

# Hamilton Road Early Education Centre

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Queensland  
Childcare Services

*"achieving great things with little people..."*

**Education Through Care.**

## NEWSLETTER

November 2011

Editor: Clare Hamilton

### Director News

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter. I'm sure you will all agree that the year has just flown by. Throughout the year I often find it very rewarding to take a few minutes to stop and reflect on how far the children have grown and developed over the past few months. Whether they are babies that are now sitting up or walking, toddlers who are toilet training or preschoolers who are learning to read and write their names, I'm sure you'll agree that each and every child has come along so far, even since I began two months ago.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff and families for making me feel so welcome in my first few weeks here. It's been a very rewarding first few months in my role as director here, and I look forward to getting to know everybody

better.

I would also like to welcome all of our new families to the Hamilton Road family. I hope that you are enjoying our centre. If there is anything else that we can do help make your child's transition into childcare any smoother, please let us know. As the weather warms



up, please remember to pack your child's hat for outdoor play.

As many of you are aware there have been a few staffing changes within the centre. Stephanie Zacka is now our Toddler Group Leader working alongside Miss Emily. Stephanie is very excited to get to know the toddler child and families over the coming months. Bethany Reseigh, who has been a float at the centre over the past few months, has accepted a full time Assistant position

working alongside Miss Yara in the Kindy Room. Alana Lauhan is our new Nursery Assistant. Alana has her Certificate III in children's services and is currently studying her Diploma. Alana has extensive experience, working as both an Assistant and a Group Leader. We would like to welcome Alana to our centre.

Other new faces around the centre include: Amanda Clarke; Casual Group Leader Float. Amanda has recently joined our team as a casual staff member that you will often see around the centre, covering staff holidays, sick days and lunches. Amanda has her Diploma in Children Services. She also has her Blue Card, First Aid and CPR certificates.

### Calendar of Events

We have a busy couple of months coming up. Here's a reminder of what will be happening around the centre



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF  
EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES

## TRAINING NEWS – AIECS

(07) 3801 3962  
(07) 3801 5144  
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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 in 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.

as the year draws to a close.

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2011-** Hamilton Road Christmas Party 4.30pm.

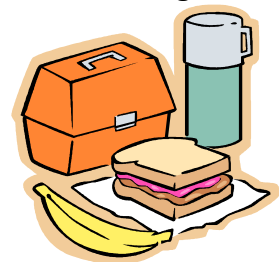
**7<sup>th</sup> December 2011-** Pre-school graduation morning tea 10am.

**19<sup>th</sup> December 2011-** Vacation Care Program begins.

**26<sup>th</sup> December 2011-** Boxing Day CENTRE CLOSED.

**27<sup>th</sup> December 2011-** Christmas day public holiday CENTRE CLOSED.

### What to bring for the day



Please remember that it is important that the children come with a packed bag each day with the following items

- Drink bottle
- Change of clothes
- 4 – 8 pairs of underwear if they are toilet training
- Hat
- Cot Size Sheets in a sheet bag (pillow case great option) that will fit in your child locker (please no plastic bags)

### For Babies and Toddler

- Nappies
- Wipes
- Bottles
- Formula
- Drink cup

### All rooms monthly



- Wipes and Tissues to share

### Donations

One persons' rubbish is another person's treasure - is you have anything around your house that you no longer need or want, the centre is always looking for donations. Some examples include:

- Old children's clothing
- Cardboard boxes
- Scrap Material, wool, ribbon
- Old pots and pans
- Plastic bottles
- Old books

### Lost Property

We have a lost property basket in the foyer. Please check this regularly to ensure your child doesn't have any missing belongings.

***I would like to finish by wishing everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.***

***Merry Christmas***

Until Next Time,  
Aspen Forgan  
**Centre Director**

### Nursery News

Welcome to another edition of the Nursery news.

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome all of our new families to our Nursery group. We are looking forward



to getting to know you all. Congratulations also to our Nursery friends who have recently graduated into the Toddler's room.

All of our precious little babies are growing, developing and learning each and every day. We are so proud of you all.

Lately we have explored learning areas such as 'music and nursery rhymes'- which has been lots of fun. We have just embarked on a new learning area 'our bodies'. This will give the children an opportunity to become more self aware, encourage development of self-help skills and explore what their bodies can do.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the families that have bought in parent contributions, please keep them coming. We love receiving them as they give us great learning ideas and opportunities. We would also like to ask each family to bring in a family photo so that we can create a nursery family tree. Displaying family photos can help give the children a sense of belonging in the Nursery and give them a feeling of ownership of their room.

The warmer months have quickly approached us and we would like to ask parents to ensure that their child comes to the Nursery with a hat



to wear for outside play.

Thanks again for all of your support, ideas and especially for the opportunity to be a part of your precious little one's lives. Until next time, Fiona, Michelle and the babies.

### Toodler News

Hi, we just wanted to start by introducing Steph as our new Toddler Group Leader. Stephanie is very excited to continue working with the Toddler children and see them grow within the upcoming months.

We would also like to welcome all of our new friends that have joined us in the toddler room. We hope that you enjoy your time here and have as much fun as the rest of us. Over the past few weeks, the children have shown an interest in the rain and the outdoors. To follow up and extend on this, we have begun a web on 'the four seasons.' As part of this topic we have



discussing sun safety, which includes wearing a hat and applying sunscreen before going outside. Through this learning, we have also been exploring the different textures of outdoor materials, including sand, leaves and feathers.

If you have any resources that could assist with this topic, donations would be greatly appreciated. When the weather warms up we will also

be organizing some water play. We would appreciate it if parents could please ensure your child has an extra set of clothes. Until next time.

