

Newsletter

A Note from Nerrilee

We are fortunate to have such a committed and enthusiastic team of staff working at Adventures. Kate, Rochelle and Jess are all working hard to achieve their teaching degrees and we wish them all the best. Jess and Kate are very close to completion and it is a credit that they have managed their studies while continuing to be so committed to their work.

Kayla and Billie are achieving fantastic results in their Diploma studies and Janine recently completed her Diploma with an overall Distinction.

Adventures is most definitely an active learning environment for both children and staff and our trainees are fortunate to have wonderful role models to learn from as they start their careers.

I was fortunate to have attended a seminar at West Pennant Hills Public School last term presented by Brett Murray. Brett was truly inspirational and gave some incredibly practical advice about raising children and parenting. While my own children are both now in primary school my parenting style is always adapting to every age and stage that the children are working through. While I haven't yet had a chance to listen to the five CDs I purchased after Brett's seminar I would like to make them available for you to borrow if you are interested in listening to them perhaps while sitting in that awful peak hour traffic.

I can also offer an additional resource by Dr Louise Porter; Guiding Children's Behaviour. I came across this resource during a recent university lecture and thought it also had some great advice for effectively managing young children's behaviour using a guidance approach rather than a reward versus punishment approach.

ADVENTURES' QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Adventures' Quality Improvement Plan is prepared as part of the accreditation cycle. An important step is your involvement in regards to the seven quality areas.

On the foyer notice board we are asking for suggestions for improvement

"We want to know what you are thinking!"

Some staff members and parents have already contributed their ideas using the post-it notes provided.

Please feel free to give your contribution too. Each quality area is outlined to give you some guidance about the areas we are assessing. It could be as simple as telling us what you think works well or something minor that you see needs improvement.

If you would like to talk to someone about this process please feel free to talk to Jess.

Being

Childhood is a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world. 'Being' recognises the significance of the here and now in children's lives. It is about the present and knowing themselves, building and maintaining relationships with others, engaging with life's joys and complexities, and meeting challenges in everyday life. The early childhood years are not solely preparation for the future but also about the present.

Dates for the Diary

- 1st May- World Asthma Day**
- 4th May- Starlight Children's Foundation**
- 13th May- Mothers Day**
- 20th June- World Refugee Day**
- 24th June- Red Nose Day**
- 1st-8th July- NAIDOC Week**





PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Overview

Adventures welcomes and encourages parental involvement in the operation of the centre and the overall care of their children while participating in centre activities.

Parents are provided with both informal and formal methods of contributing their ideas and suggestions to the centre's program, policies and management.

Policy

Adventures has an Open Door policy where parents are welcome to discuss any aspect of their child's care at any time convenient to them. Staff are always available to discuss day to day details about a child's care and will be happy to make appointments for more lengthy consultations about the development, specific needs and goals of individual children.

Parents are encouraged to attend for any period of time throughout the day to participate in their child's activities and the general operation of the centre.

Guidelines

Meaningful communication between staff, parents and children is an essential component of the successful day to day operation of a child care centre. For effective communication to be established and maintained Adventures will provide opportunities for both formal meetings and informal discussions.

- Parents need to feel welcome at the centre at all times.
- Parents need to be nurtured to feel their involvement is valued.
- Staff need to respect the differing extents to which parents want, and are able to, be involved in the centre.

Procedures

Staff members should make every effort to communicate with every parent, every day. For parents who are difficult to talk to due to shifts, etc then alternative communication should be used e.g.: a phone call at work if appropriate, a short email or a written note in the child's information pocket.

Parents will be provided with formal and informal opportunities to be involved in the operation of the centre including:

- Parent breakfasts, morning teas and lunches
- Children's concerts and family fun days
- Donations of resources for craft (e.g.: cardboard boxes, scrap paper, egg cartons, cards, etc)
- Information and education nights
- Child information and parent expectation sheets
- Daily informal conversations with staff to share information about home and the centre
- Daily written information and photos, provided by staff, outlining their child's day via communication books and email
- Regular newsletter contributions
- Regular evaluation, feedback and input into centre policies
- A formal orientation process upon enrolment including a Parent Handbook
- Access to policy information and the National Regulations 2011
- Participation in the Quality Improvement process to evaluate and improve the centre's services.
- Encourage non-enrolled sibling involvement in activities (under parent supervision)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Hannah, Geoff and Jordan on the birth of their beautiful baby boy Daniel.

