

# Jumpstart 4 Kids

## Newsletter No 4, 2013 APRIL

### ASSESSMENT AND RATING VISIT.

On Tuesday 26th March Shona from the Department of Education and Care attended the centre to complete our assessment and rating. This assessment is undertaken by all childcare centres and aligns our practices and processes against 7 quality areas. We are thankful to our families who expressed their words of support as we undertook this process. Shona will complete a report for the centre that will be completed in the following months. When this report is completed we will display this in the foyer for all families to view. We thank all families for their continuing support of staff and for the centre as we continue to provide care and educational outcomes for all the children in our care.

### QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Many families will have noticed the changes to the outdoor environment. These improvements have been part of our Quality improvement plan. Our quality improvement plan for 2013 is located in the front foyer at all times and we invite all families to view this document and make comments at anytime. This document is an active partnership between families, staff and the children at JumpStart 4 kids.

### PARENT FORUM



On Wednesday 27th March we held our first Parent Forum for 2013. Our Parent Forums allows parents to have an active voice in the operation of the centre. It is also an informal way to get to know other families and to share your ideas and skills with the centre. We encourage

all families to take part in our Parent Forums . If families are unable to attend we remind families that they are welcome to make comments and suggestions through the agenda placed in the foyer prior to the Parent Forum , through conversations with staff or through our suggestion box located in the front foyer. All suggestions extended by families are valued and we appreciate the support and ideas presented by all families. The minutes from the 24th March Parent Forum are attached to this newsletter for all families to view. (NQA 4,6&7)

### WEEKLY EXPERIENCES ROOM STIMULUS AREAS:

#### BUSY BEES:

1. Technology
2. Farm
3. My Body
4. Environment



In the month of April the Busy Bees will be learning about technology, they will be looking at the types of technology we use in our day to day lives and how it impacts us. We are also very excited to have the Kindi Farm come out on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of April; during this week we will be learning about each of the farm animals and how a farm actually runs. Also we will be looking at our bodies and how they work; we encourage you to speak to your child about eating healthy and how this helps the body to work effectively and grow. Please remember to bring a hat, set of sheets, spare change of clothes and a drink bottle each day your child attends, these all need to be clearly labelled with your child's name.

### SCHOOL READINESS FOCUS

The April school readiness program is all ready to go and located on the program window; please have a look at what your child will be learning each week throughout the month and we strongly encourage you to practice these skills at home.

Miss Amie & Miss Amanda

## **TRANSITION TO SCHOOL EVENING**

**Wednesday 15th May 6.30pm**

We invite all families who are thinking about commencing their child in kindergarten in 2014 to attend this evening. We will have a variety of enrolment packages from a number of schools for parents to view and a Principal from a local primary school will speak in respect to school readiness for children .

We would ask parents to complete the expression of interest form in the front foyer and indicate the school that you intend to send your child to in 2014. This will be a valuable opportunity for parents to ask questions about school readiness and to engage with staff in relation to your child's individual needs.

Miss Amie & Miss Amanda

**(NQA 1,2,3,4,5,6&7)**

### **PLAYFUL POSSUMS**

1. Gardening
2. Health and safety
3. Dental
4. My 5 senses
5. Circus

During the month of April, children will be focusing on health, hygiene and safety. We encourage parents to use active health practices and dental practices at home with your children. Brushing their teeth twice a day and swishing water after each meal will support healthy dental hygiene. We will look at healthy foods and ask parents if they have any healthy home recipes that they could share them with us so children can experiment with these recipes. Reminding parents to label all items and to bring a spare change of clothes each day your child attends the centre will assist us in the care of your child.

Miss Nikki and Miss Anita

### **BABY BUNYIPS:**

1. Health week- World Health Day 7<sup>th</sup>.
2. Farm animals- Kindi farm visit.
3. Space week.
4. Environment and sustainability- Earth day 22<sup>nd</sup>.
5. Sounds and letters.

**(NQA 1,2,3,5,6&7)**

The Bunyips have enjoyed learning all about countries and cultures from all around the world. Our favourite experience was using tapping sticks and ankle bells to dance to Sri Lankan music. We encourage our families to share their culture with us at any time. The Bunyips have been strongly progressing in the area of expressive language. Lots of the children have begun verbally expressing themselves and being much more involved in our group times. We look forward to sharing our lovely stories and conversations with you as they occur. We remind families that all items for the Bunyips need to be clearly labelled. To assist staff we remind families to label

1. Soles of shoes with their child's initials
2. Dummies
3. Bottles
4. Hats and
5. Clothing

**(NQA 1,2,3,4,5,6&7)**

### **STAFF NEWS**

We congratulate Miss Amanda on the recent announcement of her pregnancy .We wish Amanda the very best for the coming months.

Miss Nikkki will be taking 2 weeks holiday commencing the 15th April. we wish Nikki a very relaxing holiday.

