

Jumpstart 4 Kids

Newsletter No 6 - 2010 JULY

WEEKLY EXPERIENCES

During the **MONTH of JULY** the **BUSY BEES** room will be learning and exploring:

1. **Aboriginal Culture**
2. **Numbers / Measurement**
3. **Exploring & Expressing**
4. **Circus**

The **PLAYFUL POSSUMS** will be engaged in learning about:

1. **Seasons**
2. **Sun Safety**
3. **Music**
4. **Weather**
5. **Water**

The **BABY BUNYIPS**

During the month of July the Baby Bunyip's will be exploring feelings, sharing and turn taking. Miss Amanda and Miss Kimberley will engage the children in a number of activities and craft to identify colours and shapes. (QIAS1, 2,3 &4)

PARENT CONTACT DETAILS

Many parents may experience a change in their contact details due to changing addresses or work locations. It is extremely important that parents provide all updated information to us so that in the event of illness parents can be quickly and easily contacted. During the month of July we will be asking all parents to check their contact details so that we have updated information for all children. Please speak with Maree, John or room staff to have your contact details confirmed. (QIAS 1,2 5& 7)

STAFF INSERVICING: (QIAS 1,2,3,5,6, & 7)

At Jump Start 4 Kids Staff are consistent in their engagement of professional development.

In June Miss Sacha attended an in-service on making the most of your play environment.

Miss Tracy attended two evenings on promoting positive behaviors while Miss Maree attended the Mandatory reporting Tool for child protection along with Literacy for Road Safety. The in-services are discussed at staff meetings and used to implement policies.

LABEL ITEMS –

We would ask that parents label all items of clothing for children. We have a large number of misplaced clothing that is often not collected. We ask that Parents check parent pockets in the Bees room daily. Please check that your child collects all their belongings at the conclusion of each day.



CHILD PROTECTION

The Government recently launched the “Keeping Them Safe”

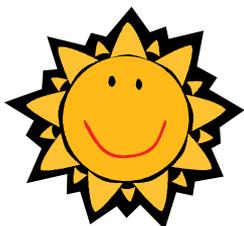
website /initiative

that includes all childcare centres. All staff have been trained through recent in servicing on “Keeping Children Safe.” This included the processes for mandatory reporting to Community Services and relevant documentation to support families. This Government initiative is effectively about stepping in before risk occurs to children. At times many families experience challenges and it is through support and intervention that families can avoid situations that may come from stressful situations.

Our role as a centre is to protect children and their well being. This support is also extended to families. Through discreet and meaningful conversations we can assist families and make connections with services for support. We ask that parents take the opportunity to speak with us so that we can support children and families to achieve positive outcomes.

In this newsletter we include relevant information to families who may require assistance. (QIAS1,25,6 & 7)





BRIGHTER FUTURES PROGRAM

The Brighter Futures Program is for families who have children aged eight years or younger, or who are expecting a baby. You may be able to join the program if your family is facing domestic violence, mental health or drug and alcohol problems' or if you are finding parenting tough.

Each family is supported by a Brighter Futures Case worker who will help you to find services and support that are right for your family. Brighter futures workers can meet you at your home to talk about challenges that you are facing.

Families are encouraged to make connections with service like Brighter Futures on 9830 100 which is a division of Community Services. Parents can simply call and request assistance or they can speak with staff for support.

FAMILY ADVOCACY

“Lets get started... getting ready for school and life.”

An opportunity to explore the life long benefits of, and strategies to achieve, an inclusive education for children with a developmentally disability.”

If you have a son or daughter with a developmental disability or have a friend or relative who has a child with a disability and who is commencing school soon. You may like to attend a free workshop at Penrith on 30th July from 10.45am – 2.15pm.

For Registration please call 02 9869 0866 or 1800 620 588. Parents are encouraged to support family advocacy and can learn more about this valuable organisation by visiting their website www.family-advocacy.com

CHILD CARE BENEFIT CHANGES.

