

Bellbowrie Early Education Centre & Preschool

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Queensland
Childcare Services

NEWSLETTER

November 2011

Editor: Clare Hamilton

"achieving great things with little people..."
Education Through Care.

Director News

Hello All. Well what a busy few months we have had and yet another newsletter is due. As some of you might be aware we have some new equipment for our outside area. This has



helped with our physical education development area within our programming.

It is so good to see the children laughing and having fun while doing their physical exercise. This physical activity is also running so well with the new introduction of the healthy eating menus now served across the whole centre and I am so happy that the children are enjoying the food that is on offer. If families have any suggestions please complete the suggestions form and I will be sure to forward them on to 'Yummies for little tummies'.

As we all know when giving suggestions and ideas is the only way we can improve or review a service so when completed please drop into the fees box.

Sun safety



As we all know it is becoming warmer during the day so please make sure your child brings a hat and water bottle every day and is wearing sun safety clothing.

Staffing

As we are coming into the Christmas season staff will be taking holidays and room numbers will start to drop which will then allow us to transition and see how children will go in the next room for next year. I am reviewing the rooms for next year this week and notes will go home by next Friday on when your child is moving and what room they

will be moving to so please look out for this information for the year '2012'. If you have not handed in your re-enrolment for next year please get it in by next week as this information is needed to make sure your child is guaranteed a spot for next year.

Fees

Thank-you to the families who have transitioned to Direct Debit. I understand that it has been tricky and some families have had to make some changes but I know that by working together we have been able to achieve this and I am so thankful for all your co-operation over this change.



Well till next time please keep safe and reading my weekly emails and also reading the notes on the door of any



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES

TRAINING NEWS – AIECS

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The Australian Institute of Early Childhood Studies (AIECS) is the Registered Training Organisation for the management and staff of Queensland Child Care Services (QCCS). The training college was established in 2002 to act as the primary resource for the QCCS's staff professional development and training in Childcare qualifications. The AIECS also provides nationally recognized Qualifications in early childhood and Training and assessment as well as first aid and CPR training. The college is run by a team of dedicated early Childhood specialists, each with over 10 years industry experience.

The AIECS is currently leading the way in training in industry changes for centres across Queensland. A very important focus for both the college and the centre staff at present is the implementation of the new *Early Years Learning Framework* that came into practice as of July 2010.

QCCS centres' staff are amongst the first in Queensland to be trained by AIECS for the transition to an *Emergent Curriculum* in order to effectively implement the new framework. QCCS management strives to ensure that all their staff receive the most up to date and relevant support and training. These specialized training opportunities are offered on regular bases to all staff to ensure children attending QCCS centres and their parents receive the highest quality of professional care at all times.

upcoming events or news items within the centre.

Thanks Mel

Nursery

Hello! Nic and I are back in the Nursery. It took us a few weeks to settle in with the different routines, but everything is going great now and we are really enjoying it.

We would like to welcome a few of the new babies to our room, Ruby, Ocean and Roslyn.



Some of the babies were interested in flowers so we

created a learning pod on in the Nursery on the window. We have been creating all different kinds of paintings to go with our new learning pod.

We have also been experiencing different touch and feel activities like 'play dough' and 'goop' which helps develop our gross motor skills.

The babies are all settling in the room great and I hope to do more exciting activities with them as we go. If you need to talk to us about anything please feel free. Nic and I are open to any ideas or suggestions. Until next time, Miss Deb and Miss Nic

Toddlers

Hi from the Toddlers' Room. The last few months the toddlers have been surfing and learning about the sea.

Miss Alyssa bought in boogy boards and beach towels for us.

We also have been playing with a variety of different animals and doing artwork to go with our themes. All of the children are settled in well and are all starting to use their words much more, it's so great to hear them talk and say the carers and their friend's names. We would also like to welcome our new friend Isaac to the room. Bernita and Sarah

Pre-Kindy

Hello. Time has flown by and all the children are growing up even quicker. We have had many changes once again to the Pre-Kindy Room. Some of us have moved up into the Kindy Room and some children have come up to join us from the Toddlers. I would like to welcome Max, Elsie, Georgina and Luke into Pre-Kindy and hope that they feel very welcome and settled into their new room.

We have been focusing a lot on



numbers, letters and tracing to get the children ready for the

older rooms. Safety, health and hygiene in all aspects are topics that we have begun for our room web. So far we have learnt about healthy eating and how to brush our teeth and all the children really enjoyed painting their own toothbrush. Language is developing very well in all of the children and we are definitely encouraging it and ensuring that they all use more of their words. Social development is another aspect



that is really improving across the children.

So far we have had a great time this month and look forward to what is ahead of us for the next couple of months. We really appreciate parent input, any suggestions or ideas that you may have, Jaimie or myself will be grateful to hear them. Regards, Oriana & Jaimie.

Kindy

Wow! Hasn't this year gone so fast! We have had so many arrivals this month that we can hardly keep up. Firstly I would like to congratulate the Roberts, Griffins, Bright, Looker, and Schmacher families on the birth of their new babies. May your bundles of joy settle quickly and sleep well.

We would also like to welcome to our room Miss Bel. Miss Bel has had many years experience and loves being a part of team Kindy. We are having so much fun getting to know our newest friend. A lot of things have been happening in our room this month. As you may have noticed we have a lot more



pets. We have four new hermit crabs named Lucy, Optimus

Prime, Conga and Tarzan. We still have our fish friends Nemo and Pickles. We have started an animal web, where we are learning about how to care for and be responsible for little things.

