



JUMPSTART 4 KIDS

Parent Forum -Wednesday 15th September 2010

Minutes

Present: Mrs. Angela Humphries, Daniel McCartney, Mrs. Catherine Checuti, Miss Kelly, Miss Maree and Mr. John

- **Philosophy Early Learning Years Framework ELYF**

Maree provided parents with a copy of the Early Learning Years Framework document and parents were able to spend some time viewing this document. All families were provided with the pamphlet for family use and additional copies are now located in the front foyer for parents to take. Maree explained that his framework was child centered and that there was a focus on intentional teaching in respect to Numeracy and literacy. The group looked at each of the outcomes in this document.

John and Maree discussed how this aligned with our weekly stimulus areas and how this allowed us to develop opportunities for explicit teaching for children growth.

Maree and Kelly expressed that we are already doing a large part of this document, but that we would be changing our program format to reflect this.

Maree explained that as a staff we were taking each of the outcomes and discussing one at a time at each staff meeting.

Angela, Daniel and Catherine viewed a program in the Bees room and looked at the current format. Maree expressed to families that we encouraged all families to view our programs and that they were placed on the walls in rooms each week for parents to view.

CENTRE PHILOSOPHY Changes:

We spoke about our centre Philosophy and how as a staff we had viewed the document and our understanding of the Terms **Belonging, Being and Becoming**. Maree gave a brief overview of staff content. John presented our updated Philosophy. All parents viewed this document. All families were asked if they would like to make amendments. All families expressed that they were happy with the changes.

Maree stated that we will present this in the foyer for parent comment and then update and Frame our amended version

- **Staff Changes – Where to**

John explained that we have had a few staff changes and it was unfortunate that the Possums room had had the most changes. John explained that Miss Sacha was pursuing a teaching pathway, whilst Miss Hayley was replaced as we were committed to employing staff that were able to program effectively and provide structured and play activities for the children that generated real learning experiences. While this has been a challenge. Miss Elizabeth and Miss Carlie had created a stable and structured environment quickly and the room was well organised. Miss Justine has also been employed and has experience with this age group and programming.

John Highlighted that Miss Tracy had broken her ankle and at the moment we are waiting for confirmation about her situation. We have employed Laura, and Ashley who are both at uni studying teaching. John expressed that these casual staff provided consistently for children until we are clear on the state of Miss Tracy. Parents were happy that we had strived for consistency and were pleased that we strived to have staff with programming and learning expertise.

Mr. Adam is now in the Bees Room. Angela raised that she was happy to have a male at the centre, and raised a recent newspaper article. Maree and John had read this article and made reference to this. Maree expressed that until Mr. Adam had formed a relationship with families that he would not be involved with changing nappies as he was in the older room and that our focus was more on the ability to complete the role than on a staff members gender.

All agreed that it is a positive aspect for children. Kelly expressed that it is more about the person than their gender. Maree expressed that we would like parents to speak with us if they had concerns and that we are open to these conversation if parents have concerns in relation to any staffing changes.

- **Child Protection Training – All staff trained on assessment Tree tool.**

Maree conveyed to families that she had attended 2 in-services for mandatory reporting and the new changes to child protection. Kelly also attended the session for the assessment tool. Maree and John expressed that all staff viewed the PowerPoint for Child protection and reporting. John explained to parents that we used the data projector and as a staff we viewed several scenarios and actively used the tool so that all staff were aware of how this worked.

- **Developmental records – Language assessments**

Maree expressed to families that we had screened all the children in the Bees room for language and had provided this information to families. Room staff had spoken to families if there was a concern. As a centre we are very aware of the need for children to develop these skills and seek professional assistance if required.

- **Programs Format Changes – ELYF**

Maree spoke about our recent staff meeting and how staff would be implementing the ELYF in portfolios, day books and programs now. We would be placing a display in each room so that families were able to understand this framework John explained that we are doing a great deal of this already it is refining our program formats at the present time.

- **Fundraising Money – How have we spent this**

Maree spoke about our outdoor area. Mr. Greg Robinson one of our parents would be constructing this outdoor area for the children, This project would use the money raised from the fundraiser and any additional funds remaining would be used to purchase outdoor equipment for the children ,. The structure will cost approx \$1500

- **Accreditation update**

John spoke about this process and that as a centre we will be submitting our self study report at the end of the year, and that we will have this process in May

- **Community Services Visit**

Maree spoke about our recent visit. We highlighted the main areas. Fire extinguishers, checked and 6 monthly monitoring. Storage of chemicals and safe play equipment. We were really happy with the support from Community services and welcomed this visit. This allows centres to revisit areas and to be vigilant. This is a great opportunity to make connections and allows parents to feel comfortable that we are following correct processes.

General Issues

- **Heating of Food.**

Kelly raised that the Bees room will need to minimise the heating of food and that parents need to provide a healthy sandwich or salad instead of McDonalds, chicken nuggets etc. Kelly raised that when the children do attend school they will not be afforded this luxury. John spoke about the need to reduce this so that staff were not away from rooms heating foods. We viewed our food policy that staff – healthy choices and discussed that numerous occasions that we report this in our newsletters.

- **Well being of children - Healthy Eating – Fast Foods Centre Policy**

We would ask that all families support us with Healthy eating at Jumpstart 4 Kids. We would ask that parents provide healthy fruit e.g. apples, oranges, celery sticks, carrots sticks, rice crackers, cheese cubes etc so that we can provide daily fruit platters that are appealing to the children. Having all children receiving the same for morning and afternoon tea will encourage the children to have healthy options. Yoghurts are fine and we would ask parents to think about providing a variety of fruit options to share.

- Sun care

We are a Sun Smart centre and wish to ensure that outside play for all children is enjoyable. Sunscreen is applied to all children 20 minutes prior to sun exposure. All children require a hat at the centre. We will increase our Admin costs to \$55.00 this will include a hat and a T- shirt for new enrolments. **Sheets**
All children who sleep on stretchers beds require a fitted and flat sheet. Parents need to ensure that their child has a sheet set for sleep times.

- **Illness Policy for children**

Miss Amanda asked parents to view this policy that states that children can not return to the centre until a 24 hour time frame. Parents need a clearance from a doctor in cases of conjunctivitis or other illness if it is deemed contagious.

- **Friendships – Positive relationships**

Maree and Catherine raised the concern of older children not playing well with others. Maree has spoken to all families personally about this and expressed that all the children were victims and instigators. Maree raised that Kelly and Adam would focus on Friendships in the following week's and that we were asking family to have these conversations at home. Catherine raised that she has asked her child to use Phrases such as. I'm still your friend, but I going to play with ... for a bit. We are really trying to allow children a choice of friendships and the ability to play with a variety of people without causing any child to be alienated.

Friendship Bear.

Maree raised that the friendship Bear in the Bees room as a positive focus for children as they were able to share their home life with centre and show positive relationships through their care of our Companion Bear.

- **Portfolios – Parent Feedback/ communication**

Angela and Daniel really loved their portfolio and wrote in messages so that their daughter, Sydney could view this when she was older. This aspect reflects how important these are to families.

General discussion

John spoke about changing the Possums and the Bees room for 2011 to allow for more space and due to the changing ratios.

We raised that we would have a nappy change area in the toilet area, similar to those found in local shopping centres. This was received favourable by family members.

NEXT PARENT INFORMATION EVENING:

24th November 6th August 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Please place this in your Diary.

**We thank you for your support and value the contributions of all our families.
We look forward to sharing with you at our next meeting.**