



# Southport Children's Educational Centre

## October 2009

### From the office...

The next few months are going to be very busy in the office. Leeah and I are going through the re-enrolment forms for 2010. This does take a little bit of time to ensure everyone's needs are catered for, including staffing.

At the being of November the centre will also have a re-licensing visit. This happens every two years and is relatively painless. This process involves a visit from the Office for Early Childhood Education and Care.

Our biggest focus is on our self study for our accreditation visit which will most likely happen in January/ February 2010. To prepare for this we need your help to examine and evaluate our centre, our relationships, and our practices in various areas. We will be placing a notice in the foyer of each centre highlighting the areas we are reviewing please spend a few minutes to read these notices and write a comment with your opinion on how we perform in these areas. They are read, acted on and included in our self study and improvement plan. The more input we have, the better our self study report that we send through to National Childcare Accreditation Council and ultimately leads to improving our service to you and your children.

We have included a new section in our newsletter – **From the Kitchen**. We would like you to share your favourite recipe with all our families. We have included one to get started. So if you have a favourite recipe for your family and would like to boast your culinary expertise please give a copy to Leeah or Linda to be included in our next newsletter. If we get a great response and not able to include all in our newsletters, we can create our own SCEC recipe book.

Thankyou,  
Linda and Leeah  
Centre Managers

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## 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 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

Centre1	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
Toddler 1	*	*	*	*	*
Senior Kindy 1	*	*	*	*	*
Pre-school	*	*	*	*	*
Centre 2	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
Babies	*		*	*	*
Toddler 2	*	*	*	*	*
Toddler 3				*	*
Junior kindy	*	*	*	*	*
Senior Kindy 2	*	*	*	*	*

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



## Important event coming up: November 2009

Centre Open Day 15<sup>th</sup> November 10am to 2pm

Child Protection Week 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November

## December 2009

*Save the date - Save the date - Save the date - Save the date*

**End of Year / Christmas Celebrations**

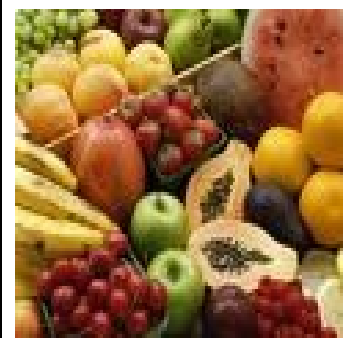
13<sup>th</sup> December - Baby room, Toddler 1, 2 & 3, & Junior Kindy

16<sup>th</sup> December – Senior Kindy 1 & 2, & Pre-school

**Centre closed 25<sup>th</sup> December to 3<sup>rd</sup> January.**

## **Policy Reviews**

In July this year our Centre came under the Management of Guardian Alliance. Guardian brings to the Centre many years of experience in the child care profession. Over the years Guardian have established comprehensive Policies based on theories of child development, guidelines from NCAC and Child Care Quality Assurance procedures to develop these policies. We believe these policies are an asset to our centre and the staff. With the assistance of our families we will begin the process of examining these policies which will be adopted. In the interim, the policies in place prior to the change in Management and the new Guardian Policies will guide our procedures and practices.



### ***Check Notice Board and have your say***

Current policies under review:

- ◆ Behaviour Management Policy
- ◆ Sun Safe Policy
- ◆ Allergy Policy

It is important to us to have your input into this process. So please take a few minutes to read the policies on the board and write a comment on the sheet provide. All comments welcomed and appreciated. These comments can be made anonymously.

## **REMINDERS TO PARENTS**

### **Enrolments for 2010**

Thank you to all the parents who have already returned the re-enrolment forms for next years bookings. If you have not already done so, get those forms back in quickly to secure your child's position. In the next week we will be look at the forms to ensure the groupings reflects our families needs. Once we have done this confirmation letters will be distributed to all our families. I know some families have spoken to me about not knowing what days they require as they are waiting for study/class days or changing shifts. It is easier for me to change your days for you if you are already enrolled rather than find a place for your child in an already full class. So please choose possible days and we can look at changing those once you receive your time-table / roster.

