

Newsletter

A Note from Nerrilee

A warm welcome to all our new families. I hope you are all settling in comfortably and are starting to feel part of the Adventures family.

For those of you who may be concerned that your child is crying when you leave please remember that even as adults we may feel uneasy about starting a new job, moving to a new house or starting a new course.

Your child will also feel some of these emotions when first starting at a new preschool. If your child appears to be upset when you leave please be assured that some separation anxiety is quite normal typically decreasing throughout early childhood and as they become familiar with the children and staff in their rooms.

More often than not children are most upset at your departure rather than being at preschool and usually settle into an activity fairly quickly after you have gone. To help you cope with leaving your child upset in the morning we encourage you to call throughout the day to ask the staff if/how your child has settled. I have also included a few tips to help your child cope with their separation from you and their transition to Adventures.

We will be hosting a Parent Information Evening on Tuesday 28 February and encourage both "old" and new families to come along. The evening will provide an opportunity for you to meet your children's teachers and other Adventures parents. More information will be provided closer to the date.

In the meantime if you have any questions you would like us to cover please email them to Jess at admin@adventurespreschool.com.au.

SEPARATION ANXIETY

Extract from Centre for Emotional Health
www.emotionalhealthclinic.com.au

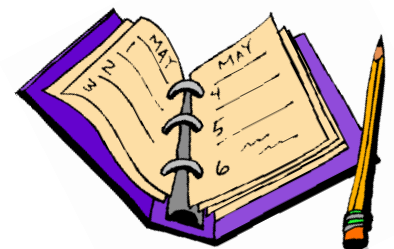
- Tell your child when you are leaving and when you will be back. (Some parents feel it will be easier to just sneak out the back when the child is settled. This usually makes it more difficult in the future.)
- Make the goodbye brief and don't be tempted to drag it out.
- When the child becomes distressed on separation briefly remind them of when you will return.
- Settle your child in with a staff member and/or an enjoyable activity before leaving.
- Allow your child to take a loved object from home with them. These can be gradually phased out as the child becomes more confident.
- Try to keep a relaxed/happy expression on your face.

Belonging

Experiencing *belonging*- knowing where and with whom you belong- is integral to human existence. Children belong first to a family, a cultural group, a neighbourhood and a wider community. *Belonging* acknowledges children's interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities. In early childhood, and throughout life, relationships are crucial to a sense of *belonging*. *Belonging* is central to *being* and *becoming* in that it shapes who children are and who they can become.

Dates for the Diary

23/1/12	Chinese New Year
26/1/12	Australia Day- Centre Closed
14/2/12	Valentines Day
21/2/12	Pancake Day
28/2/12	Parent Information Evening
13/3/12	School Photos- starts at 9.30
14/3/12	School Photos- starts at 9.30
17/3/12	St Patrick's Day
6/4/12	Good Friday- Centre Closed
9/4/12	Easter Monday- Centre Closed
4/5/12	Mothers Day Evening



ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE POLICY

Overview

Our centre has an obligation to ensure **children are signed in and out each day** and that children are only released to authorised persons.

Policy

- Staff must follow centre procedures when children are left at the centre and when they are departing.
- Staff must maintain a duty of care to the child and refuse collection of a child by an unauthorized person or someone deemed to be adversely affected by alcohol or drugs.
- Children are not to be left at the centre before 7.30am. Staff are unable to accept responsibility for children until this time.
- Parents are to provide the details of persons authorised to collect their child. Parents are to notify the centre if this information changes.
- Any changes to normal collection arrangements must be advised in advance.
- Staff will not release children to any person under the age of 16.
- Staff will request photo identification if the authorised person is unknown to staff.
- Late fees will be charged to parents who arrive after 6.00pm. These charges will be billed to the monthly account.
- If a child has not been collected by 6.15pm and parents or other authorised persons are unable to be contacted Police will be notified.
- At the end of each day all beds and all areas of the premises (whether indoors or outdoors) are thoroughly checked by at least 2 members of the primary contact staff to ensure that no child remains on the premises after the service closes for the day.

Procedures

Arrival

1. At the child's time of arrival after the centre's opening time, the parent or other authorised person brings the child to the centre and signs the child in on attendance record in the foyer.
2. Parent puts child's bag in locker and escorts the child to the morning activity area.
3. Child is greeted warmly by staff, and any special instructions for the day are received by staff.
4. Child says goodbye to the parent and is reassured by staff member.

Departure

1. Child is collected by parent or other authorised person. Staff members are to check authorisation of non-parent by means of enrolment form or after seeking verbal permission from parent and are then to check identification of non-parent.
2. If a person is authorised, the child may be released. If a person is not authorised, staff members should take whatever reasonable measures they can to keep the child at the centre and notify the custodial parent of the situation. However at no time should staff members endanger themselves or other children at the centre.
3. Parent or other authorised person signs child out on Sign In/Out Sheets.
4. Parent or other authorised person is responsible for the child as soon as the child leaves the front door of the centre.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jen, John and Enzo on the birth of their beautiful baby boy Ethan.

Nicole, Patrick and Finn on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Evie.

Bree, Danny and Maddison on the birth of their beautiful baby boy Axel.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Janine for completing her **Diploma in Children's Services**.
- Kristen for completing her **Certificate III in Children's Services** and her Adventures Traineeship.

WHO IS STUDYING WHAT IN 2012??

Certificate III Children's Service (TAFE)

Eden, Sofia and Lauren

Diploma Children's Service (TAFE)

Billie and Kayla

Early Childhood Teaching (Charles Sturt Uni)

Jess, Kate & Rochelle

Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Macquarie Uni)

Nerrilee

Discoverers Room News

Welcome all our new Discoverers and our returning Discoverers for 2012!

