

# Bellmere Early Education Centre & Preschool

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Queensland  
Childcare Services

## NEWSLETTER

February 2012

Editor: Clare Hamilton

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

### Director's News



Hello everyone and welcome to our first newsletter for 2012. I hope everyone had a very safe and Happy Christmas and a wonderful holiday for those who were lucky enough to get away and take a break. The Centre is back in full swing with many of our children coming back from holidays and settling back into their routines and playing with their friends again.

We had to say goodbye to all of our 2011 School Readiness children and we wish them all the best this year as they start 'Big School'.

### **Staffing**

In early January we were lucky enough to find ourselves another Bachelor trained

Teacher to take over from Melanie's position in the School Readiness Room. Sherrie started in the New Year and has settled very well in the room and is working well with Jess in the room. She is slowly getting to know all of the children and families as they gradually return to the centre. We hope that Sherrie has a very long and pleasant time with us at the centre. All of the other staffing in the centre has remained the same.

### **2012 Rooms and Vacancies**

All of the room changes for 2012 happened on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2012. Any children who are starting Prep in 2013 have already moved up to the School Readiness Room to that they have the full year of the Kindergarten Program. In March or April of 2012 we will look at doing other small group transition of Gumnuts to Kookaburras and Kookaburras to Possums as these children

will then be old enough and ready to join the next group. Parents of children who fall into this category will be notified prior to the date and children will also be involved in periods of transition where they spend some time in the older age group to familiarise themselves with the environment and staff.

We currently have several vacancies in all of the rooms, except Gumnuts and School Readiness which is filling fast. If you were considering picking up extra days or enrolling younger siblings now would be the time to do so as these vacancies usually don't last for long. Also if you know any family or friends who are considering enrolling their children into an educational program please also suggest to them that now is a great time to do so as they will have more flexibility in their choice of days.



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## **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 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 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
- Advanced Diploma in Children's Services
- First Aid & CPR
- Diploma in Children's Services
- TAE
- Professional Development

Please note that effective as of 2012 the centre now has an enrolment fee. The enrolment fee is \$50 which includes a centre shirt, hat and bag. This is applicable to all new enrolments from now on. If any existing families are interested in purchasing a shirt, hat or bag these can be purchased separately, please either see me or one of the staff.

### **Children's' Pockets**

The children's pockets (all located outside of the children's room doors or next to the bathroom in Possums) are imperative to the centre and staff communication with families. It is extremely important that parents check their children's pockets each day that they attend so that you do miss out on vital information. This information might include fee reminders, receipts, changes to payments, program information for your child's room, fundraising events, newsletters, and notes from the staff in the room regarding upcoming events, notices about shows and the list goes on. Please, check your child's pocket regularly.

Please see the calendar of events attached to the back of the newsletter. Well that's all from me for now. I look forward to spending the rest of 2012 with you and your children at the centre. Please keep checking your pocket's for further updates between newsletters. Keep smiling  
Regards Suzanne.

### **Gumnuts' News**

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a great Christmas. We certainly did and we are very excited to be starting a brand new year with you all.

We would love to welcome all of our new families to our centre and welcome our new Gumnuts to the room. Sadly we had to say goodbye to a few of our loved Gumnuts as they graduated into the Kookaburras' Room. We are so glad to see all they have achieved in their year in the Gumnuts' Room. There will no staff changes in the New Year, Miss Rachel will remain the Group Leader and Miss Amanda will remain the room Assistant.

We have a number of interests we will be focusing on in the Gumnuts room as we start of the New Year. These include; Colours, Transport and Home Corner for now.

### **Colours**

The children love learning about colours. They are able to



explore all the different kinds of colours there are, what colour is made when two different colours are mixed together and the different

shades of the same colour such as dark blue and light blue. So far the children have made colour collages that can be seen hanging up in the room.

### **Transport**

The Gumnut children just love doing this web; it is definitely a

favourite in room. They love learning about the different types of transport and just how many different types there are. The children have made stampings and paintings to



hang up on the wall and have made their own pretend cars

and buses to play with in the room. The excitement in their voices when they hear a 'big truck' coming is amazing, so we like the watch through the fence as they come driving past the centre.

