

Parent Forum Minutes 11th November 2009

*Present. Mrs Katherine Checotah, Andrew Checuti, Kelly Hardy, Maree and John Ley
Apologies: Mrs Lisa Sheeley, Ms Kieran Spoelder.*

Learning Experiences Review for 2009.

What worked well?

What could we improve upon for 2010?

Discussion took place in regards to the extra curricula activities that were offered within the centre in 2009. These activities included.

Charged events Puppet show, Musical performance, Bug show etc

Non Charged Events: Dental Talk, Health and Fitness talk, Ambulance Visit, Fire Brigade Visit, Police Visit, St Vincent's DePaul – Charity Talk

Suggested additional activities. Maree – Suggested to have two sessions for the dental hygiene talk.

Kelly suggested magic show, from the staff meeting Mare expressed that Michele had suggested the egg hatching for an Easter event.

Mrs Checuti felt that alternating activities that were at a cost to families and then a non cost event for families was fair and reasonable and the pricing for the events that were charged to families was very low.

All participants felt that the inclusion of these extra curricula events gave a greater feel and depth to the centre and that the children remembered segments from these events. Mrs Checuti expressed that her child still refers to performances and ambulance talk sessions when they are out in the wider community and that these events were a great educational feature for the children's learning and development.

For 2010, the parent Committee felt that we should continue to provide these additional activities for families and children and that costs for events around \$10 were an acceptable amount. The alternating sessions on a monthly basis was a good combination and to perhaps include two new events would be advantageous to the children. Kelly suggested the under the sea show for 2010 – from the Rangers on the run Program.

REPORTS for 2009.

John explained that as a staff at Jumpstart 4 kids we had spent a great deal of time trying to provide a more professional and child centred report for families that communicated their developmental milestones. John showed the new format to parents and allowed feedback to take place. Mrs Checuti felt that the new format of A5 was more appropriate than the A4 format and that the format of the ticks and individual comments was a better way to express to parents the developmental aspects for children. Mrs Checuti liked the fact that parents have a nominated section at the back of the report so that they can personally make comments and write down concerns about their child, which can then be discussed with room staff.

Maree discussed that we would have parental feedback in the centre at the conclusion of 2009 so that we can gather the thoughts of all our families in regards to the new reporting system.

Arrival Times.

Kelly expressed that this was often an issue in regards to program formats. Some parents bring their children after 10 .30am and often at 12.30pm. This is difficult as the activities scheduled in the morning are missed by the child and if they are arriving after lunch they are often unsettled and disturb other children who require rest. It was suggested that this be placed in the newsletter so that families were aware of the times for drop off and pick up.

Shut Down – Opening Times

Maree informed members that the close for 2009 is the 24th December and that we would be asking all families to collect their children by 4.30pm at the latest. This allows for last minute cleaning and spot checks of the centre before close. The centre will then break for two weeks and one day and reopen at 7.00 am on Monday the 11th of January 2010.

Receipts / Printing

John explained that we have moved to a new software program – Quik Kids. This program is web based and allows more information for families in regards to receipts. The big difference with this program is that it allows fee payments to be viewed in the current week and note in arrears. Over the last month parents have collectively gained a better understanding of the new system.

John expressed that we would not be issuing receipts on a daily basis. Instead we will print statements for families at the conclusion of each month. We have been personally speaking with all families over the last month and we have not had one family ask for a receipt. John expressed that most families said” That’s fine, I don’t look at the receipt anyway, I just throw it in the bin”. With this in mind John calculated that we would be saving 7000 sheets of paper a year with the new arrangement.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Ryan's toys warehouse. This fund raiser was organised by Mrs Checuti. We raised \$105 for this and we have purchased a number of items for the centre. We have purchased a slippery dip for 2010 along with additional outdoor equipment.

Parent Forum Meeting. The time and frequency of these meetings was discussed and members felt that they would like this format to remain for 2010. The Parent forums will therefore continue to be once every two months on a Wednesday evening between 6.00 – 7.00pm.

Thankyou. Maree and John presented our members with a small gift for their contributions throughout 2009. We sincerely thank parents who give up their time to join with us to make Jumpstart 4 Kids an enriched learning environment.

We look forward to working with more of our families in 2010. We remind parents that they are very welcome to attend these meetings and that if they are unable to attend they are more than welcome to forward suggestions or concerns prior to the meetings.

On behalf of the Parent Forum Committee we would like to wish all our families a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.