

Jumpstart 4 Kids

Newsletter No 4, 2011 APRIL

STAFF NEWS

Miss Kelly will be taking holidays from Monday 4th April. We wish her a relaxing holiday in Queensland. We are sure that she will return refreshed and energized from this break.

Mr. John and Miss Maree recently attended a conference on cooperative and group learning. We will be looking at ways in which our children at JumpStart 4 Kids can engage in group learning so that they can investigate their own learning through peer interaction and teacher lead instructions. (NQS 1,4, 5, 6&7)

WEEKLY EXPERIENCES



HAVE YOU COMPLETED A FAMILY

Make you child a star for the week

We encourage all families to complete a family focus sheet in the front foyer and provide this to room staff. These sheets are a valuable part of our weekly programming. Please support us by sharing your experiences with your child.

During the MONTH of APRIL the Busy Bees and the Playful Possums will be engaging in the following learning experiences:

BUSY BEES:

1. Sport
2. Farm Animals
3. Science
4. Easter

PLAYFUL POSSUMS:

1. Farm Animals
2. Bugs and Insects
3. Transport
4. Easter

BABY BUNYIPS:

The Baby Bunyip's will be stimulating children's language through stories, picture cards and music. The Bunyip's really enjoy music activities and will be exploring different types of instruments and sounds. Parents may like to support the Bunyip's by looking at songs and music to extend the learning for the Bunyip's. (NQS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6&7)

PLAYFUL POSSUMS

This is an exciting room where children are developing great independence. Miss Justine, Miss Kimberley and Miss Lara are working really hard with the children to support them with self-help skills. These skills include independence with eating and spoon control as well as encouragement with toileting skills.

Children will be encouraged to pack away their own items after morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea sessions. Taking their hats out of their bags and placing their shoes on the shoe rack will support the children in their routine and development of independent skills. (NQS 1, 2, 3,)

SCIENCE FIZZICS SHOW 13th April



This show is a hands on science show where children will be able to explore science and complete simple experiments using items that can be found around the house. All children will be exposed to this experience and we ask that families make their payment of \$8 by Friday 8th April. Children who are not attending on this day are welcome to join us for this at 10.00am. (NQS 1,, 3,4, 5 &, 6.)

EASTER & MOTHERS DAY RAFFLE OUR CENTRE PROJECT CAN YOU HELP??



We are currently raising funds to purchase outdoor garden beds for the children to grow vegetables and flowers. Children learn care, respect, independence and commitment through the care of pets and plants. We are hopeful that over the coming weeks we can create an appealing outdoor setting for the children so that they can be responsible for their outdoor environment.

We encourage all families to sell as many raffle tickets as possible so that we can reach our goal. We are hopeful of achieving just over \$400 for this raffle, so please support us so that we can provide a valuable experience for children at the centre.

WORM FARM

Parents may have recently noticed the worm farm that is located near the back shed. As part of developing our outdoor environment the children will be learning about recycling and how we can use our food wastes to fertilise plants.



We would like to thank Zhan from Blacktown city council who attended the centre and spoke to the children about recycling and how to care for our worms. The children were great helpers and assisted in setting up our new worm farm. While some of the children were a little frightened to touch our new friends, all the children enjoyed this presentation.

This will add to the children's daily activities and learning experiences. Parents are very welcome to say hello to our worms and give them a pat at any time. They are always very sociable, so take a moment to say hello.



CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT PETS AT JUMPSTART FOR KIDS.

To continue with our environmental awareness the children in the Playful Possums and the Busy Bees have some companions to care for. The Busy Bees have a leaf and stick insect while the Playful Possums have a fighting fish to care for. The children love interacting with these animals and it has been great to see our leaf insect shed its skin. (NQS 1, 2, 3, 5, 6&7)



DENTAL AWARENESS

This is an important aspect for all children and knowing how to look after and maintain good oral hygiene is significant for all children. Miss Maree, Mr. John, Miss Kelly and Miss Justine will all be involved in attending a Dental awareness program so that we can encourage healthy oral hygiene for the children at our centre. Our Munch and Crunch, and "Munch and Sip" sessions for afternoon Tea are an active way for children to ensure healthy teeth and gums. Limiting children's intake of sugary drinks and sweets along with morning and nightly brushing will assist all children. August is Dental Awareness month and we will be focusing on this during this month. Parents are asked to take brochures from the foyer about good oral hygiene.

