Hyperdome Early Education Centre & Preschool 1 & 2

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Queensland Childcare Services

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

NEWSLETTER

January 2012 **Editor: Clare Hamilton**

Centre 1

Directors News

Welcome to 2012! I cannot believe we are already halfway through January and farewelling our School Readiness children to School. We wish them all the best and please come back and visit us in your uniforms.

You may have noticed all the blank walls at the moment due to the centre being refreshed with a new coat of paint- doesn't it look great. It is hard not being able to decorate. The children have started transitioning into their new rooms and will all officially move on the 23rd of January when the remaining School Readiness children move onto school.

The class teachers are as follows:

Babies: Miss Caitlyn & Miss Tara
Toddlers: Miss Sarah & Miss Heni
Ernies: Miss Cass & Miss Katie
Kindy: Miss Va & Miss Kait
SR: Miss Sharon & Miss Ashley
Floats: Miss Lyva, Miss Aleesha, Miss Kayla, Miss Sam, Miss Tracee, Miss Bec, Miss Ange.

We will be holding a **'Meet the Teachers'** evening on Monday 30th January to get to know your teachers and ask any questions and discover all the exciting things they will be doing in 2012.

I would like to thank all families for their support in the transition from lunchboxes to meals provided; the children have embraced the meals and especially the late afternoon snack they now receive. I hope you are all enjoying not having to make lunches anymore. If you are unsure of what meals are on which day it is now displayed in the front foyer.

We still have staff taking holidays over January:

- Miss Caitlyn - 21st Jan - 3rd Feb. Miss Tara will take on her role
- Miss Sharon - 23rd- 27th Jan- Miss Lyva will take on her role.

We hope all families enjoyed the Christmas parties in December and due to the fantastic response from all families attending, this year we will have separate parties for each classroom.

We have many exciting events planned for 2012 but if you have any ideas for future events please let us know or write in the suggestion box in the front foyer. Here's to a great year ahead, our **19th year** in operation, Michelle.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES

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TRAINING NEWS – AIECS

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

Babies

Welcome to the New Year. Christmas is over and it's time to get stuck into the new exciting year ahead of us. Miss Tara and I will be in the Babies Room again this year, and we look forward to helping your children develop into beautiful little Toddlers.

We have some great pod ideas this year with our main pod being a role playing station. The children have really expressed an interest playing with babies and home corner, and I want to branch out further with this. We are also starting more art activities too, which the children love.

The children have responded really well to the Y4LT food and we are hearing lots of "more" which is great. The babies love all the different kinds of fruit purees they have been getting to taste. Our favourite so far are the mixed berries.

If you have anything you would like to tell us and or contribute to our room, we are more than happy, we value your input.

Could everyone please remember to bring a set of named sheets, hat and drink bottle (especially with this hot weather!).

If you have any ideas/questions for us, please do not hesitate to talk to either Miss Tara or myself.

Miss Caitlyn, Miss Tara and our little Cookie Monsters.

Toddlers

Welcome to 2012. I would like to welcome back all the families for another fantastic year ahead. Heni and I are very excited to be in the Toddler Room this year and can't wait to get started. We have started with Y4LT this week and the children absolutely love it. We've had lots of different fruit and the mixed sandwiches are very popular.

Just a reminder; to all parents if you could please remember to bring a labelled drink bottle and a hat with your child's name in it.

Over the next couple of months we are going to be looking at different stories such as '*We're going on a Bear Hunt'* and *'Off to Granddad's'*. We have also been doing a lot of counting to 10, reading the story *'10 Swimming Fish'* and singing *'5 Cheeky Monkeys'*

I look forward to getting to know all the new families and working together again with the familiar faces. If you have any questions or would like to see Heni or myself, please feel free at anytime, and we will be glad to help.

Miss Sarah and Miss Heni.

Ernies

I would firstly like to welcome everyone back for 2012, I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and a happy and exciting New Year.

This year I will be the Group Leader in the Ernies' Room and my Assistant will be Miss Katie, so if you have any questions please feel free to come and see either Katie or myself.

This year we have started Y4LT and the Ernie children are really enjoying the food and even having second and third helpings of the fruit.

While we are having our lunch we are also having healthy food discussions.

This year in the Ernies' Room I am going to be starting a family tree, so I would be very grateful if families could please bring in photos of themselves so we can hang them up.

In the next couple of months we will be doing lots of artwork to decorate the bare walls, we will also be starting on our shapes and basic colours.