From the 1st July the child care benefit will change and many families will experience changes in their child care benefit percentages due to changes in income. Fees have been adjusted in accordance with the child care benefit changes and will increase by \$1.00 per day. This will have minimal impact on most families, but we ask that you are aware of these changes.

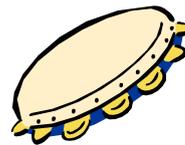
FEE PAYMENTS

We ask that all fees are paid at the commencement of each week. We regret that we have had to impose \$20 late Fees to families, but would ask families to be mindful of paying fees on a weekly basis.

FEE RECEIPTS - JUNE

A reminder that all Fee Receipts will be issued at the conclusion of each month. The Monthly receipt statements for June are now located in the pigeon holes in the front foyer. We would remind all families to collect their fee receipts from the front foyer this week. (QIAS 1,2,5,6, & 7)

MUSIC AROUND THE WORLD TUESDAY 20th July 10.00am



On July we will be having a musical performance. This will provide the children with a wonderful opportunity to see a variety of musical performances from around the world. This performance is \$8.00 per child and we ask that all families make this payment by Friday 16th July. (QIAS 1, 2 & 3)

RYAN'S TOY WAREHOUSE 20th July 6.30 pm

\$5.00 per ticket. RYAN'S toy warehouse is a discounted toy warehouse that is often cheaper than the major toy sales. This night has limited tickets so please purchase your tickets **NOW**.

CHILDRENS NEEDS

We still have children who do not have adequate rest time sheets. We would ask that all families in the Bees and Possum room provide a flat and fitted sheet for their child. This is a requirement of health and Hygiene. HATS: All children and required to have hats even in winter. We would ask that all families check that their child has a hat each day. Thank you.

Meningococcal: Fast Action Saves Children's Lives

A lot has been written about meningococcal disease in the media recently, so I thought that I would summarise some of the main points so families at JumpStart 4 Kids can have an easy reference guide to this very serious illness.

On the 3rd of June, a major newspaper reported that one of our local hospitals, Westmead had treated a two year old boy for meningococcal disease. After this child was treated the following 'key warning signs' of the disease were highlighted so parents and care givers can be vigilant if they notice any of these symptoms:

- * Leg pains
- * Cold hands and feet
- * Abnormal skin colour
- * High fever
- * Headache
- * Neck stiffness
- * Nausea
- * Vomiting
- * A blotchy purple-red rash and drowsiness

"Meningococcal disease is serious and up to 10 per cent of patients can die," Westmead Hospital announced.

The number of cases of the disease have fallen during the past 10 years, due in part due to the success of the meningococcal C vaccination program. The vaccine does not protect against the B strain of the disease and people should watch out for the symptoms even if they have been vaccinated.

People with meningococcal disease can become extremely unwell very quickly. The disease has become less common in recent years and about 130 cases are now seen in NSW each year. Winter and spring are the peak seasons for meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal disease progresses very rapidly and early treatment is essential. Those most at risk are young children, young adults and those who have had close contact with people with the illness.

A vaccine exists for type C Meningococcal disease only.

Westmead hospital also said that some or all of these symptoms may be present in a sick child, and the very best thing a parent can do is to take their child straight to the Emergency Department of their local hospital or call an ambulance. Whilst this information is not meant to cause unnecessary alarm in parents, it is important to note that at this time of the year children are most at risk to the disease. Westmead hospital has since reported that the 2 year old boy mentioned has been treated with antibiotics and remains in a very serious condition at the hospital. If you are ever uncertain about your child's health, always get them seen by a Doctor.

**This information is provided by JumpStart 4 Kids and is not intended to replace direct medical care by a doctor. The number for emergency medical treatment is 000.

Provided by Mrs. Angela Humphries Bunyip's Room (QIAS 1,2,5,6, & 7)

NO TOYS

We ask that families do not allow children to bring toys to school unless this is their news day. Children become very distressed when special toys are broken or misplaced.

This is often difficult for staff when children become distressed with not being able to have particular toys at particular times.