### **Sign in and out sheets.**

You may have noticed in the last week Leeah and I have been chasing parents for signatures on sign in /out sheets. It is a legal requirement for parents / guardians to sign their child in and out of the centre each day. It is also necessary for parent to sign for any absences their child has from the centre – this is needed to ensure your CCB is continued for these days, if you have not signed for absents you run the risk of your CCB cancelled for those days and are then responsible for the full fee of child care. CCB give all children 42 days allowable absents per year (financial) without your CCB being affected but you have to sign for them.

These sign in /out sheets are also used in our fire drill procedures to ensure ALL children are present and account for in case of an emergency. So the safety of your child I count on you signing them in. Thankyou very much for your assistance in this matter.☺

### **Sunscreen.**

The weather is definitely getting warmer! It is extremely important that we teach our children sun safe proactive behaviours at an early age, so it becomes an automatic behaviour, like putting on a seatbelt as soon as you get into the car. We can have children who automatically put on a hat & sunscreen when they go outside! It can happen with consistency and good role modelling. As we usually start our day in the outside play area we ask parents apply sunscreen and put their child's hat on when they drop them at the centre. Sunscreen is usually on the outside shelf so please ensure you use it on your child before leaving. We will be introducing a check list next to the sunscreen to ensure all children are protected before playing. Sunscreen is applied by staff before we go outside again in the afternoon, this will also be recorded for you to check.

Thankyou very much for your assistance in this matter.☺



October 2009

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## Senior Kindy 1 Room News

The Seniors are doing a great job learning the days of the week! It is obvious that parents have been encouraging the children! As Christmas is closely approaching we will be saying farewell to some of our Seniors who will be moving on to Prep. They have grown up so fast this year! We will be planning our Christmas Party/Graduation and I can promise that it will be fun and exciting for everyone! The Seniors have also been doing great during "Show & Tell" and I would like to encourage parents to continue to bring in pictures, books, and other items that will encourage children to talk in front of their friends about their experiences outside of kindy. We also have some new children in our room from different countries and I am happy to say that they have all settled in very well and have established some great friendships with the children. Since the Senior Kindy Room has many different cultures, we ask that parents bring in an item associated with their cultural background to share with the children (eg. Didgeridoo, Chinese lantern, cultural dance costumes, and/or pictures of traditional events that your family celebrates). Your input and contribution is always welcome and appreciated and often leads to some great learning experiences. Please remember that we are always happy to answer any questions or queries regarding the program or the room.

Thankyou,  
**Marisa & Sho**

## Preschool Room

Its been a busy few weeks in the preschool room with lots of our children turning five! We have been talking about going to 'big' school often and about what to expect there. Our interest in Pirates has been expanding and everyone has enjoyed participating in making our pirate ship in the family corner. A big thank you to all of you who helped provide resources to make it. We will be continuing to learn about pirates and pirate ships, the ocean, sea animals, so if you have access to anything regarding these topics we would love to use it in our programme! Things such as pirate story books, poems, cds, craft ideas, posters, pirate dress ups are some ideas. We have had a strong focus on knowing the letters in our names and learning to write our names. The children are doing a fantastic job with this and have shown a very positive interest towards language and literacy. We are still using our Maori language words daily as well as some Japanese vocabulary. Please remember to clear out your child's art folder every few weeks, as they have been very busy creating beautiful pieces of art!

**Miss Jess & Miss Stephanie**

If photos are included, there must be a talent release for each child giving authorisation for the photo to be placed on the internet.

### **Toddler 1 Room News**

As most of you already know, Nicole has left the toddler room which leaves Brittany as the new Group Leader and Grace as our new Assistant. The next couple of months we are going to be preparing for the Christmas show at the end of the year and have some fun and exciting activities for the festive season.

Due to the hot weather we will also be organising some water play days which will require parents to please bring in some swimming shirts and board shorts. The toddlers have recently shown a huge interest in bugs and insects, therefore we will be programming activities to carry out their interests. If you have any ideas for the toddler room, don't hesitate to talk to Brittany or Grace as your contribution and input is important in our programming.