Also a reminder, please bring in hats and water bottles and it would be greatly appreciated if everyone could bring in sheets for their child for rest time.

Once again if you have any questions please come and see

Katie or myself as we are always happy and available to help.
Miss Cass and Miss Katie.

Kindy

Welcome to the New Year. I hope everyone has had a great Christmas and New Year. To start off, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Va Motusaga and I will be Group Leader in Kindy room this year. I have been part of this team since 2008 and am currently studying my Diploma in Children's Services. My Assistant will be Miss Kaitt and together we plan on providing new activities and experiences for your children.

We are currently settling into the new room and are planning an animal pod as children have shown lots of interest in this field. We will also be introducing number and letter recognition throughout the year as we are going to be working closely with the School Readiness Room, but this will be an ongoing process.

Now that we have started the New Year, we ask that you provide named sheets, a named hat and a change of spare clothes. We also ask that you label any items belonging to your child e.g. shoes. We are also running low on tissues, so we are asking all parents to please donate some, and it would be greatly appreciated.

We welcome any input and information in regards with the room and any goals you may have for your children, we can work together to achieve these goals. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to ask Miss Kaitt or myself.
Thank you,
Miss Va and Miss Kaitt.

School Readiness

Welcome to our School Readiness Class! Miss Ashley and I are very happy to have your children in our School Readiness Room. I believe that by all of us working together we can make this year a very successful year. I consider it of prime importance that you can be an active part of your child's learning and education.

During the Pre-Prep year, your child will be encouraged to explore and investigate interests through a variety of ways, of fun and meaningful learning in an enriched environment, so your child can initiate and maintain their learning. We hope to make your child's learning experience a fun and exciting one, and we hope to instil a love of learning that will help your child be ready for school next year.

So much happens in Pre-Prep year. Because of this, the year will be full of important transitions for your child. It is extremely important to keep in mind that we all build on small successes. Each child will progress at his/her own rate, acquiring skills as he/she is developmentally ready.

Maintaining each child's self-esteem and building a secure foundation for future growth.

Miss Ashley and I believe that a good parent/teacher relationship is necessary for maximum learning success. Throughout the year, I will communicate with you through notes, telephone calls and parent-teacher conferences, communication book (which is located on top of the lockers). We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns at any time. You can call me at the centre, send me a note or email me. If you are interested in helping in the classroom or on a field trip, please let us know as we appreciate your support.

Upcoming events – As children just came back from their holidays, they have all been very excited to share their holiday stories with others during group time. Particularly, camping has been a main focus during their conversations, sharing their fun stories at beach camp sites. We will then begin a new topic based on a fun family activity – beach camping.

Through this topic, the children will learn about the safety issues at the beach, they will also learn about items and equipment that are commonly used while camping. We will be setting up the dramatic play area with a tent, sleeping bags and other camping items. If you have any unwanted camping items or equipment, we would love to have them in our learning centre.

We will also be integrating the 'Letter land' program into different topics while children

are exploring the words and the sounds that relate to the topic. With this new topic – Beach Camping, we will be looking at the letter shapes Bb/Cc and exploring the initial sounds /b/ and /c/. Our School Readiness children will be learning about size, shape, weight, measurement, numbers and counting as they construct things indoors and outdoors.

Children's Requirements –

- Bag (large enough to fit all belongings) It is very important to start teaching the children how to take good care of their belongings
- Proper hat
- Large box of tissues/baby wipes
- Rest bedding in a recycle shopping bag

Fresh water and clean cups will be provided for the children every day. Please ensure all belongings are **Clearly Marked** with your child's name and surname.

Again, we look forward to teaching your child and working with you closely to help your child achieve their fullest potential. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me or write me a note.
Miss Sharon and Miss Ashley.

Centre 2

Directors News

Hello to all our families. Firstly I would like to welcome our new children and their families who have started in 2012; Jack, Lachlan, Emily, Riley, Bryce, Chloe and Jorja – Welcome to the Hyperdome Family.

'Yummies for Little Tummies' is underway and we are getting lots of positive feedback and the children are all doing extremely well trying new foods. In conjunction with this we have been 'Getting Active' teaching the children the importance of good nutritious food and physical activity. The children have been participating in a range of perceptual motor experiences each day and you can see these activities displayed on our front foyer notice board.