### **STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

Staff at JumpStart 4 kids engage in at least two professional development experiences each year to maintain current practice and research in the child hood industry. Miss Anita recently attended a full day workshop on Aspergers and Autism presented by Dr. Tony Atwood and Sue Larkey. Both presenters are world renowned experts and have been instrumental in delivering quality teaching strategies and resources to families and carers who support children with Autism and Aspergers. Many of the strategies highlighted in their presentation and useful for developing skills in all children .

Miss Amanda, Miss Patricia and Miss Chantelle attended a Roads and Traffic in-service on Safety. Roads and Traffic information allows staff to engage children in practical activities that involve the broader community and ensure children's safety when using roads. This is an important aspect of children's safety as they exit our centre and begin their compulsory schooling years.

Mr John has been invited to present at a Mathematics conference in Denver, Colorado during mid April.

We congratulate Miss Amie who recently completed her studies to achieve her Diploma in Children's Services. (NQA 1,6&7)



We are excited to be taking part in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. You can help JumpStart 4 Kids by collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. Just collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Points when you shop at Woolworths between Monday 8 April and Sunday 9 June 2013. We will redeem these for awesome educational resources for our school. For every \$10 spent at Woolworths you will receive a Woolworths Earn & Learn Point. Pop them onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet and once it's completed, just bring it back to JumpStart 4 Kids and drop it into the Collection Box located in the front foyer. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. There are thousands of products available through the Woolworths Earn & Learn program, and we'd like to get lots of new gear! Products in the range include resources for mathematics, English, science, art & crafts, through to sports gear, library supplies and more. We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program. If you have any questions, please ask staff.

## PORTFOLIOS



We invite all families to take some time to view their child's portfolio. We encourage parents to view the 5 objectives that have been aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework and discuss with staff your goals and aspirations for your child educational needs. We ask that all families take a quick photo with their child so that we can include these in your child's portfolio. (NQA 1,2,3,5,6&7)

## SOCCKER TOTS



The children really enjoyed their soccer experience on Wednesday 6th March. The children used their ball skills through a variety of games and it was great to see so many children actively participating. If parents are interested in seeking soccer skills for their child please collect an information brochure in the foyer. (NQA 1,2,3,5,6&7)

## POLICE VISIT

**We thank Constable Nathan MacDonald from Blacktown area command who attended the centre on Tuesday 12th March to speak with the children in regards to personal safety and protection. The children learnt how to yell loudly if they were approached by a stranger and the safe people in the community who can assist them in times of need. The children loved exploring the police car and we thank Constable MacDonald for his time in visiting us at JumpStart 4 kids.**







## EMERGENCY EVACUATION

Our continuing care of

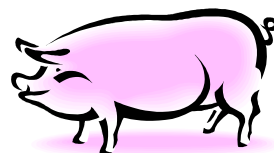


children at the centre highlights our emergency evacuation policy. On Tuesday 5th March the children participated in a mock emergency evacuation drill. This drill allowed staff to speak with the children about how to exit the centre in times of emergency.



## FEATHERDALE FAMILY FUN DAY

We thank all our families who joined us on Sunday 24th March at Featherdale Wild Life park. The weather was fantastic and it was great to see families meeting each other and the children engaging in hands on experiences with our native wildlife. This is our second family fun day and we thank Mrs Angela McCartney for organising this event for the staff and families at our centre. (NQA 1,2,3,4,5,6&7)



## EXTRA CURRICULA EVENTS FOR APRIL

### KINDI FARM

We will be hosting a Farm Yard experience on Wednesday 10th April from 9.30 am . The cost of this experience is \$8.00 per child. we as that this payment is made by Friday 5th April. Families who do not attend on Wednesday are welcome to attend with a supervising adult.

### EASTER RAFFLE WINNERS

We thank all our families who generously donated items for our Easter raffle. Our ten lucky winners were.

**Brodie - Busy Bees; Bridie - Possums; Charlie Bees; Kush Bees; Madeline Bees; Ngathjwok Possums; Jacob Possums; Mia Bunyips; Isabelle Bunyips; Malakai and Paul - Possums and Bees room**

### MOTHERS DAY DONATIONS

Mothers Day is fast approaching and we would be appreciative of any donations that families may like to contribute to our Mothers Day raffle.

### EVENTS APRIL

7th - World healthy Day

Day light savings begins

10th - Kindi Farm

15th - Busy Bees Language assessments begin

22nd - Earth Day

25th ANZAC DAY CENTRE CLOSED

### MAY

6th -10th Teacher interview Busy Bees

10th Mothers Day afternoon Tea 4.00pm

15th Transition to school night.

**FINAL THOUGHT as we approach Mothers Day**

A MOTHER thinks about her CHILDREN day and night. Even if they are not with her, and will love them in a way they will never understand.

**JUMPSTART 4 KIDS STAFF**