

# Busy Learners Early Education Centre & Preschool

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Queensland  
Childcare Services

## NEWSLETTER

January 2012

Editor: Clare Hamilton

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

Welcome to the latest Edition of the Busy Learners Newsletter January Edition. We have many changes occurring over the next 2 months so we would like to keep you updated of these.

### Directors Note

# WELCOME

Welcome back to another fantastic year. We would like to welcome back all our wonderful families to 2012 and thank them for supporting us throughout 2011. It is lovely to see all our children back after Christmas fresh faced and so happy to get back into what we hope will be an outstanding year at Busy Learners. We have many shows and exciting changes planned for 2012 so we will cover some of these in our newsletter.

### **Bus**

I would like to start by introducing to all our families



our new Bus driver Janelle. Janelle has a Certificate III in Children's Services and has worked in the Child Care

Industry for many years . Janelle also has a lot of background experience in family day care. Janelle is making alot of exciting changes to the bus run to make it more efficient each day when collecting and dropping off your children which I'm sure she will advise each family personally as she makes these changes. If parents have any questions please see Simone or Lucy.

Please don't forget our Bus service runs from 7am – 10am in the morning and 2pm – 5pm every afternoon. We service 5 schools in the area between the times of 8am – 9am and 2:30pm- 3:30pm this is when we are dropping off and collecting from school.

### **Accounts and Signing in and Out**

We are happy to say that we have finally sorted out all our Direct Debit and Centrepay forms with our parents. We thank you for your understanding and perseverance through this process. Please remember it is QCCS policy that all families are signed up for either Centrepay or Direct Debit. Parents can still make extra payments via the EFTPOS machine or by cash. We would like to also remind all our parents that you must sign your child/children in every morning and out every afternoon otherwise your CCB may be stopped and you will be charged full fees. We understand that you may be in a hurry but it is important for us as centre in case we have an emergency that your children are signed in correctly daily.



### **Enrolment Fees**

As of January 2012  
QCCS has put a new



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF  
EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES

[www.aiecs.com.au](http://www.aiecs.com.au)

## NEWS UPDATE

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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 staff professional development and training in Childcare qualifications. The AIECS also provides nationally recognised 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 Childhoods pedallists, each with over 10 year's 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 Early Years Learning Framework, which came into practice in July 2010. AIECS and QCCS are amongst the first in Queensland to train and be trained for the transition to an Emergent Curriculum.

AIECS offers

- Certificate III in Children's Services

- Diploma in Children's Services

enrolment fee in place. On enrolment it will be a \$50 fee and \$20 for each additional child. With this fee you will be provided with a Busy Learners Hat, Bag and T-Shirt. Existing families can also purchase these items from the office for either a pack or individually the prices are as follows-

**Pack (Hat, Bag, T-Shirt) \$25**

**Hat- \$8**

**T-Shirt-\$12**

**Bag-\$5**

### **2012 Room Changes**

As many of our families have noticed Miss Simone has put a poster up in the foyer with the room listings for this year. We have tried to make minimal changes to the staffing in our rooms so therefore we have not moved any of our Group Leaders and only some of our Assistants will be changing rooms. The teachers for your rooms are as follows:

**Bumble Bees** - Miss Teagan and Miss Lan

**Butterflies** - Miss Sipola and Miss Sam

**Flamingos** - Miss Lucy and Miss Valeria

**School Readiness** - Miss Antoinette and Miss Waiza

**Floats** - Miss Taryn and Miss Stacey

Our room teachers have many exciting things planned for 2012 as you will read in throughout the newsletter.

### **Australian Wildlife Show**

We are very excited about the Australian wildlife show we have planned for 25<sup>th</sup> January. The show is a 40



minute show which will involve the children from 6mths - 6yrs. The show involves the children getting face to face with some of our countries stunning wildlife such as;



snakes, possums, frogs, lizards, cockatoos, owl's turtles, insects and lots more. We thought this would fit

in nicely with Australia day. This show will help to encourage the children to take an active role in the conservation of our native wildlife. The children are very excited to get to hold some of our native wildlife. The show costs \$6 per child and must be paid in cash to the office prior to the show starting. If you have any questions please see staff and they will be happy to help you.

