

# The Woods Early Education Centre & Preschool

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Queensland  
Childcare Services

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

## NEWSLETTER

November 2011

Editor: Clare Hamilton

### From the Office...

It is with mixed emotions that I am able to inform you of Kobie's resignation from Director of the centre. I am pleased however; to let you all know that I will be staying on



as Director of The Woods. Kobie has accepted a position with

our training college (Australian Institute of Early Childhood Studies) as Trainer/Assessor and will be assisting our studying staff members through their qualifications.

### **Christmas Time**

As Christmas is fast approaching I would like to remind all parents to ensure you have informed us of your impending (or no) Christmas Holidays. As you can all appreciate, our staff work extremely hard caring for and educating your children

throughout the year with little time off. Christmas is the one time of year that they like to spend it with their families and friends. Without knowing your holiday dates, I am unable to know how many children will be in attendance over the Christmas period and thus will not be able to approve staff leave until such time as we have heard from ALL parents. If you are unsure if you have told me, please send me a quick email of the dates. Our Christmas parties are being held on the week beginning 28<sup>th</sup>

November, there will be more details to come in relation to what room is on which day, and when. However, please remember that all parents need to bring in a book for the "Christmas Representative" to give to the children. If you choose to purchase your book



from the Book Fair, then we will wrap it for you.

### **Re-Enrolments for 2012**

By now, you all would have received your re-enrolment slips for 2012. Please note that with a huge demand for particular days in certain rooms, not all children were successful in securing preferred places. Please be aware that I have all first preferences recorded on our in house waiting list and as places become available, you will all be given priority over waiting list families. I apologise to all families who has affected and thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

### **Extra Curricular for 2012**

In 2012, we will be trialing some different extra-curricular experiences at The Woods. We will be continuing with Kinda Dance, Physi Kids, Tennis and Yoga, but we will also be adding Ginger Sports (soccer),



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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 pedallists, 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

Alpha Tykes (Spanish) and Little Red Rockers. Please keep your eye out in the centre in 2012 for details relating to each of these fabulous extra-curricular programs. Until Next Year, Miss Trudi

### From the Nursery

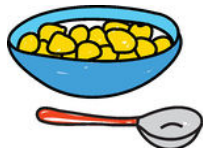
Hello from the Nursery.

What an exciting couple of months we have had in the Nursery. We welcomed Julian to the Nursery and saw Bailey's smooth transition to



Toddlers. We also celebrated Aurelia, Dominic and Julian's birthdays recently. We have also seen Tom start sitting up and get really close to crawling and Poppy and Julian have both started walking recently.

We have also been enjoying our 'Yummies for Little Tummies' food that started in



September. Some of us were a little hesitant with some of the menu but each day we are giving more and more different food's a go, and now meal times are a very social event in the Nursery.

We have been very interested in music and were playing lots of different types of instruments in our music interest area. We have also been doing lots of dancing to music which we love.

We have also been talking a lot about the beach and we have even set



up a little beach of our own on the mat. We have been playing in water and making our own waves in the water trough as well.

We have been playing in the Toddler playground a lot too over the last few months, sometimes with the Toddler and Pre-Kindy children and sometimes just us Nursery



children. We have been learning about sun safety and how important it is for us to drink lots of water. Please remember to pack your child a named **hat and water bottle** each day. See you soon, Racheal and Margot

### From Toddlers

The last few weeks have seen the Toddler children very interested in obstacle courses, fairy tales and learning about the weather types. We



have had an obstacle course set up in our room which has enabled the children to use it in our activity time as well as using the one set up outside. The children have all developed exceptional confidence on the balancing beams and climbing the ladders, which has been wonderful to see.

For our fairy tale interest we have been focusing on the "Cinderella" story along with "The Three Little Pig"s. The children have enjoyed reading these stories along with making the three little pig masks and dressing up as princes and princesses. We are currently in



the process of making a castle for our children

to utilise in our room. So please if any parents have any large boxes at home that they can spare, we will be more than happy to use them.