PARENT INFORMATION



We invite all families to view additional resources from the Get Up and Grow Series. These are located in the front foyer. Parents are invited to take information on a variety of topics including Television viewing, nutrition and movement activities to support healthy lifestyles for children and their families. Parents may also like to view the children cookbook which is full of recipes and different meal ideas. Please ask staff to photocopy any relevant pages that you may require.



GET UP AND GROW

This is a Government initiative aimed at improving the quality of children's physical activity and nutrition. This newsletter has included a brochure from this series about healthy lunch box ideas for children in early childhood settings. We would encourage families to look at this and not to allow children to bring the following food items.

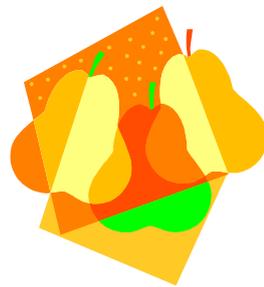
NO

- Chips
- Chocolate bars
- Lollies
- Donuts
- Fruit straps
- Or any items containing NUTS.



All children are offered a selection of fruit for morning and afternoon tea. On occasions we will have cakes and Lollies for celebrations. We ask all families to support us in providing healthy alternative for children.

Children enjoy a variety in their food options and we encourage all children to eat during meal times. If children are unwell, they may not eat all food that is provided. We ask that parents speak with their children in regards to their food likes and dislikes as we can not force children to eat food that is not palatable. All children need to experience eating food in an enjoyable and peaceful setting. (QIAS 1,2,5,6, & 7)



COMPANION BEARS

The Busy Bees will begin caring for their two bear companions in their room. These bears will be provided to children on a weekly basis for one night or a weekend. These bears will form part of your family and we would love for you to take a photo or place a few words about the journey of our bears with your family. This will commence on the 19th July.



(QIAS 12,3,4& 7)

LANGUAGE ASSESSMENTS:

Bees Room. During the Month of July the Bees room will conduct language screeners for children over 3 years of age. We will naturally provide feedback to families at the end of July. This will support children in Language proficiency and competence. We encourage families to discuss any concerns that they have with us in respect to the language development of their child.

PARENT FORUM



Our last Parent Forum for 2010 was held on **Wednesday 16th June at 6.00 pm.**

Attending parents were provided with updated information from each room along with our reporting format for 2010. The minutes for this meeting are attached to this newsletter. The Parent Forum offers parents the opportunity to take part in the planning of the centre and to provide valuable feed back to staff for policy and procedures. If parents are unable to attend these meetings but would like to offer suggestions please feel free to voice these ideas and expressions with Maree, John or staff at any time. Your contributions are always welcomed.

OUR NEXT PARENT FORUM WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER.

(QIAS 2 & 7)

CALENDAR EVENTS FOR JULY

20th JULY – RYANS TOY WAREHOUSE
20th JULY - SWAG FULL OF INSTRUMENTS
JULY – Language assessments 3 yrs
AUGUST 18th DENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATION
AUGUST PORTFOLIOS PROVIDED TO FAMILIES

THANKYOU

We thank all our parents and families who continue to support us.

If Parents are cleaning up their children's rooms please consider the child care centre for the donation of books and toys.

Thank you to Ms Kieran Spoelder (C-Jays mum) and Ms Mead (Alexis Mum) for their recent donations.

We are always very grateful for these and the children certainly gain great deal of joy from these items.

Craft items, paper, books, etc are always welcomed.

Thanks

Thank you to Ms Angela Humphries who provided such an informative article on Meningococcal. All Parents are invited to contribute to our Monthly newsletters.

A FINAL THOUGHT:

Children respond to the here and now. Often they request an item, task, toy which will hold their attention for 3 seconds. Turn taking is foreign to them and it is only through speaking with children and encouraging these social cues that children learn socially appropriate gestures and behaviors.

At times the teaching of these skills may seem challenging, but through conversation and explanation children do learn to appreciate these skills and grow as sensitive and caring young individuals.



