session, the children will engage in a daily reflection. For this, several children will be invited to share a highlight from their day. This process of reflecting on, and expressing, previous events, requires a high level of cognitive functioning.



In the foyer a weekly timetable is displayed – this outlines the specialist activities in which the children will participate. This is also a helpful process to support the children in learning the days of the week. This schedule provides the children a variety of experiences to foster different developmental domains. Jitterbugs is held on a Monday; Italian on Tuesday; Science on Wednesday; Physical Education games on Thursday; and cooking on Friday.

This year we hope to implement a wide spread of opportunities and experiences to prepare the children for school, or a second year of kindergarten. Incursions/excursions will certainly feature – some that we are interested in are Botanical Gardens (children's garden), Science works, Kew Traffic School, dental visit and several others. The pet awareness incursion has already been booked for May; you will receive further information closer to the date.



FOOD SAFETY

Food poisoning is an illness that you can develop after eating food that has harmful germs in it, or food which contains a toxin (poison) made by some germs. This is called contaminated food. You can feel sick, vomit, have abdominal (tummy) pains and diarrhoea (runny poo), starting a couple of hours to a day or so after eating the contaminated food. You usually can't tell if food has been contaminated because the germs usually don't make the food smell or taste different.

- Always have clean hands before you eat or prepare food.
- When you are preparing the food, keep the area that you are working on clean.
- Prepare raw and cooked foods on separate work areas with separate knives, spoons and other utensils.
- Wash all food that will be eaten raw (such as fruit and vegetables) in clean water.

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This year 'show and tell' will be structured slightly differently. Within the room we will have three boxes that will be sent home with three different children. We ask that the children select no more than four items to share, and request that these items hold some special significance, i.e.; that can generate some interesting and valuable discussion. For example – photographs, souvenirs, artistic creations by your child, etc.

With reference to the program, I am very passionate about child consultation. Experiences and activities are planned for the *children*; the program should therefore reflect *their* ideas and opinions. In planning activities I refer to the children – what do *they* want featured in the program? Similarly, in evaluating the program the children are consulted with – what they didn't like? What could we change? It is important that we convey to children that their opinions and ideas are respected and valued. I also believe that group projects are fundamental to a kindergarten program. Collaborative tasks build social skills in communication, conflict resolution and problem solving ability. These activities boost confidence and self-esteem, providing a sense of belonging and inclusion. Located on the table in the foyer is a large book titled, 'A program in Pictures'. This book is updated every two-three weeks and displays photographs of the children engaging with various activities and experiences. In regards to individual observations and planning, the children have been divided into six planning groups – please see notice board in foyer. Each new program will focus on a different planning group. When your child's group is being planned for, you will receive an individual plan that summarises observations of their learning and development, lists developmental objectives that we are working towards, and outlines activities/experiences that have been developed in response to these objectives. These will be distributed in your parent pockets – planning for Red Group commences March 1st.

I will also endeavour to distribute an individual ELC newsletter every two-three weeks. This newsletter will keep you up to date and informed on the goings on in the room. Please see your parent pocket for this.

In building a sense of family and community we warmly welcome parent/special person helpers in the ELC. If you would like to spend some time in the EKLC with the children, sharing a special skill, or even reading stories, we would be very happy to have you. Please do not hesitate to arrange a visit any time.



- Gemma, Maggie & Intan.



- Maintain the correct temperature when storing foods.
- Keep perishable food, such as fresh meat, milk and vegetables, refrigerated.
- Do not thaw frozen foods at room temperature (keep them in a fridge).
- Serve hot food when it is hot, and cold food when it is cold.
- Don't keep cooked food at room temperature; keep it either hot or cold.
- If you are reheating foods, make sure the food gets hot right through.
- When you have thawed frozen food, do not re-freeze it, and if you have reheated food once already, don't let it get cold and then re-heat it again.



IN THE KITCHEN WITH CHRIS

Easy banana cake

Ingredients:

- 125g butter and dash of vanilla essence
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup castor sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3 ripe bananas – use 4 if you like it really banana-y
- 200g light sour cream
- 2 cups self raising flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon bicarbonate soda
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg

Method:

Cream butter, vanilla and sugar. Add eggs and mix.

Mash bananas and mix in sour cream. Add to rest of mixture.

Add all dry ingredients to banana mixture. Mix slowly.

Bake at 180°C for 45 minutes.



RESOURCES

Please take time to look around the Centre foyer as we have a large range of resources available for you to look at.



- Holiday Forms
- Family Resource Library
- Fact sheets
- Brochures
- Copies of the current newsletter
- Parent Handbook
- Centre Menu
- Centre Events
- Centre Information
- Messages Folder
- Accreditation Information
- Information on our extra curricular activities
- Calender of Events





March 2010

Welcome to Tiggers Centre Philosophy

CP1 It is the constant objective of the Tiggers team to provide a welcoming, safe and homely atmosphere, in which all children and their families feel confident and relaxed as well as where parents feel their aspirations are supported.

CP.1.1 By fostering children's self esteem, respecting their individuality and cultural difference's.

CP1.2 Provide sufficient settling in /orientation time.

CP1.3 Provide quiet areas for children to spend quiet time

CP1.4 Provide therapeutic activities. I.e. water plays, sand play, play dough.

CP1.4 Foster positive relationships between, the child, carer and families

CP2 We believe all members of the Tiggers Community are individuals, bringing with them a variety of skills, knowledge and understanding related to their unique experience in life. These characteristics are a large influence when programming is implemented.

CP2.1 we employ qualified and experienced childcare staffs who are dedicated to providing high quality care and education to all children. We recruit staff based on their qualifications, skills, experience and attitude.

CP2.2 We Provide an educationally based program to ensure each room provides meaningful, developmentally appropriate play experiences for children based on the skills and abilities of individuals and the group.

CP3 We value uniqueness and nurture future growth by embracing the individual, recognising areas of interest, respect interest, developing respectful interactions, providing positive guidance, supporting ongoing learning, offering inclusive programs and promoting Self Help skills and team work.

CP3.1 the activities and topics in the daily program will reflect the children's emerging interests, and space to allow for spontaneity.

CP3.2 we aim to meet children's physical and emotional needs through daily care routines and individual attention through one-to-one interactions with each child as well as small group times.

CP4 Our centre reflects the needs of the local community, and the families who rely on the services we provide. These needs are reviewed regularly based on the requirements of the community.

CP4.1 Our Bi-lingual staff reflect the needs of the multicultural community.

CP4.2 We treat each family as individuals and invite them to bring their culture, interests, and special skills to the centre to extend children's programs and expand the children's experiences.

CP5 Our values become a shared commitment between families, children and staff. By working together with open communications, respect and understanding, and by sharing ideas and striving for continuing improvement and excellent standards, all parties will gain the benefits.

CP5.1 We believe positive relationships between the children, the carer and the family are fundamental in the provision of a quality service. Parents and staff are encouraged to spend time developing and maintaining those relationships.

Updated August 2008