### **Home Corner**

The Gumnuts have become very interested in the home corner area. Here they can do so many different activities that stimulate their thinking skills and encourage all kinds of different role-play activities. So far we have had games pretending to be Mums and Dads, giving the baby dolls a bath, pretend vacuuming of the carpet and pretend cooking with the stove and sink. If you have any experiences at home involving your children carrying out similar activities at home we would love for you to share your stories and photos if you have any.

### **Toileting**

We have a number of Gumnuts who are currently toilet training. We ask that you please make sure you pack plenty of spare clothes in case they have an accident throughout the day and please do still bring a nappy for their sleep time.

### Marking your child's items

As we mention in every newsletter please ensure all of your child's items are labelled clearly with their name. There will be times when Miss Rachel or I are not going to be in the room and relieving staff will need to be able to identify your child's items. This is very important in the case of drinks bottles, we often have a few children with the same looking bottles and we do not want to give your child the wrong drink bottle therefore if they have no name on them it will not be given to anyone and your child will be given a spare cup to drink from. We have also had instances where parents have taken the wrong drink bottle home because they weren't named. We ask that you please label all items including their drink bottles, dummies, bags, sheets, hats, shoes and clothing items that can be removed during the day such as jumpers.

### Nappies and Wipes

Please note that in the parent handbook it does state that you are required to provide us with at least 4 nappies for your child throughout the day and a packet of wipes. When your child's wipes are running out



we will notify you that they are in need for some more. An extra nappy may be required if your child stays for a longer day as we will change them again when it gets late.

### Rest Time Sheets

We would like to mention that during the day your child will

have a rest/sleep time. At this time we would love your child to be as comfortable as possible so we please ask that you provide us with a set of sheets marked with their name and a pillow if they need one. If they sleep better with a security item or a dummy then feel free to bring that as well making sure it is labelled with their name also.

### Hats

As we are right in the middle of summer please ensure you pack a hat for outdoor play. It is very hot and sunny out there so we would like to keep your child as protected as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to ask either Miss Rachel or myself. We hope you have a very happy and safe New Year and we cannot wait to start creating new memories with our new little Gumnuts.

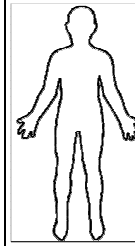
Love Rachel and Amanda

### Kookaburras' News

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Kookaburras for 2012. We have a few graduated Gumnuts that have joined us this year in the Kookaburras room. We would like to welcome Halle, Hunter, Lara and Phoebe to our room and also Declan who has recently joined us. We hope that they have a great time with us and they are already settling in really well to routine.

It's still early in the year but we have already been busy with new learning areas around the

room. "My Body" is an interest that we have been exploring. Through discussion and group times we have been looking at how our body works and talking about how



everybody looks different. We have been focusing on getting the children to recognize their own facial features such as what colour hair they have and also eye colour.

The children have also been interested in "The Farm".

Through different art activities we have started to make our own farm and using materials that an animal would have, such as feathers and wool. We have been talking about what produce we might eat or drink that comes from farm animals like eggs, milk,



and even that wool from sheep is what our woollen jumpers are made of. The children have become very interested in the farm so we will be doing a lot more on this interest in the coming weeks.

Our most recent interest that we have just started is "Our Pets". It would be greatly appreciated if all parents could please bring a photo of their



child with their pet if you have a pet at home. This will help us talk to the

children about what type of pet they have at home and to bring it to a personal level where the

children can relate to their own pet.

We have so many Kookaburras are doing so well with their toilet training. But as you do have to expect that they will have the occasional accident. So please ensure that you pack a sufficient amount of spare clothes for your child for the day just in case and a nappy for sleep time if your child needs one. It is also starting to get very warm some days so please make sure your child has a hat each day and a water bottle that is clearly named. This will make it easier to locate if it happens to get misplaced. We are starting to run very low regularly on wipes and tissues, so it would be greatly appreciated if all parents could donate a box of tissues and a packet of wipes for our rooms use. Thank you.