We have lots of upcoming events including:
Australia Day dress up – Wednesday 25th January (the children will also be getting Australian style menu from Y4LT on this day).
Meet your Teacher Night – Monday 30th January 6:15pm to 7pm
Grandparent's morning Tea – Friday 10th February
Valentines pink/red dress up and Cake Stall – Tuesday 14th February
Dreamworld Wildlife Visit - Wednesday 29th February

We all look forward to the new fun and adventures 2012 has installed for us and can't wait to share it with you all.
Thank you Miss Jade

had the pleasure of meeting us our names are Miss Donna and Miss Karen. We are the Babies teachers for 2012. We both look forward to getting to know you and your children over the next

months.

We have a lot of ideas that I am ready to share with the Babies and the parents in the Tweenies room, and am very eager to start on them; including baby sign language and the Tweenies garden of achievements. Keep your eyes peeled for some new changes!

It has been a wonderful month so far the children are starting to form great relationships with us both and on a daily basis making us smile.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries/questions or you just want to have a chat.
Miss Donna and Miss Karen

would like to welcome Jax, Elijah, Lennox, Lachlan and Jack to our room.

We have been exploring different textures and styles of painting. We had lots of giggles getting our foot and handprints done too! We have also been very active doing lots of bike riding, climbing, dancing and running.

We have been continuing on with our picture recognition, naming different objects and working on our verbal communication. We will be continuing on with this over the next months as well as counting to three.

Please don't forget to share with us what you did over the Christmas break, you're welcome to send in photographs, write it down or even just tell a teacher about it. We love following up on

experience the children are involved in at home and so do the children. We look forward to the year ahead, Miss Cat and Miss Courtney.

Big Birds Room

Hello to all our families. Firstly I would like to take the time to introduce myself my name is Denyse. I have had over 15 years experience working in childcare and have two children of my own. I am the Group Leader in the Big Birds room this year I will be working alongside Kristy who will assist me this year. If you have any suggestions or concerns please come and see Kristy or myself.

This month we have been focusing on building friendships and trust amongst our new friends and teachers we have been also learning the room routine as well as class room rules. The children have really enjoyed getting creative with paint; collage and play dough so keep watching our room for new art displays.

Our goal for this year is to have a great relationship with your child and you that are built on trust and communication. Don't forget to share with us what is happening at home, holidays, sports, what you did on the weekend etc so we can incorporate it into tour learning and program.

If you have any suggestions or concerns please come and see us – our door is always open. Thank you, Miss Denyse and Miss Kristy.

School Readiness Two

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely holiday over the Christmas break and are looking forward to a fun year in School Readiness as we welcome the Big Bird children who have turned three into our room and welcome back our friends from last year.

As many of the children have recently been on holiday, they have been enjoying to role play 'Holidays'; packing their bags, deciding where they are going and setting up cars using chairs to drive there. We have also been talking a lot about our own holidays and the children have drawn pictures of what they did.

We would love to see photos from your holidays if you would like to bring them in. Camping has also been a strong interest and we have set up a camp site in our room, making tents and gathering equipment such as clothes, blankets, pillows and dress ups. We discussed what we might need if we were going camping. If you have any useful objects such as camping chairs, cooking equipment etc. please bring it in.

This term, we will also be learning about 'Ourselves'. This is a good opportunity for us to learn more about your child and your family. We will be setting up a family tree and making a family wall to help new children feel included and comfortable in our room. Please send a photo in of your child's family for this. We will be discussing who is in their family, where they live and the different cultures represented in our room.

In School Readiness, we integrate numeracy and literacy

experiences within children's play as well as planning intentional activities to help children extend their knowledge of letter sounds, names and number recognition. This term, we will encourage the younger children to not only recognise their names but begin to write their initial letter. The older children will be extending their ability to write their names and name all of the letters in their name. Please encourage children to take part in numeracy and literacy experiences at home by ensuring they have writing tools and creative materials available

to them at home for them to explore mark making , praise any drawings, symbols or writing that they do, read stories to them daily, encourage them to name letters and numbers in the environment; on letter boxes, number plates etc and extend them by supporting them to count out groups of objects, add simple groups together and take objects away. If you would like any more advice on how to encourage this at home, please feel free to talk to me. I would love to help. We look forward to a wonderful year, Miss Sharon and Miss Leeanne.

Schoolies Room

Hello to all our Schoolies and their families. Well the school holidays have come to an end and all our Schoolies are settling back into school with their new classes, teachers and friends. For those who don't know me, my name is Miss Kaitlyn and I am the new Schoolies Group Leader.

I have been working at Hyperdome Early Education Centre for over 5 years and love working with Schoolies. The children have been busy helping me to decorate the room and have been sharing lots of stories about their school holidays.