(NQS 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 &7)

PEER SUPPORT

This is an important concept for all children. Many of our children may have younger or older siblings, while some may be the only child in their family. Miss Kelly is aware that many of the older children take a very caring role with younger children at the centre. During the month of April Miss Kelly will be inviting some of our Busy Bees to interact with the younger

children in a caring environment for around 20 minutes. This experience will be offered to all the Buys Bees on a rotating basis so that they can develop personal qualities of compassion, care and leadership. We trust that families will be supportive of the initiative as we support children to develop caring, loving and nurturing relationships with others. (NQS 1, 2, 3, 5, 6&7)

PORTFOLIOS

During the month of April Parents will be invited to take their child's portfolios home.

WHAT ARE PORTFOLIOS?

Our Portfolios are a developmental record of your child's progress in skills and learning experiences.

All portfolios have individual observations. These observations focus on your child and show how they engage in a task and interact with other children and staff. Often these observations show how a child is developing and what support is required to support learning. Some children may know some colours, but not others. Often these observations demonstrate what children have learnt and what will happen to support their future learning.



GROUP OBSERVATIONS: Children learn with others. These observations show parents how their child is interacting and contributing when in a group situation. These are meaningful experiences as parents need to know if their child initiates responses or if they are needing more encouragement to be part of group play or experiences.

CRAFT

Selected items are placed into portfolios. Rooms have craft everyday and staff choose particular items to show parents skills such as pencil grip, colour identification, number recognition, eye hand coordination, creativity and free expression. Staff record comments made by children as they complete these activities so that parents can share the experience and know how their child responds to these activities.

PARENT FEED BACK

These sheets are really important for staff to view your opinions and for you to share your thoughts about your child. If you would like your child to be supported in a particular area please use this form as a record to inform staff. Together we can make significant differences.

(NQS 1, 5, 6&7)

READY TO SCHOOL PROGRAM BUSY BEES

The Busy Bees have been preparing for big school from day one. We are pleased that all the Busy Bees are able to identify their first and last names and have been busy writing their names independently. The children are now identifying other children's names and they are really enjoying group times for learning.



Recently the Busy Bees looked at number and number recognition. Matching numbers to quantities has been an activity that the children have really enjoyed.

(NQS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6&7)

UNDER THE SEA



The children thoroughly enjoyed the Under the Sea show in March. This is a great opportunity for children to touch sea creatures that they may never have the opportunity to touch.

This show displayed a variety of sea creatures who inhabit the sand, rocks and water environments along our beaches. The children listened really well and spent a week exploring the different sea creatures in our oceans. The children really enjoyed this hands on experience. These shows support learning in an interactive way. (NQS 1, 3, 5, 6&7)

GRANDPARENTS AFTERNOON TEA



Thank you to all our families who celebrated Grandparents day with us. This was a fantastic afternoon. Grandparents are very special people in the lives of all children. We hope that you enjoyed sharing afternoon tea with us and the gifts that children made for this very special occasion (NQS 1, 2, 4, 5, 6&7)

RECEIPTS FOR MARCH

Receipts for **MARCH** are now located in the foyer for parents to collect. We remind all families that fees are payable on your child's first day of attendance each week. Parents who fall behind on Fees will have an additional \$20 late fee added to their bill. We remind all families that fees are payable prior to using the service.

DONATIONS UNWANTED GIFTS

During the year the centre has raffle prizes for Mothers day, Easter, Fathers day and Christmas.

If you would like to donate items for our raffles throughout the year we would be appreciative. (NQS, 6&7)

DONATIONS

Please consider the centre when you are having your clean up's.

We are always appreciative of the following items

- Books
- Toys
- Craft Items
- Magazines
- Wool
- Material
- Egg cartons
- Plants – Potting mix , seeds,

THANK YOU to the following families who have recently donated generously to our centre

Levi Maher – Bunyip's
Jessica Thorn– Bees
Ethan Grogan – Bees
Lily Checuti – Possums
Miss Nikki - Staff

WHATS HAPPENING IN APRIL

Portfolios to Families

Bunyip's	4 th -8 th April
Possums	11 th – 15 th April
Bees	18 th -21 st April
Science Show	13 th April 10.00am
Easter Hat Parade	18 th -21 st April
Centre Closed	22 nd , 25 th & 26 th April
Mothers Day Afternoon Tea	6 th May
All Welcome	

A FINAL THOUGHT

We wish all our families a very happy and Safe Easter. May you spend quality time with your children and we hope that the Easter bunny finds his way to everyone home. We look forward to celebrating Mothers Day with our Special Mothers Day afternoon Tea on Friday 6th May at 3.15 pm.