

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. ELLA - Preschool program - Bees room iPad / tablet use for children

What is Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA)?

Research shows that learning languages develops children's overall literacy, strengthening literacy-related capabilities that are transferable across learning areas. It also provides children with a head start towards language study at school. This program will enable children to become more comfortable with different languages in preschool so that they stay engaged during their later years.

The ELLA program includes a suite of materials, including apps for educators and families, resource material and educator support networks, developed through the ELLA trial to support the effective delivery of early language learning in preschool services.

The apps have been custom developed for language learning on mobile tablet devices and provide children the opportunity to develop recognition of the different sounds and concepts of another language through play-based learning. Children are introduced to words, sentences and songs in the language and through age appropriate experiences and practices in the language.

ELLA has been designed to consider the needs, interests and capabilities of children in preschool. The program provides opportunities for children to learn through interaction with a rich variety of experiences and encourages collaboration between peers and with educators as co-learners.

The language activities in each of the apps are aligned to the learning outcomes in the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), a key component of the Australian Government's National Quality Framework for early childhood education and care.

NUTRITION - Across the Centre – Supporting Munch and Move Program

Why do we need *Munch & Move*?

Early childhood is the ideal time for children to form healthy food and physical activity habits that will give them the best chance of maintaining a healthy weight throughout their lives. It is also a great time to cultivate the fundamental movement skills and confidence children need to enjoy physical activities at school.

Many children spend a substantial amount of time in early childhood services, therefore it is important that these services provide an environment that supports and encourages healthy lifestyles for young children with a focus on physical activity and healthy eating.

The *Munch & Move* key messages

Key messages that form the basis of the *Munch & Move* program are:

Choose water as a drink – we ask that families do not pack soft drinks juices for children as they significantly affect children oral health. These drinks contain a high amount of sugar and are suggested as a sometimes food for consumption. We appreciate families support with this request.

Eat more fruit and vegetables: We remind all families that all children must bring a piece of fruit or vegetable each day with them to the Centre. This will be used as part of our shared morning tea or afternoon platters for all children across all rooms.

Choose healthier snacks – To support healthy eating guidelines for young children we ask that families provide healthy snack for children .vegetable sticks, cheese, yoghurt, rice crackers, and plain biscuits. We ask that parents do not add chips or chocolate bars to lunch boxes as these will be returned d home to families.

Get active each day; each day we encourage children to play and incorporate fundamental movement skills.

Turn off the screen and get active: We ask that families support reading to children to build literacy skills. Through the month of August we were incredibly appreciative to parents who spent time reading to children at the Centre. Children were very excited to see their parents in an educator role. We would encourage all families to continue this with their children throughout the year. A great success. Thankyou

2. SUN HATS - summer months - A reminder to all families that their child must have a hat for outdoors. If a child does not have a hat they will be offered a spare hat. After 3 occasions children will be provided with a hat and parents will be charged \$15.

3. SHEETS: All children in the Possums and Bees must have a flat and fitted sheet for rest times. Parents will be highlighted on the role and reminded each week. Please support the centre by complying with hygiene by ensuring that your child has sheets for each day of care

4. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT - Literacy Book week Month August - simple activities that parents can contribute to the centre - Family feedback ideas.

5. NO TOYS TO THE CENTRE: Hazard small parts - lost pieces can be a choking hazard. Children can emotionally distressed. We would ask that parents take on this role with their child and not pass this on to educators who are organising room activities.

6. STAFFING: Feedback for families. Across rooms.

7. CADBURY CHOCOLATE FUNDS: outdoor environment Working Bee assistance. Our funds will be allocated to outdoor. We are investigating the repair and change to the soft fall. Presently this is a huge expense that can be reduced by the removal of the Softfall. We would be supportive of family assistance in reviewing the outdoor area. If any families have spare time or skills we would be appreciative. The seating is in need of repair and any carpenters would be greatly appreciated.

8. Christmas Concert: Dates End of Year Discussion.

Baby Bunyips:

We are focusing strongly on self-help skills in the Baby Bunyips room, this includes:

- Feeding themselves
- Putting own belongings away
- Get own hats
- Follow basic routine instructions

Please bring sheets if your child is over 1 and a half years old as they are getting ready to transition to the Playful Possums room. They are currently sleeping on pull out beds to get ready for this.

Please make sure you bring a water bottle for your child each day and this is filled and placed on the water bottle shelf. This should be taken home daily, cleaned and filled with fresh water.

Please make sure to bring age appropriate food and that there is enough for the entire day. We suggest at least two items for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea the more the better. Remember if they do not eat it the food will be placed back in their lunchbox and returned home. It will not be wasted.

Each fortnight the children focus on different numeracy, literacy and concept areas. These are written into the program and displayed on the program window. It would be great if you could have a look at these each week and focus on these with your children at home too.

Playful Possums:

Each fortnight the children focus on a different concept, numeracy and literacy skill. These skills are very important and we encourage you to focus on these with us at home. Our Scope and sequence and program and displayed on the window with what our focus for the fortnight is.

We encourage the children to complete many self helps each day- children pick up these skills quite fast and should be encouraged and continued at home.

Your child should be able to;

- Take off and put on shoes
- Put sheets in bag
- Pack away after meal times
- Take items of clothing off

Children that are 3 or turning 3 this year should be either toilet trained or focusing on this now. All educators are more than happy to help in this regards. Please have your child attend in undies and provided at least 5 changes of clothes when beginning to toilet train. Please speak with staff if you have any questions.

We would love for more parent input. If you are able to come up for a visit and take part in an experience/ activity that would be greatly appreciated.

In the Busy Bee room, we have been focusing on our school readiness and PreLit program. These programs run each day and provide children with age appropriate teaching and learning experiences which are extremely important in helping to get all the children ready to enter school. Throughout the school readiness program, we are focusing on English and Mathematic skills, as well as important skills children need for school (letters, letter sounds, sight words, numbers, shapes and colours). We ask the parents to have a look each week at our program to know what letters, shapes and numbers we are up to so that you can also practice these at home with your children. PreLit is implemented every day in the Busy Bee room. During PreLit children focus on their reading skills. The children also discuss the meaning of words, the orientation of a book and are asked to retell the story in their own words. Lately, we have been focusing heavily on syllables by clapping the syllables to words that are featured in the story and we have just started discussing rhyming words. We ask that all parents are aware of our daily routine and get their children to the centre before 9am to help us run a smooth routine.

We continue to focus on children writing and/or tracing their first names recognising each letter in their name as well as the sounds each of the letters make. We ask parents to please practice tracing and writing your child's name at home with your child and remember to sign in your child's name each day with your child at the Busy Bee's sign in table. For the children starting school next year, we are focusing on their self-help skills to assist them and to make their transition to school easier. This includes encouraging children to put their shoes on themselves and to take any clothing items on and off themselves, packing and unpacking their bags, managing their health and hygiene practices such as reminding them to wash their hands.

Please remember to bring all the following items each day clearly labelled remembering to take all items home at the end of each day.

- Hat
- Drink bottle
- Lunch box with healthy options in it (Please remember we need all loose containers packed into a lunchbox with a label to avoid items being lost or mixed up.) Please be mindful to provide an adequate amount of food for the day. Also, we are unable to heat your child's food so a sandwich is recommended.
- Fitted and top sheet
- Spare clothes (at least 2 pairs)

Please remember we do not allow your child to bring in any toys into the centre unless it is their news day. Please check the news chart to know your day is your child's news day.