We are really interested in dancing and performing at the moment and have found to have quite a number of dancers, singers and rock stars in our room.

We are looking forward to the year ahead. If you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to come and see us anytime, Miss Kaitlyn and the Schoolies Gang.

BUS POLICY

Centres which use a QCCS bus offer a free pick up service under certain conditions:-

- School Children will be picked up and dropped off to and from designated local schools (see the Director for a list).
- Children not attending school may be eligible to use the bus if the child is unable to be transported to the Centre otherwise, eg no car, emergency situations, this is at the discretion of the Director and only applicable for Centres which pick children up from home.
- Only a 10km radius around the Centre will be serviced by the bus.

The make and model of the Centre buses are Toyota Hi-ace, 12 seater and filled with appropriate child restraints.

Parents of children that are transported to the Centre must fill in an authorisation from before using the Bus Service. All the children must be signed in and out of the Centre and on and off the bus.

If a school child is not at the designated pick up area, a staff member will go to the school office (taking the other children with them) and check if the child has attended. Parents must notify the Centre in the morning if a child is not attending school or the Centre.

On delivery to homes, if no authorised adult is present, the child will be returned to the Centre, where it will be the parent's responsibility to collect them. A form "You weren't at home' will be left in the home letterbox.

The School Run and Home Pick Up and Drop Off

The Child/Staff ratios for the school run and home pick up or drop off are as follows: 1 staff member to 11 children are applicable as a general guideline, however, another staff member may travel on the bus with the children depending the needs of the group.

Centre Excursions

The excursion ratios applying to any excursions using the Centre bus, that is children under the age of three the ratio is 1staff member to 2 children, children over the age of three but not school age (exception is the Prep Children who are attending school) the ratio is 1 staff member to 4 children and schoolies is 1 staff member to 8 children.

For safety reasons the Centre bus driver and or additional staff member travelling on the bus must have a current First Aid Certificate and Open Driver's Licence and each bus is fitted with a mobile phone.

Our Centre buses are not permitted to travel along roadways, where the speed limit exceeds 80km per hour.
All QCCS buses are members of the RACQ, and have regular machinery inspections and services.
Parents are required to notify any changes in information e.g. emergency contacts, addresses etc.

INCIDENT / ACCIDENT PROCEDURES

In the event of a child being involved in an incident/accident the following procedures apply:

- Administer the necessary aid to the child's injury/s to determine the severity of the accident.
- Ensure there is a fully stocked first aid kit on the premises at all times.
- Depending on the nature of the injury, using your own judgement and knowledge of First Aid, attend appropriately.
- **Report the incident to the Director or staff member in charge (Assistant Director) immediately.**

If not assessed as an emergency:

- After injury is attended to, staff member witnessing and managing the incident MUST complete the appropriate Incident Report Form and sign it.

Make the form available for another witnessing staff member, parent/s and Director to sign.

- Give form to Director to file immediately, where it will be stored in the child's file until child reaches 21 years of age.

If assessed as an emergency:

- Call the Ambulance if necessary.
- Call the parent/s or emergency person.
- Notify Head Office
- Notify The Office of Early Childhood Education and Care

- In the case of a head injury (regardless of severity) or bite, parent/s must be called and advised.
- Every incident/accident that occurs at the Centre, regardless of severity, MUST be documented. The above procedure (where the incident is not assessed as an emergency) applies with all documentation, however if the incident/accident was an emergency situation the appropriate form/s must be faxed to Head Office.

If necessary the Centre reserves the right to take the child by ambulance to the nearest hospital, accompanied by the Assistant. The Group Leader **must** stay with the Group (this also applies to excursions).

If an accident occurs whilst on an excursion and child requires serious medical attention, the Group Leader or Assistant must contact the ambulance immediately giving full details of the injury and location. One staff member and volunteers (depending on the ratio and ages of the children) must remain with the group of children. The staff member with the mobile phone must then contact the Centre and relay appropriate details of what had occurred and action taken. The Centre will then contact the Family. The Centre will also send out another appropriately qualified staff member to join the excursion to insure ratios are maintained. The Office of Early Childhood Education and Care would be contacted by the Centre and the Reporting of Harm Form would be completed and faxed/emailed to the appropriate The Office of Early Childhood Education and Care Fully equipped First Aid Kits must accompany each group on an excursion

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THANK YOU

Please fill out the following and return.

I am happy with the current BUS & ACCIDENT/INCIDENT policy ☐ Yes ☐ No

Suggestions:

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