

AGENDA ITEMS Parent Forum 14th

March 2017

Present: Mr John, Miss Maree, Joanne Rae, Ivy and Tim McAuliffe, Gareth Allen, Komal Talekar, Deborah Eyles, Kelly Stoddart,

1. Staffing current 2017. The change in staffing for 2017 was discussed. Parents were informed that both Kristie and Courtney were off contract in February. Kristie is working outside childcare and Courtney has gone to a centre owned by a friend. Kaitlin and Nicole are both experienced diploma trained educators and are settling in very well. Mr Simon left unexpectedly and has not been replaced at this point in time. Comments were made that parents would like to know of the staff changing and it was decided to put it in the newsletter the month before.
2. Sickness / Illness Policy – 24 Hour Exclusion. Doctor's clearance must state that the child does not have the illness and is fit for childcare. We discussed that this was to ensure the health and wellbeing of all children.
3. Baby Bottles – Under 2 Years Only - Cup 12 Months. This has been policy for a long time and was discussed to ensure parents' were aware of the reasons for this.
4. Reminder to families – Piece of fruit each day - Possums in room fridge / Bees in the kitchen area. Some parents not bringing fruit and all will do so now.
5. ELLA Program - Arabic. The ELLA program was a trial in 2016 and Jumpstart will be participating in the program this year. The program is based on Apps and is interactive and based in scenerios. We will be starting in April.
6. Dental Health Program - June. This is a new initiative that involves a 15 minute show followed by dentist that will provide oral examinations for children over 2 that have parental permission and a signed medicare form. Further details in April newsletter.

7. Developmental checklists – Bees. The children in the Busy Bees room have had screeners applied to assess them in literacy and numeracy. The results are added to the portfolios.
8. QIP Plan - Portfolio inserts. Parents were asked to read the summary or the entire QIP that is in the portfolios and make comment.
9. Focus Sustainability. Our sustainability major project will be artwork using bottle tops. Last year the milk bottle igloo was a great success. Parents are asked to bring in bottle tops for use in this project. All other sustainability aspects are still occurring.
10. General business. Parents commented on the smooth start to the year and did not have any suggestions.

Busy Bee's:

In the Busy Bee room we have been focusing on our school readiness and pre lit 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 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. 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.

Throughout the last few months the children have been focusing on beginning to write and or trace 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 also remember to sign in your child's name each day with your child at the Busy Bee's sign in table.

Please remember to bring all of 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.)
- 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 and we are unable to heat your child's food so a sandwich is recommended.

Playful Possums:

The Playful Possums will be focusing on their self- help skills.

The children are encouraged throughout the day to take part in a variety of different self-help skills such as:

- Taking their own shoes off placing them on the shoe rack.
- Feeding themselves
- Placing their food scraps in the worm bin and normal bins
- Placing their dirty dishes in the dirty dished bucket
- Placing their drink bottles in the fridge after use.

It would be a great help if families could assist us in encouraging their child to do more things for themselves at home.

Each fortnight the children focus on a different numeracy, literacy and concept skills these are located on the program window and are embedded in the weekly programs. Our programs are very importance to each child's learning and development.

If you could please assist us in adding to our programs on the section provided or approach an educator talking about the program and any ideas or suggestions you may have this will be greatly appreciated.

The possums have worked very hard in creating our family tree located on the back window in the possum room. If you could please bring in a family photo for the tree that would be appreciated.

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 there is enough for the entire day, 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.