Don't forget we will be **closed** for the Australia Day Public



Holiday on the 26<sup>th</sup> January

### **Painting**

As many of you have noticed our Centre is currently undergoing a new facelift by being freshly painted. We apologise for the lack of art work on the walls but we have been requested by the painters to avoid putting anything on the walls for up to three weeks after the painting has been done. The room staff have been preparing lots of art work with your children to put straight up after this period. We are sure our Centre will look amazing once all the painting is completed. Thank

you for your perseverance during this exciting time.

### **Reminders**

Please make sure you are supplying your children with a change of clothes each day in their bags and a sheet for rest time. We would also recommend making sure that your children's hats are taken home each week to be washed and cleaned.

As it is Summer please remember to Slip, Slop, Slap, Slide, Seek to



avoid the sun burning our delicate skin.

Please make sure you are labelling all your children belongings so they do not go missing. This makes it easier for staff to recognise whose belongings belong to whom and less items will go missing.

### **Head Lice**

Unfortunately we have had quite a few cases of Head Lice in the centre over the past few weeks. We would like to ask all parents to check and treat your children's hair to avoid furthering the outbreak. We have attached our Head Lice policy to the newsletter so please make sure you read over it. Head Lice can be avoided or kept at bay by regular head checks by parents and treatment. Please inform Miss Simone if your child has had a case of head lice so we can take the proper action. See you soon, Simone.

## **Bumble Bees**

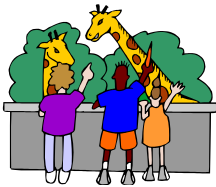
Hello. We would like to welcome all of our new families and children, Kieren, Ramsis and Ruby. I'm sure you will enjoy your time here at Busy Learners.

I would like to introduce Miss Lan she will be our new Assistant in the Bumble Bee's room.

We would like to apologise to the parents for the lack of decorations in the Bumble Bees' Room as the room has just been re painted but we can assure you that we will be decorating the room with your children's art work as soon as possible.



We have been working on starting to decorate our room and it is going to be a 'Day at the Zoo' as the children have been very interested in all the different animals in the room. We have been discussing what the different types of animals are. The sounds they make, where they live, what they eat.



We have been reading a lot of animal books such as the farm book, wild cats, kittens, the animal book etc.

'Yummies for little Tummys' has been going very well the children are responding to the meals that are being provided.

If you have any questions regarding the meals feel free to come and see me.

Thank you Miss Teagan and Miss Lan.

## **Butterflies**

First of all I would like to say a Happy New Years and I hope you all enjoyed your holidays as much as I did. The last couple of months the children in the Butterflies' Room have been combining with the Bumble Bee crew.

This month we have been focusing on colours. The children have been making lots of artworks and even singing songs based on their artworks. This enhances their gross motor skills and most importantly, focuses on their language skills.

Throughout the month Miss Sam and I will be focusing on Transportation; how we use it, what does our transportation look like and much more. Miss Sam and I are so excited on how children are going to bring their ideas to us.

Miss Antoniette and I will be looking after the fundraising. If you have any inputs or ideas please let us know. I will be leaving a booklet of parents input where you can suggest as many ideas as you wish. If you prefer talking in person, feel free to come and talk to Miss Antoniette or myself. The booklet will be near the sign in and out sheets. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Flamingos**

We are excited to welcome Miss Valeria to the Flamingos room as the Assistant this year and welcome Miss Lucy back off her Christmas Holiday. As we approach another exciting and interesting year it is good to see some old and some new faces in our rooms. This year so far the children shared an interest in frogs (children found 2 in the yard), bugs, lizards and crocodiles. We are also learning about manners (Please, Thank



You, Sorry, Pardon and Excuse me). We will be having lots of fun learning about these areas over the coming weeks. If you have anything you would like to add to the learning stations please feel free to do so by seeing Miss Lucy or Miss Valeria. We will be having lots of fun doing many exciting things this year and welcome your family to the Flamingo Room.

