

## Parent Forum Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Present Alethea Walker, Michael Walker, Katherine Checuti, Kelly Hardy, Maree and John Ley  
Apologies Angela Humphries and Daniel McCartney



### AGENDA ITEMS:

- **End of year formalities: Christmas Concert**

This will be held at the Blacktown Sportsman club on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm. This is subsidised by the centre to keep the prices down for families. This is a great night for families to meet each other and for the children to present their concert songs

- **Raffle : prizes**

We will be dividing the toys in the front foyer as the first prize is worth \$150. The Dora Doll by itself is \$50, We will make a set of toys worth the nominated amount. The bike is \$130 and we will then allocate the other toys and prizes so that we can share the gifts around to more families. Katherine Checuti commented that this was better so that more families are included.

- **Reports - Next year 6 month 1 page insertion.**

Alethea and Michael Walker expressed that the language reports that were provided to the families were good and that they had used this information for their child. That a mid year report was great as it gave parents an understanding of where their child was at instead of waiting 12 months. John explained how the reports were completed. Maree expressed that the report ages presented attained skills and knowledge for children in a positive light. We do not place children in report age group if they have only been in this age group for 3 months, rather children's report reflect on what age they have been for the majority of the year.

- **Portfolios**

These will be provided to families from 7<sup>th</sup> December. Graduating children will have these presented to them on the 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. These are a collection of craft, individual and group observations.

- **Close down period for the centre:**

We will close at 3.00pm on 24<sup>th</sup> December. We had discussed not opening on the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, but many families require care. We ask that all families collect their child by 2.45pm. All families will still attract CCB as we are open for an 8 hour period.

- **Enrolment updates 2011**

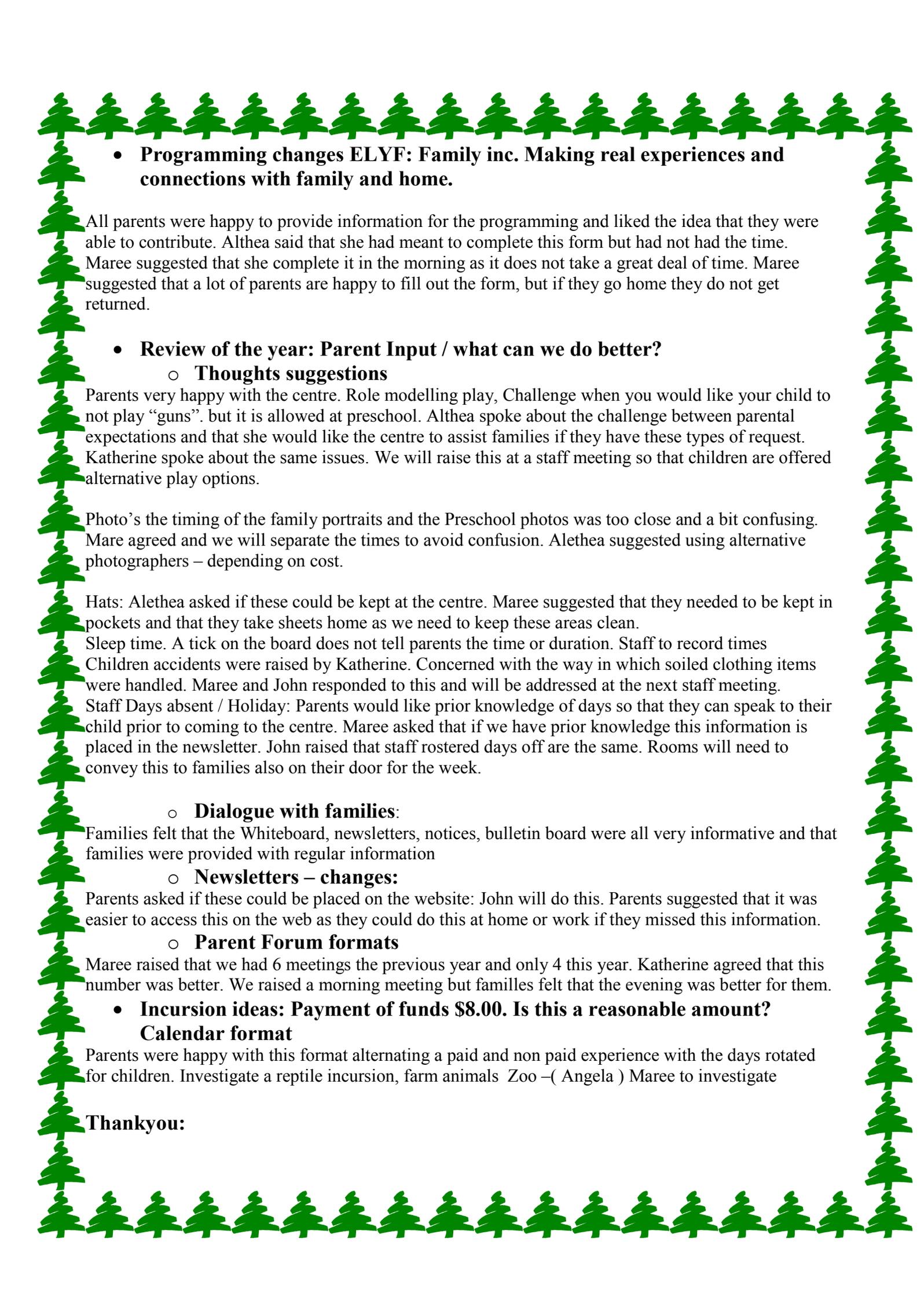
We only have limited places for 2011. We have moved some under twos into the possum's room so we will cap this room at 12 to accommodate the ratio changes. We will then increase this room to 16 as per the 1:8 ratios. This is to assist families who have babies. The vast majority of centres are educating their baby number to accommodate the change in regulations.