Lately we have been learning new songs and talking about stranger danger. We have learnt never to get into cars with people we don't know, always hold our parents or friends hands and that we can always trust our parents and teachers. This has been a very useful lesson in our room (we even learnt that if a stranger offers us candy we don't say please, we walk away). The children have also learnt to call '000' if we need a fireman, policeman or ambulance. I am very impressed.



We are now getting into the Christmas period. We have organised the Christmas party and am looking

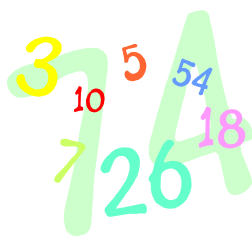
at putting on a song. If you have anything you would like to contribute or would like to see on our program please feel free to let us know. We can't wait to see you all at the Christmas party.

Cheers for now,
Miss Katie and Miss Bel

Senior Kindy

Hi Everyone. Wow! What a busy time we've had lately. As you may have noticed we did lots of art activities to get ready for our Halloween display, including finger painting and making our own skeleton. We have also been focusing on numbers and letters, learning to recognise them visually, counting in sequence and learning what letters our

names start with. The children have really excelled at this and you may have noticed some of their work



displayed on the walls. If there is anything at all you would like us to work on in the room, please fill out a parent contribution form and we will be only too happy to follow through on this.

I have noticed that a lot of the children have been bringing in toys from home for show and tell. We have had some trouble with them being misplaced or other children thinking that it is their toy, we would appreciate if you could clearly label your child's toy to help minimise any problems. If you have any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to come and see me and I will help wherever possible. Thanks, Sue and Jess.

School Readiness

Hello everyone, well this month we have been busy working on lots of alphabet activities including recognising letters and the sounds they make. The children are all progressing so well and it is great to see their concentration level.



The dinosaur web has been so popular with the children gathering all different natural items and

placing in the tub to create our 'Dinoland'. We have also researched what dinosaurs eat and even spent time identifying all their names with the children already very clued onto this area.

In home corner we have had our medical / hospital open and it was great to see the children role playing nurses, doctors and patients. They have had lots of fun even looking at the x-rays on the light table. Our construction area has also been popular with the children building roads and covering even the safety side in this area which is excellent to see. On our writing table Miss Ami made us a mailbox and it has been used well so we will use this mail box in the next few weeks when writing our letters to Santa.

Don't forget on the front door is a list of the all the schools please put your child's name down on the school they will be going to next year as it is great for all parents to see and also for the educators to see what school the will be going to next year.

In the next few weeks we will be getting ready for the centre graduation and invitations will be going home soon so please keep your eye open and updated with the weekly email that Miss Mel sends home. Till Next time, Miss Melanie, Miss Lisa and Miss Mel

NUTRITION POLICY

- At least one staff member must sit with a group of children during meal times, talking to the children about elements of nutrition and culture as it relates to their food. During this time the staff member will record accurately the children's food intake including what they child ate and quantities eaten. Staff must supervise to ensure that all glad wraps, plastic and brown bags are removed from food immediately and disposed of into the children's scrap bin in the middle of the tables.
- Food served to children must take into account individual appetites, preferences and needs (eg; timing of meals). Meal times are to be social occasions with discussion encouraged between staff and children, and children and children. Staff encourage children to use good manners by modelling them to the children. Staff also encourage children to try new food, praising their attempts.
- Snacks and meals are timed appropriately for children of all ages.
- Children's independence is encouraged as they scrape their plates and clean up after themselves, within their own capabilities.
- Children are encouraged in meal time preparation from time to time.
- Details of food eaten are provided to parents of all children via a chart located in a prominent place and communication books in younger age groups.
- The Centre encourages food in line with Nutrition Australia's Healthy Eating Pyramid, and provides parents with information on nutrition, age appropriate diet, food handling and storage. Lunch box ideas are displayed and accessible to families. As per the Healthy Eating Pyramid we encourage mostly bread and cereals, fruit and vegetables, with children encouraged to drink water during the day. Moderate amounts of dairy and meat or meat alternatives is encouraged with small amounts of oils, margarines etc.
- Under no circumstances should children be force fed or have food withheld. Children must only be given food from their own lunch box. Older children (2 years and over) must be able to choose food from their own lunch box. Staff will discuss with and encourage children to choose food that is most appropriate and nutritional for each meal. Children in Kindy and School Readiness will be encouraged to get their own lunch boxes and drink bottles from the fridge, remove the items they are going to eat and put them on their plate, and then return these lunch boxes to the fridge.
- Drinking water is to be accessible to all children throughout the day. In older rooms (2-5's) a water container will be set up for the children to access with clean cups accessible in a container with a lid, and a container available for used cups to be placed in when finished with. A written procedure will be displayed with this for children to follow, and all attempts will be supervised and assisted where necessary by staff. Children in younger rooms (0-2years) will be offered drinks out of their individual sipper cups every 30-45 minutes throughout the day. Children are to sit down with a staff member and not walk around the room or be unaided.
- The children are to be actively encouraged to self select food and self-help skills promoted such as assisting in setting the tables, throwing out own rubbish etc as age appropriate.
- Peanut / nut products are not encourages due to there being a high number of children being allergic and having a severe reaction to these products.
- Children under no circumstances should have access to the kitchen / kitchenette. Rooms that share a kitchen which is used for a staff walk way should not be used to walk children through from one room to another.

THANK YOU

Please fill out the following and return.

I am happy with the current NUTRITION policy

Yes

No

Suggestions: _____