## **School Readiness**

A Happy New Year to all our wonderful children and their families. We have an exciting year ahead of us in the School Readiness Room, as there have been some changes in the room which we are sure will benefit all the children.

We have changed the various learning areas around our newly painted room, ensuring that all activities and toys are

always well accessible to the children.

It's a pleasure to announce that Mrs Waiza will now become a permanent Assistant Teacher in the room, working together with Ms Antoinette as a team, to provide the best possible care and learning experiences to cater for all children's needs.

This month the children are focusing their learning on bugs,

birds, and nature, which emerged from the children's interest in the various bugs they found in our garden, and a tree frog they rescued from a sink outside.

We are extending the children's learning of nature through a variety of activities, such as arts and crafts using a variety of natural resources, including bird seed.

Parents and families are encouraged to take part in their child's learning. We appreciate your feedback and/or participation in group time projects and events, such as coming in for a cultural dance or cooking demonstration. We are also looking forward to celebrating Australia Day with the children, with lots of fun activities for them to take part in. Thank you.

## HEAD LICE POLICY

The occurrence of head lice is the most common insect infestation in human throughout the world. In Queensland, infestation occurs mainly in children. However, head lice infestation may affect people of any age, nationality, gender or socio-economic status. It is as much a social issue as a health or educational issue, and the way that it is approached can have significant influence on a student's emotional, social and educational development.

### Control

Control of head lice is a community issue that can be productively addressed only through a cooperative approach between parents, children and the centre with assistance from Queensland Health or other local health service providers.

### Remember

- We can all catch head lice.
- Head lice are spread mainly through head to head contact.
- Mechanical methods can be used to control head lice.
- You need to check with Queensland Health Child Health Centre or your local doctor whether chemical preparations are effective.

### Expectations of the Child Care Centre

To help control head lice, it is reasonable to expect that centres will:

- Distribute procedures and information on the control, detection and treatment of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required;
- Advise parents to be vigilant, particularly during periods of heavy lice infestation;
- Implement recommended practices and teaching programs as well as guidelines for play, that minimise head-to-head contact during outbreaks of head lice;
- Support parents through practical advice and a sympathetic attitude to avoid stigmatising families who have difficulty complying with control measure;
- Request parents not to send children with head lice to the centre until treatment has begun; and

- Maintain confidentiality of all families and children who have or are treating head lice.

### **Expectations of Parents**

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their children do not attend the Childcare Centre with untreated head lice. To achieve this, it is reasonable to expect that parents will:

- Regularly inspect their child's head to detect the presence of lice or lice eggs;
- Regularly inspect all household members and treat them if required, and
- Notify the Centre if their child is affected, and advise when treatment has begun.

### **Treatment**

Current information on recommended treatment is available from Queensland Health, the local pharmacy or doctor and could be provided to parents as the providers of treatment.

### **Parents**

- Control head lice quickly and effectively in all people with head lice in the household.
- Send children to childcare only after they have started an effective method of control. This means that no live adult and young head lice are present. Live eggs and newly hatched head lice do not pose a risk of passing lice to others. Always complete control and keep checking.
- If head lice are present, notify the centre.
- Inform all other close contacts; ask them to check for head lice; explain the procedures.
- Ask children to reduce head-to-head contact.
- Avoid sharing combs, hairbrushes, hats, helmets etc.
- After use wash combs and hairbrushes in very hot tap water (60°C) for ten seconds.
- If you see head lice on cushions and headgear put them into sealed bags for two days or leave them under strong sun for a day.
- Take home all bedding, headbands and comfort toys from the centre and wash in hot water.
- Wash pillowcases with hot tap water.
- Vacuum clean carpet and upholstery.
- If the child sleeps with a fluffy toy, vacuum clean it.

**Do not use head lice preparations to prevent catching head lice. They do not repel head lice.**

Used routinely, head lice preparations may endanger the health of your child and contribute to the development of resistance of head lice to those preparations. Resistance means that the preparations become less effective in killing the head lice.

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### **THANK YOU**

Please fill out the following and return.

I am happy with the current HEAD LICE POLICY     Yes     No

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_