- **Fee changes: Owner meeting feedback**

Two weeks ago we hosted an owners meeting to discuss changes in prices for child care. At this meeting we were the cheapest with most centres charging \$75 – \$85 a day. We have kept the costs down as much as possible and will be increasing the Fees by \$6 in the 0-2 years and \$4 in the over 2 years. All parents commented that this was reasonable and acceptable increase. Maree raised that there was talk about an increase for CCB with the 0-2, but we have been unable to verify this.

- **Room changes**

We will be swapping the Bees and the Possum room as the Bees are a larger group and this will allow more room for them. Althea raised the fridge move and we will need to discuss this at the next staff meeting. John raised the nappy change area and we are currently investigating this. We had found a movable unit, but it is too large and we will need to look at a fixed wall unit.

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- **Programming changes ELYF: Family inc. Making real experiences and connections with family and home.**

All parents were happy to provide information for the programming and liked the idea that they were able to contribute. Althea said that she had meant to complete this form but had not had the time. Maree suggested that she complete it in the morning as it does not take a great deal of time. Maree suggested that a lot of parents are happy to fill out the form, but if they go home they do not get returned.

- **Review of the year: Parent Input / what can we do better?**
  - **Thoughts suggestions**

Parents very happy with the centre. Role modelling play, Challenge when you would like your child to not play “guns”. but it is allowed at preschool. Althea spoke about the challenge between parental expectations and that she would like the centre to assist families if they have these types of request. Katherine spoke about the same issues. We will raise this at a staff meeting so that children are offered alternative play options.

Photo’s the timing of the family portraits and the Preschool photos was too close and a bit confusing. Maree agreed and we will separate the times to avoid confusion. Alethea suggested using alternative photographers – depending on cost.

Hats: Alethea asked if these could be kept at the centre. Maree suggested that they needed to be kept in pockets and that they take sheets home as we need to keep these areas clean.

Sleep time. A tick on the board does not tell parents the time or duration. Staff to record times

Children accidents were raised by Katherine. Concerned with the way in which soiled clothing items were handled. Maree and John responded to this and will be addressed at the next staff meeting.

Staff Days absent / Holiday: Parents would like prior knowledge of days so that they can speak to their child prior to coming to the centre. Maree asked that if we have prior knowledge this information is placed in the newsletter. John raised that staff rostered days off are the same. Rooms will need to convey this to families also on their door for the week.

- **Dialogue with families:**

Families felt that the Whiteboard, newsletters, notices, bulletin board were all very informative and that families were provided with regular information

- **Newsletters – changes:**

Parents asked if these could be placed on the website: John will do this. Parents suggested that it was easier to access this on the web as they could do this at home or work if they missed this information.

- **Parent Forum formats**

Maree raised that we had 6 meetings the previous year and only 4 this year. Katherine agreed that this number was better. We raised a morning meeting but families felt that the evening was better for them.

- **Incursion ideas: Payment of funds \$8.00. Is this a reasonable amount?**
  - **Calendar format**

Parents were happy with this format alternating a paid and non paid experience with the days rotated for children. Investigate a reptile incursion, farm animals Zoo –( Angela ) Maree to investigate

**Thankyou:**