

JUMPSTART 4 KIDS PARENT FORUM Minutes



WEDNESDAY 25th February 2009

Commenced 6.00 – 6.45 pm concluded

Present: Katherine Checuti, Kieran Spoelder, Mrs. Batish & Riya, Kelly Hardy, Maree and John Ley. **Apologies:** Mrs. Kerrie Cully

AGENDA ITEMS:

Parent Forums will be held every two months and will be on a Wednesday evening between 6.0 – 7.00pm for 2009. Next meeting 29th April

Accreditation Process: Over the last few weeks we have been actively asking parents to complete our surveys. We are keen to have a good range of comments from parents so that we can continuously improve our centre for the benefit of the children. All parents present responded positively to the survey placing most if not all area in the good to high quality. It has been noted that some of the surveyed questions are aspects that parents have not witnessed such as chemical handling and some parents have noted that and have felt that they would have assumed that these areas were addressed, but they have not witnessed these.

Surveys Responses:

Centre is required to have at least 40 % of the parents to return surveys. Staff are also required to complete surveys.

- Self study Report 20%
- Surveys 10%
- Visit 50 %
- Staff 20%
- Date 10th March – 20th April – 2 day visit.

Room formats for each room

The format for each room was provided to parents at the meeting. All parents viewed daily routines for each room. Discussion about room format and explanations were extended to families. Parents were invited to view the weekly programs that are displayed in each room. Staff spend a great deal of time observing children and developing their weekly programs so that they are reflective of a particular theme and also a means so that they can expand on the interests of the children. Parents are invited to view and make comments to room staff in relation to the weekly programming. All staff are welcoming of parental feedback.

Fundraising committee representative volunteer – what this will consist of

All families provide with a calendar of scheduled events for 2009. We are actively looking for volunteers for 2009. Mrs. Checuti, Mrs. Cully and Miss Spoelder have kindly offered to donate their time to assist with fund raising activities for 2009 and supporting staff with craft needs.

Mrs. Checuti has volunteered to organise the Ryan's toy fundraiser on the 14th October.

\$10.00 Family portraits are also to be booked – Maree

Purchase Focus for 2009 – Outdoor Equipment

All fundraising for 2009 will have the vast majority of funds allocated to our outdoor program.

Unfortunately we did purchase a large number of resources for our outdoor play, but though theft recently we are again limited in this area. We hope that we can turn this around with our upcoming Easter Raffle.

Educational Experiences for children for 2009

All parents were provided with a yearly calendar or schedules events for 2009.

Portfolios will be given out **three times across the year. End of April, End of August and mid December.** We are encouraging families to place items into their child's portfolio when they are taken home. Parents / families are able to place photos and comments into their child's portfolio at this time. We have organised a number of activities for the children for 2009. Our first is a puppet show on the 25th March. The cost of these activities are around \$450 - \$500, so we are subsidising the total costs so that families are only paying a small cost. With this in mind we need all families to make their contributions.

We have organised a musical performance for May and a Backyard Bug show for September. If parents / Families come across any ideas/ craft ideas / resources that they think may be useful for the centre we are really keen to hear about them. Please speak with staff and share your ideas. They are always very welcomed.

Throughout March all rooms will be completing a program designed through the NSW Ambulance service that identifies the importance of 000 and outlines community services such as Fire. Police Ambulance, We will then be contacting the Ambulance to visit the centre.

Parent involvement for 2009

Many of our families come from a diverse cultural background. We are keen to celebrate and share these experiences. We would love to hear about cultural festivals and dress. Miss Kelly offered parents the opportunity to speak with the children during particular interest / theme over 2009.

General Business:

Computer Gym- for children in the Busy Bees Room.

This is independent and all payments are through Computer Gym.

Cost is \$11.00 per session. We will require at least 4 -5 children to commence the program.

Parents are keen to initiate this for children and feel that the cost is reasonable. Children all learn on laptops that are provided. Good start to school computer use.

Theme Boxes: Miss Kelly extended to parents that all staff are keen to develop resource boxes –

- Hairdressing theme
- Shops Theme
- Building / Construction Theme
- Dress up items
- Picnic baskets / Outdoor play

Families to donate items so that the children can use as active play. Often these are items that families may donate to charities or items that you no longer have used for. We are also in need of large decorative boxes.

We would love to have more families represented at our Parent Forum. If families have an item that they would like to raise , but they are unable to attend please write your concern down or discuss with a staff member and we will have the item addressed and we will record the conversation in the minutes for you.

Close: 6.45 pm