Thankyou,

**Brittany & Grace**

### **Babies' Room News**

We would like to welcome our new babies Seth, Millie, Noah, and Sascha to our room. We are establishing good relationships and routines with the new babies.

As some of you may have noticed, Miss Lisa has broken her arm. Miss Lisa is working as a floater mainly with the older children, but often comes by to check on "her babies". Miss Sharmaine is replacing her as the group leader until she returns from her injury. Miss Candice will continue to help Sharmaine maintain the children's daily routines.

We are practicing our sun safety by wearing our hats for outside play. The children are doing really well with keeping their hats on – they even try putting hats on each other!

If there are any questions in regards to your child or the room, please feel free to talk to the room staff.

Thank you,

**Candice & Sharmaine (& Lisa)**

### **Toddler 2 Room News**

My name is Farhana and I've started working as Group Leader in the Toddler 2 Room on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October with a warm welcome from Bree. Thank you to parents for supporting me to settle in and getting to know the children. We have had a busy but lovely week and two days. The children have responded well to a new face and we are beginning to build new relationships. They are a delightful group of children with lots of character and energy. We have enjoyed painting, chalking and making our own playdough. The children have thoroughly enjoyed my song bag at group time, with lots of good sitting and listening.

I look forward to meeting you all and please feel free to discuss your child with myself.

Thank you,

**Farhana & Bree**

### Toddler 3 Room News

Miss Lucy and Miss Tanya would like to welcome our new children Tyler, Leilani, Kody, Amelia, Cody and Archya. All have settled in very well, and are enjoying their time at kindy.

Recently the Toddlers have shown a lot of interest in animals. Due to this we have been doing a lot of matching, and naming of animals in books, posters, songs and puzzles. Over the next few weeks we will be learning colours.

We have all enjoyed celebrating the Diwaii Festival of Light by providing many activities such as splatter painting, dress-ups, face painting and dancing to Indian music!!

Thank you,  
**Lucy & Tanya**

### Junior Kindy Room News

We are settling into our new room and routine well and would like to welcome our new friends and families who have moved up from the Toddler 1 Room. The children are showing a strong interest in the creative arts and hunting for bugs in the playground! I have planned to extend on this by creating a "bug board" where we can collect and observe the bugs and insects. If you have anything to contribute to this theme such as books, bugs, bug toys etc, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
**Sarah**

### Senior Kindy 2 Room News

"Now I Am Big" is the focus in the Senior Kindy Room and so true is this! All of the children have stepped up to the new challenges that come with their 4<sup>th</sup> year or 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday; including exploring new room expectations, the room computer, thinking about keeping Junior Kindy children safe during outside play (they are the younger ones!), the introduction of circle times and group times are inviting children to challenge their growing cognitive skills eg. Memory recall, classifying and identifying objects, animals and people through transitioning games. A quick reminder about our room program, it is positioned on the wall above the lockers and displays for your enjoyment and information an insight into "what we did today". See you soon! Let's get into the fun!

Thank you,  
**Tanya**

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## FROM THE KITCHEN:

### Vegetable Risotto

#### Ingredients:

3 carrots  
3 celery sticks  
2 sweet potatoes  
2 Onions  
200grms green peas  
2 cups rice  
¼ teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon white pepper  
3 table spoons of olive oil

#### Procedure:

Peel and dice all vegetables.

Fry onion with olive oil in large pot until brown.

Add all the diced vegetables, together with 3 litres water, salt, pepper and allow to cook on medium heat until vegetables are soft.

Turn heat down to simmer, add rice and keep stirring continuously until all rice is cooked.

If desired, parmesan cheese may be added to the plate when serving.

Enjoy! ☺



## RESOURCES

We have a few resources in our foyer area and have plans of increasing these parent resources in the coming months. If you have any ideas of information you would like to be able to access please see Linda or Leeah.

Some of the resources already available are:

- Direct Debit forms
- Fact sheets
- Community Brochures
- Copies of the current newsletter
- Parent Handbooks
- Centre Morning Tea Menu
- Centre Events
- Holiday Forms





## 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

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Head lice