The Discoverers are slowly but surely settling into their new environment, new routines, and the new faces of their peers and educators.

During these first few weeks we have been getting to know one another by discovering the children's different characteristics, interests and family routines. This is evident through the children feeling accepted, developing attachments and trusting us as educators.

Our program will begin the week commencing the 30th January, with a theme base, which is compiled from the children's interest and development that has been observed over each week. We will start with 'Getting to know you and your family'.

We will be starting our morning group times where we read stories, sing songs (based on the program theme) and look at and discuss pictures of the children and their families, and where they live.

A friendly reminder:

- If you would like your child to participate and to be involved in the group time discussions or activities please feel free to bring in something from home to follow the theme from the program. The program is sent to you by email each week so check it out to know what to bring in.
- For the first theme please bring in a family photo, for our family mural we will put up on the wall over the coming weeks and any other photos like your house, backyard etc. The extra photos will be put into an album for group time discussion.
- Please remember to put your child's name on all items brought into the centre, especially bottles, bottle lids, dummies, clothes and hats.
- Please bring in nappy rash cream which needs to be kept on the premises, with your child's name on it.

Megan, Jess, Rochelle, Eden and Sofia

Explorers Room News

Welcome back to all our new and existing Explorers parents and children! The Explorers have had a busy start to the year familiarising themselves with their new environment and rekindling friendships formed throughout last year. At the moment, our main focus as teachers is settling the children in and allowing them to find their place as an Explorer. It has been a positive experience seeing the children settle into the new year so well and bond with their educators.

January is a busy month with many celebrations including Australia Day and Chinese New Year. We have begun to work on our craft for both of these traditions and will be discussing with the children and reading stories during group times about these celebrations.

The Explorers have also begun making our Belonging Tree, which will be created from green handprints for the leaves and brown finger painting for the trunk and branches. To contribute to our Belonging Tree, we ask you to bring in a family photo to be displayed. Displaying family photos allows the children to make a strong connection between home and school and to feel more secure in this environment.

A Reminder: Please label EVERYTHING your child brings into care including socks, shoes and underwear! And please remember to bring in your child's sheets!

We are looking forward to a great year, working with you and your children!

Kayla, Laura and Lauren



Investigators

Welcome Back! We are looking forward to spending quality time with you and your children over the next year.

We have settled quickly into our new routine and the children have been taking time to catch up with their old friends. We welcome Dylan to Adventures and the Investigators. The children have displayed a caring nature towards all the new children in the room and we are sure they are all starting to feel very comfortable in their new preschool.

Our small group of 10 Investigators each day allows more one on one time with each child. It also allows the children to engage in meaningful play which will extend their conversations and relationships.

We will soon be commencing our new 'Work Books'. This is a structured activity which allows the teachers to see the progress of each child and for the child to display their emerging skills. Some of the skills will be colours, numbers, shapes, name recognition, pencil grip and cutting.

To see your child's work book please feel free to ask Kate, Kylie or Billie.

Just a note on toilet training; please ensure your child has elastic waisted pants on (rather than buckles, buttons and belts) and encourage your child to pull their own pants down and up. Of course we will assist your child when toileting but by encouraging them at home and at school we are able to facilitate and encourage their self help skills, build on their confidence and minimise accidents.

Please feel free to contact Kate, Kylie or Billie if you have any queries or concerns...



High Flyers Room News

Welcome back to all our wonderful High Flyer children!

We have had an amazing and very positive start to the year with all the children arriving happy and eager to return and/or start their High Flyer year. At the moment, we are working on the children settling into the daily rhythm of the day. Please don't worry if your child is still finding it hard to say goodbye to you in the morning. The staff are experienced with children reacting differently and have open arms and hugs for additional cuddles whenever they are needed throughout the day.

January is a time where we are observing the children and getting to know your child's likes and dislikes, strengths and goals. All the staff have focus children and we will be focusing on their interests, working on literacy, numeracy, motor and social skills to begin to prepare your child for school. Any time you want to discuss your child's development or a particular goal for your child, please discuss this with your child's focus teacher. There is a list in the room showing you which teacher is focusing specifically on your child.

The older High Flyers have been encouraged to act as role models for the Investigators. Each morning the children are supported by you when they sign in and we are able to assess how the children's writing is developing.

Munch and Move has started again and we are exercising early in the day. Ball skills, gross motor and structured games are just the start of Munch and Move and the High Flyers really enjoy the social interactions and physical activity!

In January friendships were rekindled and new friends were made. Children have been admiring their birthday flowers and finding who else shares their month and where their friends are. They have enjoyed telling us what they did in the holidays and what they do on the weekend.

The 23rd of January was the start of Chinese New Year. Janine worked with the children making Won Tons for our Short and Long soup. We made lanterns using our fine motor skills and attempted writing the Chinese Cantonese numbers 1-10. The 26th of January was Australia Day and we commenced craft and discussions on Indigenous Australia. Children were showing respect when they coloured their Australian flags. We read books about Australia, in particular a book titled "Sing" which was about the Australian Anthem.

We made Anzac slice, it was delicious! For lunch we ate Sausages and Pavlova. The highlight of the week was getting our Australian flag tattoos. Hope you all had a wonderful day celebrating our amazing country.

We welcome all of our families into the preschool room and would love visitors during the year. You might enjoy reading/ telling a story, talking about your job, cooking, creating collage, craft or just staying to a play with your child and their friends.

Diana, Janine, Mary