If anyone has any questions about anything please don't hesitate to come and speak to Miss Shari or myself and we will be happy to speak with you.

Thank you  
Miss Beck and Miss Shari

### **Possums' News**

Welcome to a brand new year of 2012. We hope that everyone had a fantastic Christmas and New Year and sadly it's all over for another year. Well we said goodbye to the possums who have moved up in to the School Readiness Room and we look forward to seeing them grow and get prepared for Prep next year, how exciting. We both

will miss you all. We welcome all the new possums who have moved up from the Kookaburras' Room we look forward to having them throughout the year and building relationships with them all, watching them grow and develop and also build friendships with each other. We are very excited for the New Year ahead and be able to teach and watch them learn new and interesting things about the world around them and also their selves and achieving great milestones throughout the year.

We have already begun the new and exciting interests of which the children have shown interest in themselves. We have done self portraits where the children looked in the mirror and seen what colour eyes and hair they have and then they used paper plates and materials to create their own self portrait by drawing on their faces and colouring in their eyes the colour that they are, this was very exciting for the children and they really enjoyed participating in this activity and from this the children learnt about themselves and their self identity and what they each looked like learning we are all the same but different. They have also done what their



favourite colour is as well by picking their favourite colour and painting with it all this is displayed on the wall in the room so please feel free

to stop and look at what work you child/children have done so far. It would be greatly appreciated and I'm sure the children would love to see you admiring their work. I have also done up a board to display photos of the children doing their favourite things at home, this could be their favourite book to read, game to play, park to go to, movie to watch so it would be great if all parents could bring in a photo of their child/children doing their favourite thing, then we are going to display them for the children to see and also to be able to talk about during the day, learning more about each other and themselves, there is also a note up in the room, if any parents do not wish to bring in a photo of their children please come and see me and let me know.

We have just started another new interest which is 'Dinosaurs', this only started



last week so we have just done up a small Dinosaur island and display which all the children are very excited to start and learn about as this will be a great interest to learn about and to teach the children.

If any parents have any input in the children's interests please don't hesitate to talk to Nicole or myself as it is the beginning of the year and we are still

learning the children's interests and needs.

Please bring in a supply of wipes and tissues as we go through these things pretty quickly as we constantly wiping the children's faces and hands daily. Please also remember to bring your child's drink bottles, hats and a sheet for sleep time.

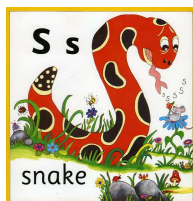
Thank you Jess and Nicole.

### **School Readiness Newsletter**

Firstly I would like to welcome all the children and their families into the School Readiness room for 2012. I love being in the School Readiness Room and am hoping to share another great year with you all.

This year we have Miss Sherrie with us in the School Readiness Room. Sherrie is Bachelor qualified and will be teaching the children many new exciting things though out the year to get them equipped for Prep. The children have already began learning numbers, shape

recognition and the letters A and B. Each week the children will be focusing on a different letter. Children will learn to recognise, say and write the letter for the week. We will be accompanying this with our



Jolly Phonics which the children have already showed a positive interest in and have picked it up quite quickly. We will continue to learn the Jolly Phonics though out the year as this will be something they will also continue to make use of at Prep.

If you have any areas in learning that you are keen for your child to focus on please feel to approach myself (Jess) or Sherrie and we will incorporate this into our daily learning as best we can.

Sleep in the School Readiness Room is offered to the children. If you wish for your child to sleep during the day then

please let us know as most of the children do not want to sleep any more. We do have quiet time though where the children sit with a cushion and book for 30mins while the cleaning is getting done.

Children bringing toys from home has become an issue. If you allow your children to bring a toy from home we will not be held responsible for as it is advised that children do not bring toys from home.

Please also remember to send your children with a hat and bring bottle as it is quite hot though out the day.

If you have any queries or concerns or just want to know how your child is going in the room then please fee to stop and have a chat with Sherrie or myself.

Thanks you from Miss Jess and Miss Sherrie

# 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.

*THANK YOU*

Please fill out the following and return.

I am happy with the current HEADLICE policy  Yes  No

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