Miss Stephanie, Miss Emily and the Toddlies.

### Junior Kindy News

What a busy month it has been in the Junior Kindy room. We would like to welcome Shayla Rose and Emiliana into our room.

Over the past few weeks we have been learning about animals and Australia. We would love it if you could bring a photo of any family pets that the children can discuss and share with their friends. We



have really enjoyed making our Kookaburra and Uluru.

The children have also been doing really well with their toilet training, sharing the toys with their friends and using their gentle hands. These skills are such an important part of children's development. Keep your eye out for what else we will be working on in the coming weeks.

Until next time, Lareina, Renae, Libby and Junior Kindy Kiddies.

### Kindy News

Hi Everyone. Well, I must say, the year has almost gone by. But, we have all been so busy and involved in our learning and development that the time has flown past.



Our wonderful Kindy friends moved from our winter theme, coincidentally, with the end of the season. We have been discussing healthier eating options and what it means to be healthy. We have been learning about various fruit and vegetables, their colours, shapes, smell, taste and, soon, we will also be looking at textures too. The children have shown a great interest in this, especially with the beginning of our Yummies 4 Little Tummies.

We have also spent some time concentrating on our languages. The children have found this to be a fun transitional game, while they are still learning. Miss Peggy has been helping in our room, and has helped by teaching the children some Spanish songs and words. Thank you, Miss Peggy.

I would like to congratulate some of my Kindy friends for completing their toilet training. Well done! This is a wonderful milestone for you and your families and we are happy to have been a part of it.

Also, I would like to say a sad goodbye to our friend Miss Steph who has moved on to take the role of Toddler Group Leader. We will miss you, thank you for all of your help. Furthermore, I would like to extend a big welcome to our newest friend in the Kindy room, Miss Bethany, who has accepted the role of Kindy Assistant. I believe that she will be a very wonderful influence

on the children, the room and myself. If you have not met Miss Bethany, please say 'Hello'.

If you have any ideas that you might think the children might like, if your child did something on the weekend or, even if you have a special talent that you might like to share, please don't hesitate to approach Bethany or myself. Miss Yara, Miss Bethany and the Kindy children.

#### **School Readiness News**

Hello. As the year draws to a close, we have been focusing on preparing the children for their transition to school. We have been doing this in many ways, including practicing writing our names and alphabet. We have also been using our interactive TV to assist with our numeracy and literacy learning, to aid with relevant songs and activities.

The children have also been developing their self help skills, through assisting with routine times, such as helping to make



and pack away their beds; put their belongings with their bag, and helping to prepare the table for meal times. Talk to you soon, Laura and the Preschoolers.

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION POLICY**

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Queensland Childcare Services gives non-discriminatory access regardless of ethnic background, religion or special needs.

### **PARENT PARTICIPATION POLICY**

At our Centre, we operate on an **OPEN DOOR POLICY**, where parents and family members are welcome into the Centre at **ANYTIME**.

Our Centre could not be what it is without parent involvement, contributions and participation, and we want to encourage more of it.

There are many levels of **PARENT PARTICIPATION**, as we aim to accommodate every person's needs in their involvement with the Centre, and the outside commitments they have.

Children benefit greatly from parent and family involvement. This family involvement gives them a sense of importance and ownership, as you are showing interest in what your child is doing. It also communicates to children that you accept the environment they are in and it therefore encourages them to feel more comfortable in it.

Parents too, benefit from such experiences, by being able to contribute in many varying ways to the education and wellbeing of not only their children but others as well. It has been shown in many studies that children whose parents and families take an active interest in their education will develop at both a greater rate (hence being enthusiastic about what they are doing) and also develop a more positive attitude about themselves and learning.

### **HOW CAN I BE FULLY INFORMED OF WHAT THE TEACHERS ACTUALLY DO FOR AND WITH MY CHILD?**

- Attend the annual meeting where the room philosophy and goals are discussed.
- Read the displayed copies of individual teachers' philosophies and long and short-term goals.

- Attend staff/parent interviews where we can discuss your child.
- Take the time to understand the planning process, which is discussed in the handbook.
- Understand that my child's teacher does written observations on my child examining all areas of development.
- Take the time to peruse through my child's observation file, and be familiar with the weekly programme that is written up.
- Complete information requests from staff about programming.
- With all of the above information, understand that my child's teacher can write a weekly programme with my child's interests and needs in mind. The teacher writes individual objectives for my child, implements the ideas and then evaluates what happens. The teacher then shares this information with parents informally, in interviews or in written reports.
- I can spend time in the Centre, observing my child in play.
- I can simply ask my child's teacher anything I need to know or freely offer my suggestions verbally or via the suggestion box.

**LISTED BELOW ARE THE MANY WAYS YOU CAN INVOLVE YOURSELF IN THE CENTRE:**

- Communicate to staff your expectations, programme ideas etc.
- Offer suggestions of how to improve areas etc.
- Spend some time in the Centre during the day.
- Attend Parent Meetings.
- Return surveys.
- Avail yourself to assess and give feedback on policies.
- Contribute junk items.
- Participate in excursions.
- Attend special functions at the Centre.
- Take an activity — cooking, story reading etc.
- Be familiar with what your child does daily.
- Communicate to staff about your child/ren.
- Assist with fundraising.
- Join our Accreditation Committee.

***“The more I give of myself the more I will gain in return by way of a richer, more meaningful environment for my child”***

If you have any other ideas or suggestions with regard to parent involvement we are more than happy to hear them.

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*THANK YOU*

Please fill out the following and return.

I am happy with the current PARENT PARTICIPATION policy

Yes

No

Suggestions:

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