

# Jumpstart 4 Kids

Newsletter No 10, 2012 OCTOBER

## FAMILY FUN DAY FEATHERDALE WILDLIFE PARK



A very special thank you to the wonderful families who joined us on Saturday 29th September at Featherdale Wildlife Park. We all had a great



day and the children

thoroughly enjoyed feeding, touching and observing our unique wildlife. This was a great way to get to know other families and for the children to share an experience with their friends



from preschool. We thank Mrs Angela Humphries for her organisation of this day and for bringing the idea to the centre. (NQA



1,3,5,6,&7 )



## WEEKLY EXPERIENCES

### ROOM STIMULUS AREAS: BUSY BEES:

1. Pirate week
2. Australian animals
3. Nutrition week
4. Halloween
5. Dance styles around the world

During the month of October the Busy Bees have a variety of areas that we will be focusing on and learning about. During Pirate week we will be making treasure maps and going on treasure hunts to strike it rich! Please feel free to bring in anything pirate related for the children to use during this fun filled week. In our Australian animals week we will be learning to identify Australian animals and their habitats. Nutrition week will focus on healthy eating practises and we will be doing cooking experiences with the children. If anyone has any healthy food lunch ideas please feel free to bring them in so that we can make these with the children.

### SCHOOL READINESS FOCUS

This month the Busy Bees will be focusing on their new school readiness program which incorporates a focus on the letter of the week, sight word of the week, number of the week, colour of the week and shape of the week. Each week these are changed and placed on the white board in the room. Please check this weekly and practise these with your child at home. During our school readiness times the children are engaged in activities such as letter writing and recognition, number writing and recognition, simple mathematical concepts such as grouping objects and basic addition and subtraction, shape recognition and colour recognition. These activities are also continued through the children's play experiences to reinforce their learning. Please feel free to speak to either Amie or Amanda if you have any questions or concerns.

Miss Amie & Miss Amanda

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

## PLAYFUL POSSUMS

1. Recycling
2. Physical Wellbeing/ Fundamental movements
3. Nutrition
4. Fantasy
5. Halloween

The Playful Possums will be focusing on their physical wellbeing and the importance of eating healthy. The Possums will learn through stories, visual aids, activities and games. The Playful Possums will be celebrating Fantasy and Halloween the last two weeks in October these weeks the children will create different objects/items for our Halloween disco, dressing up during fantasy week showing their creative and imaginative skills through play.

## TOILET TRAINING POSSUMS

For most of the Possums this is their last 3 months in the Playful Possums room before they move up into the Busy Bees room next year. Your child may start to transition into the Busy Bees room this year for half a day or a day to help ease their transition. We ask that all families help us with these transitions. It is extremely important that the children are toilet trained, and are able to complete their self help skills independently i.e. dressing themselves, placing shoes on and off, and feeding themselves. Just a reminder that in the Busy Bees room there is to **be no heated lunches** so it is a good idea to get your child use to a sandwich now before the transition into the older room. These children should also be starting to not have bottles as they will not be given in the Busy Bees room, it is important for the children to get their calcium and daily dairy intake by drinking from a cup. **NO BOTTLES.**

Please remember to have all of your child's belongings labelled as staff are not responsible for remembering which items belong to each child. All toys are to be left at home. The Playful Possums do not take part in news/show and tell so please help us by not allowing your child to bring any toys into the centre.

All of your child's items need to be taken home at the end of each day, everything needs to come out of the fridge including your child's drink bottle, and out of their locker for hygiene reasons and to minimise lost property for children.

Miss Justine & Miss Nikki (NQA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &7)

## BABY BUNYIPS:

1. Holidays
2. Physical Well being/Fundamental movements
3. Nutrition
4. Fantasy/Halloween
5. Shapes

The Baby Bunyips will be learning about various holiday destinations through pictures, stories and songs in the first week of October. There after the Baby Bunyips will be learning about Physical well being/Fundamental movements and Nutrition through a range of activities including: games, role plays experiences, books, art and craft activities and music and movement activities.

Week four is our Fantasy and Halloween week. We will be promoting and learning about different fantasy characters through stories, felt board pieces and we encourage the Baby Bunyips to come dressed as their favourite fantasy character throughout the week. We will also be celebrating Halloween during this week and will be having our Halloween disco on Friday 26th October. We hope to see you all there! In our last week we will be learning about shapes through puzzle play, art and craft experiences and books.

We ask that all bottles, containers, dummies etc are labeled and that TWO spare changes of clothes accompany the children every day. Given that the weather has been unpredictable lately it is important that the children have appropriate clothing to accommodate these conditions

Miss Kelly & Miss Anita (NQA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &7)

## WE SAY FAREWELL TO OUR DUCKLINGS



Sadly on Friday the 14th September the time came for us to have to say goodbye to our ducklings. This experience has

provided the children with the opportunity to see the cycle of the egg to the living animal, and some of us were even lucky enough to actually

see the eggs hatch.





We also used the experience to give the children a sense of responsibility as they helped to care for the ducklings through

feeding them and cleaning their cage. We all enjoyed having the ducklings and look forward to engaging in the experience again soon.

## HALLOWEEN DISCO

26th October

6:45pm- 8:00 pm



On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October we will be hosting a Disco with a Halloween theme. Children can dress up in costume or simple come along for a fun time.

