

**PARENT FORUM**  
**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**AGENDA:**

1. Room Goals
2. EARLY CHILDHOOD Week –We were finalists in all three categories entered.
3. Assessment and Rating - Feedback –After submitting further evidence we have been rated exceeding.
4. Supply of food.
5. Sun safety
6. Soccer Totties Program / Computer Gym
7. Ella
8. Immunisation Notification
9. Staffing, Fees and Enrolments 2019
10. Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) 2019

**MINUTES**

**Baby Bunyips**

We are focusing on language and communication within the Bunyips room. As we have a wide range of ages this will range from using gestures and cues to express their needs to using verbal language.

We also have a strong focus on self-help skills at the present. Again, as we have a wide range of ages this varies, some children are beginning to use the toilet and wash their hands independently while others are beginning to feed themselves and wipe their faces with a washer after meal times.

- Please bring a hat every day, labelled with your child's name.
- We put sunscreen on the children at least twice a day, if your child has sensitive skin, please provide us with sunscreen.
- Please ensure you are packing spare summer clothes in your child's bag. As it gets warmer, the children will participate in water play and messy play activities and may require a change of clothes.
- If your child is over 1 and a half, please provide us with a set of cot sheets as we will start to place them on a bed in preparation to transition to the possum's room next year.
- Please ensure you provide us with a water bottle, filled and placed on the shelf each morning.



**Playful Possums**

The Playful Possums are focusing on further developing their self-help skills; we encourage the children to pack away their own belongings, put their own shoes and socks on and take their own jackets/pants etc. off. It would be great if you could practice self-help skills with your children at home.

Please remember that as it is getting hotter you need to remember to dress your child in the appropriate clothes; long pants and a long sleeve shirt are

NOT SUITABLE for days that are 30 degrees or hotter. Also please remember to have at least 2 changes of clothes for your child; we will be taking part in lots of water play and they will need to have spare clothes or they will miss out.

As we approach the end of the year a lot of the Possums are getting ready to move into the Busy Bees room and we are focusing strongly on the children's ability to identify their own name and are beginning to trace/write them. They have also been practicing their cutting skills and working on their ability to identify numbers 1-10 and letters and their sounds. Don't forget that when your child does go into the Busy Bees room they will not be able to have their lunch heated. It would be a great idea to get your child use to the lunches they will be enjoying next year such as sandwiches, wraps or salads now as it will make the change a lot easier for them next year.

### **Busy Bees**

The Busy Bees have been working hard as we approach the end of the year. We have been looking at skills that children need to have to be school ready. Miss Maree has worked extremely hard in creating a new school readiness program that allows each child to continue to develop existing skills as well as learn new skills which will help prepare for school.

It is very important for the children that are attending school next year are confident in self- help skills. These skills include:

- Placing own shoes on and off
- Placing belongings in own bag
- Opening and closing own lunch box and containers
- Dress themselves (this includes taking jackets on and off)
- Becoming responsible for their own belongings

**2 Early Childhood week entries:** All three of our entries made the list of finalists. Unfortunately, none of them won an award but making the finals was a significant achievement.

**3 Assessment and Rating - Feedback - Changes what this means we have attained**  
Following the submission of further evidence our rating has been finalised and

we have been rated as **EXCEEDING THE NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS**. Thank you to the work of our staff in their care for your child.

4 Following discussions with families it was decided not to proceed with any purchase of food for the centre. Families will continue to pack their child's meals for day. A reminder that all families are to bring a piece of fruit for the fruit bowl every day.



5 As daylight saving is now in force attention needs to be given to sun safety. Please ensure your child has a hat and closed in shoes, no thongs. Children must have clothing that covers the shoulders so no singlet tops or shoe string straps.

6 The soccer totties program is operating on Tuesday mornings and is going well. We envisage that this will continue in 2019. Any parent input on whether to continue would be appreciated. In previous years we have had computer gym as an additional activity, it was not seen as valuable at the time, and we would like parent input on whether to proceed.

7 All busy Bees that will be attending school in 2019 have been enrolled in the ELLA program that teaches some words and phrases in another language. This year the focus language is Mandarin. In the past we have done Arabic. Suggestions for next year included French, Spanish and Italian. A decision will be made for next year on one of these languages

8 At every new immunisation, parents are required to provide an updated printout of their child's immunisation record. Outstanding immunisations are being given as a message in the QK Kiosk sign in system as a reminder.

9 The staffing for the rooms in 2019 will be decided after the Busy Bees graduation and will be displayed in the foyer and reported in the newsletter. As staff received a pay increase in the second half of this year and in response to increased costs the fees will increase by \$5 per day in every room. At the moment the monthly shows that attract a fee are charged at \$10 in the month they occur. It is proposed to add \$1.60 to everyone's weekly fee to cover the shows with any surplus being applied to the fees at the conclusion of each year or on termination of enrolment. The enrolments for 2019 are now being finalised. Anyone wanting a change needs to see John ASAP as the enrolments are currently at 96% for 2019, leaving little room for changes. The idea of the extra weekly to cover the shows was considered a good idea by most parents.

10 The QIP for 2019 is currently being written. Input from parents on any of the quality areas would be appreciated. Currently the QIP is displayed on the Possum room window and advice on the location for 2019 is sought. The Possum's window was still considered the best viewing place. Some suggestions for inclusion in the QIP were:

- A 'homework' style sheet for parents to take home to use with their child. It would contain the activities taking place in the room.
- An information evening similar to the transition to school evening was suggested for the 0-3 year olds. This would have some professional input from speech pathologists, developmental psychologists, health care professionals with a focus on knowing the development of your child and the resources available should you need them.
- A continuation of the dental program
- A school readiness evening for the children attending school in 2 years not the next year. This would enable parents to be aware of the requirements to be school ready.
- A art show was suggested as fund raising to reduce the volume of cup cakes that need to be sold, typically over 1000, to raise money for our supported charities. The children would spend half the year preparing 2 items for the show. Parents could then purchase and there would be cupcakes and other fund raising available. Most people felt a Friday night from about 6:45pm would be a good time.
- A refit of the rear outdoor area was suggested with rubber base all the way to the doors.
- A pen pal scheme linking to another centre possibly rural for the ready to school children.
- An evening with the staff discussion the management of behaviour and making links with the parents, providing advice based in research.