A quick reminder that Miss Jessie and myself have asked all families to bring in a box of tissues and a white (bonds) singlet as we will be doing a tie-dye singlet for each of the children as an 'end of year' present. We do not want any children to miss out so please make sure you bring a singlet in for your child with their name clearly marked and give it to either Miss Jessie or myself. Thanks, Miss Emma and Miss Jessie.

### From Pre-Kindy

This month in the Pre-Kindy room we have been exploring our Solar System and discovering our musical talent. Everyone has been learning to recognise our galaxy, planets, rockets and satellites and have been having so much fun doing



so. Pre-Kindy has even helped to build and decorate a rocket so they will be blasting off to space soon. The children have been developing their role playing and memory skills through planet flash cards, memory games and planet snap and have spent lots of time preparing for their outer space journey through astronaut training obstacle courses.

Through our music interest the children have had the opportunity to explore and discover a wide range of music and instruments.



They have taken turns playing and examining guitars, clarinets, a violin, drums, keyboard and percussion instruments. They have made up their own songs and put on a wonderful show for Miss Hayley and Miss Jade.

Through extending these interests we have been focusing on fostering teamwork



within our room and comprehension of emotion. We have been setting goals which require the children to work as a group to achieve. Within our space area the children have had to fix the rocket with each child having an individual task to complete (put fuel in the rocket, press the buttons, find the moon and so on). Within our music interest we have also worked together to play their favourite songs on instruments as a group or to make music so some of their friends can dance. Everyone has been responding to this positively and has had lots of fun working together.

To encourage and foster emotional development we have been using our emotion posters and practicing our "faces" during group time. The children have learnt to



comprehend happy, sad, grumpy, scared and surprised expressions and we have discussed what makes our happy faces sad and what we can do to make our sad faces happy again. The children have excelled in this area and are experts at identifying when one of our friends is upset and what to do to fix it. Miss Hayley and Miss Jade are very proud of our conscientious little friends. Since August we have been very happy to celebrate Oskar, Abigail, Jefferson and Sophie all turning 3 and look forward to Owen's, Anika's and Josh's birthdays which are all coming up soon. Until next time, Miss Hayley and Miss Jade



### From Kindy

This month in the Kindy Room we have started a new interest on the 'Rainforest'. We have created a mural of the rainforest and added lots of different



rainforest animals originating from the Amazon, Borneo and lots of insects, frogs and birds from the Australian rainforest. We have established that, "It rains a lot in a rainforest," and that "jaguars creep up trees".

We finished our ocean learning pod ending in the fantastic ocean show we had in our room where everybody got to stroke the squishy sea cucumbers and



various other sea creatures. The children have been expressing interests in their own names and establishing their identity and to value their interest we made names from foam stickers of the alphabet which also focuses on the children's pincer grip to peel the sticker itself.



As construction also features a lot in the children's interest areas, we have also created a learning pod area with dump trucks, bark and dirt in a trough in our room with a workmen's bench and large waffle and foam blocks as well as collage boxes to create cranes and cement mixers.



Everybody has been enjoying working "on site" at the construction area creating roads. Traffic lights and road safety emerged from this interest with a number of children making traffic light cookies and playing our own version of musical statues with stop, go and slow down. We will be starting to prepare ourselves for the end of year Christmas party with learning Christmas songs and dances which everybody is very excited about. We will also be starting a weather interest as it is storm season in Queensland with the children learning about the days of the week and what the weather is like each day they come, as well as storm safety. These coming months in Kindy are going to be lots of fun.

Miss Kylie and Miss Lee

### From School Readiness

We have explored a number of units over the past month including Construction, Emergencies, Shops, Dinosaurs,



Living things and Fairies. We have created our own

Preschool garden outside in the large tin potting trough with a number of veggies that we are excitedly growing and have had the fascinating real life interactions with a number of living things from the ocean show to Miss Alicia's pets.

In our Emergency Services we learnt how to dial triple 000 in an Emergency and what to do in the case of an injury, fire or incident. We became strong stranger danger advocates learning how to avoid dangerous situations with



strangers and where to seek help.