Tickets are \$5.00... Families are invited to bring a plate to share on the night. Funds raised will go to each room leader to purchase resources for individual rooms. We look forward to seeing as many families as possible on the night. (NQA 5, 6, &7)

## FREE VISION SCREENING 10th October



**All children who will be 4yrs of age by the end of October are eligible for a free eye screening**

**test that will be conducted at the centre on Wednesday 10th October from 9.30 am. We have distributed consent forms to all families and ask that these be returned by Friday 5th October. Families who do not have children attending the centre on Wednesday 10th October, but who would like to take part in this free screening are welcome to attend the centre at 9.30 am and can have their child's screening completed first to avoid waiting. The screening only takes a few minutes. (NQA 2, 6, &7)**

## EMERGENCY EVACUATION

On Wednesday 12th September we had an Emergency Evacuation at the centre. This Drill is conducted every three months and alerts the children to our centre processes and policies in times of emergencies. We congratulate the children on their great listening skills and their quick movements out of the centre to our meeting point in the car park where we called the role and spoke to the children about safety. (NQA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &7)

## STAFF NEWS for October.

Miss Justine will be enjoying a well deserved break as she and her husband welcome their first child in early December. Miss Justine will be taking maternity leave from early November and will be returning to the centre in 2013. Miss Amanda will be replacing Miss Justine during this leave time.

Miss Kelly will be taking a short holiday for 1 week and we will have Miss Amanda at the centre caring for the children during her absence. We wish Miss Kelly and Miss Justine a relaxing time during their leave.

## STAFF MEETINGS

### TUNING INTO KIDS STAFF IN SERVICING



**Children's Services**

*educating and caring for our children*

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September the staff engaged in the final night of Tuning into Kids. This course developed staff awareness in respect to children's emotions and how to effectively talk to children in regards to how they are feeling and supporting them in identifying their emotions.

Often children become upset and instead of staff solving issues for them we would like to encourage children by speaking with them to be active problem solvers. When children are upset or distressed it is important to acknowledge what the child is feeling and then ask them what we could do together so that they didn't feel sad or unhappy. The language used in these situations and the tone of the carer's voice supports successful outcomes for both the child and carer. Promoting children to offer suggestions and supporting them will enable

children to express themselves and hopefully avoid situations where their emotions escalate and they exhibited uncontrolled behaviours. We are thankful to Katie Helby from SND Community of Learners who offered this training over the last two months. Katie will continue to support staff over the coming months as we place the theory into practice.

### STAFF MEETINGS

(NQA, 2, 4, 5, 6&7)

### SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

#### St Vincent's de Paul

For the last 4 years JumpStart 4 kids has actively supported St. Vincent's de Paul in donating food baskets for those who are struggling in the local area so that like us they to can have a special Christmas. This year we will be donating 3 - 4 baskets and each room will have a special focus.

We ask all families to support us by donating items to their child's room basket.

Baby Bunyips - Bottles of Soft Drinks, and biscuits, candy canes.

Playful Possums - Chips, biscuits, custard and Christmas stockings

Busy Bees - Lollies, Popcorn, chocolates, mince pies and fruit cake

### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZES: Please support

Families are asked to donate a toy to our Christmas Raffle by Friday 9th November.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT:

Monday 3rd December - Blacktown Sportsman Club on Reservoir Road at 6.30pm – 8.00pm



Family Tickets: (2 adults, 2 Children) include a BBQ dinner and a present from Santa for children attending the centre. All children receive a lolly bag from Santa.

**Family Ticket \$ 35**

**Additional Adult Ticket \$9**

**Additional Children Tickets \$9**

Tickets on sale Monday 30th October. All Tickets will need to be purchased by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November. The full cost of this event is subsidized by the centre to

ensure that all families can participate. This is wonderful opportunity for families to meet and celebrate 2011. We hope to see all our wonderful families on the evening. (NQA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &7)

### JUMPSTART 4 KIDS

**GRADUATION Tuesday 11th  
December 7:00pm**



All children attending kindergarten in 2013 will be formally farewelled on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. We will have a formal graduation ceremony and this will be followed by a light supper to celebrate the children's success. Parents are invited to bring a plate to share on the night. We invite all families to participate in this ceremony, so place this date in your diary NOW.

### NOMINATION OF DAYS FOR 2013

**Please complete the grid for nominated days located in the foyer by the 26th October.**

### OCTOBER EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

**8th - Disco Tickets on Sale**

**10th - Vision Screening**

**26th - Halloween Disco**

**31st - Parent Forum Session 1 4.30 -5.00**

**Session 2 5.00 - 5.30pm**

**DONATIONS** We are always appreciative of Donations for our Raffles. If families have received any unwanted gifts or toys please consider the centre. If families have any artificial flowers, stones, rocks ,old logs we would be appreciative for our environmental corner.

### FINAL REFLECTION (NQA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &7)

We are quickly approaching the festive season and it is easy to forget those less fortunate than ourselves. Please speak with your child about the essence of giving and sharing. Having children involved in thinking about items to donate to the St Vincent De Paul baskets is a fantastic way for all families to promote empathy and giving.

*Jump Start 4 Kids Staff*