In our Construction interest we developed our fine and gross motor strength, coordination and control using real tools to hammer, saw and chisel. We also built a number of fantastic constructions from the planning of the architecture to the measuring and photography of the finished product.

In our Dinosaurs interest we have been exploring the world's history and how it has changed and taken on the roles of archaeologists digging up fossils in the sandpit.



We had a fantastic time for our Halloween Celebrations dressing up and going trick or treating. Thank you so much to all the parents that contributed things for the day, it made it all the more special.

It's that time of year again when we start our Christmas concert practise and look forward to celebrating our wonderful year, but also look back on the memories of our last year for our graduates, as they will soon leave us to start their school careers. The concert/party/graduation is planned to be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December at the Ashgrove Baptist Church from 3:15-5:30pm and we look forward to seeing you all there (a formal invitation with all the details will be out soon.) We are preparing their portfolios, art folders, and special self-portrait canvases for the occasion as well as the children's Concert Performance involving songs, dances and a play that will make it a night to remember. Hope to see you all there. Thanks,  
Miss Alana and Miss Jordan

# SUNSAFETY POLICY

Babies and young children have very sensitive skin that will burn easily, which is why sun protection for young children is vital in the fight against skin cancers.

## HATS

All children attending the Centre must be provided with a suitable sun hat for outdoor play (we strongly suggest a hat with a wide brim and/or one with a flap on the back). This hat must be named and either brought to the Centre daily by the responsible parent or left at the Centre. We operate on a policy of **NO HAT — NO SUN PLAY**. Children who do not have a hat will be encouraged to remain in a shaded area for outdoor play, where activities will be provided.

Hats will be stored appropriately, eg on pegs not touching each other or in individual children's lockers, and it is suggested that the hat be taken home on a regular basis to be washed.

## SUNSCREEN

We believe that children should never be left unprotected in the sun, especially between the hours of 10am and 3pm. We prefer the children are not outside between 10am and 3pm unless they are in shaded areas and kept cool.

Sunscreen, ideally should be applied to clean dry skin approximately 20 minutes prior to going out in the sun. However, if this cannot be attained, staff will apply sunscreen to the child upon arrival to the Centre and throughout the day before they go outdoors. A SPF30+ Sensitive Skin Sunscreen is provided by the Centre that staff and parents have access to. Staff will encourage older children to apply their own sunscreen and with younger children will apply sunscreen using a separate tissue as an applicator for each child.

Many children have very sensitive skin and may have an allergy to a particular sunscreen. A reaction may take the form of more severe sunburn, rash, itching, swelling, burning sensation, welts and flares. If this occurs with a child, remove the sunscreen immediately and bathe in cool water. Your local medical practitioner or pharmacist will be able to advise on a more suitable skin protection.

Sunscreen will be applied all year round regardless of weather, as well as being applied every two to three hours. Children at the Centre spend no longer than three hours outdoors at a time, therefore one application prior to every outdoor session is required. All areas of exposed skin are covered including legs, feet, backs of hands, ears, face and arms.

## OUTDOOR SESSIONS

The Centre endeavours to organise its programme and outdoor play sessions out of these times, as well as setting up outdoor activities predominately in shaded areas. If due to extreme weather children cannot access the outside areas before 10a.m. and/or after 3p.m. they may do so between these hours remaining in the shade and kept cool.

## CLOTHING

The Centre is involved in an ongoing and daily process of educating the children and their families about appropriate clothing and sunglasses to wear in the sun. Children are encouraged to wear T-shirts or shirts with sleeves, collars dark coloured, closely woven fabric preferably made with natural fibre.

## STAFF

Staff will act as role models by wearing sunscreen, appropriate hats and can wear sunglasses outdoors. Parents spending time at the Centre and other visitors will be encouraged to comply. Staff will establish and follow a monitoring system to ensure all children have sunscreen applied at all times when outside.

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### THANK YOU

Please fill out the following and return.

I am happy with the SUN SAFETY policy

Yes       No

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

\_\_\_\_\_