Lyndal, Justin, Benjamin and Sam on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Abigail.

Rebecca, Peter and Isabel on the birth of their beautiful baby boy Sebastian.

Christine, Glen and Zac on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Mia.

Julianne, Mike and Jimmy on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Abigail.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jessica Moriarty, on the acceptance of her traineeship. She will be replacing Eden in the Discoverers Room. Please make her feel welcome.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK TO:

Goodbye to Eden who has just finished up with us to embark on a new adventure in the UK.

Good luck to Megan who is getting married this month, we hope your day is filled with treasured memories.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH!

Apple and Raspberry Cake

Makes 3 Loaf Tins

Ingredients

1kg Self Raising Flour
500g Brown Sugar
350g Butter (melted)
800g Pie Apple
2x 475g Raspberries
5 Eggs
500mls Milk

Method

1. Preheat oven to 175degrees
2. Mix all dry ingredients
3. Add wet ingredients, add raspberries last
4. Bake for 40 minutes

NB: can substitute plain wholemeal flour; just add 5tsp Baking Powder.

Received by: Adventures Family

SUPERVISION AND SAFETY

Staff have asked me to remind you about a couple of issues making supervision difficult during morning and afternoon arrivals and collections.

Supervising visiting siblings

Siblings are always welcome and encouraged to spend time playing with their brothers and sisters in the afternoons however please be mindful that Adventures' staff are only able to supervise children enrolled in the centre.

If you are not actively supervising your children, the staff members' attention is diverted and younger children are not able to be adequately supervised.

Centre security and safety

Please remember to close internal and external gates and doors behind you.

Throughout the day we keep the door outside the kitchen closed and locked on the outside.

Please close this door behind you when you go outside to keep inquisitive toddlers from accessing the stairs.

Re-enter the building through the Explorer's Room.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Discoverers Room News

The Discoverers Room sadly said goodbye to Eden as she plans to go overseas to work as a nanny! Everyone will miss her, but surely she will keep in touch. We now have a new trainee, Jessica. We welcome her into our room, as she settles in and begins to get to know the babies, parents and staff! Please feel free to introduce yourselves.

Principles (Partnerships): Getting to know staff and begin relationships with families, children and staff.

Over the past few months we have all got to know each child individually and are happily carrying through our daily routines.

Having the children continually participating in our group time has shown that the Discoverers love following actions to music and songs as well as watching our felt board stories. Everyone has become familiar with the felt board stories we tell, and now mimic and practice the actions to respond to and sounds they hear and what they see educators doing.

We were lucky enough to receive our beautiful 'Merry Go Round' soft equipment! The children have loved having the option to climb over the equipment every day. We now have a number of new walkers and it has been fantastic to watch them develop their gross motor skills on the soft equipment. This soft equipment set enables the children to practice their balancing abilities and even enhancing their social interactions with their friends.

L/O 2.1.11- Children are playful and respond positively to others, reaching out for company and friendship and L/O 3.2- Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing.

We got our new kitchen for Home Corner. The children have loved playing with all the pots and pans pretending to cook food and making cups of tea.

L/O 1.3.2- Exploring different identities in dramatic play

Whats ahead:

- Mothers Day! We will be making a mothers day gift from the Discoverers
- As we have birthdays during the year, please feel free to bring in a small cake or cupcakes to celebrate. We can sing Happy Birthday and it's a great way for the children to feel and develop a sense of belonging as well as beginning to feel recognised and respected for who they are. (L/O 1.3.1) the children feel like they have a right to belong to the group. (L/O 1.1.1)
- In July we will be celebrating our Aboriginal Heritage! We will do some arts activities, telling stories and using puppets. This will enhance and bring understanding for the children to connect with and contribute to their world. (L/O 2)

Megan, Sofia, Jess, Lauren and Jessica. M



Explorers Room News

What a busy few months we have had in the Explorer's room. We have welcomed some new children into the room over the last few months and a new staff member Amber who will be working in our room 5 days. In March we celebrated St. Patrick's Day, the children created Shamrocks and Laura taught us some basic Irish dance moves! Also in March we had a visit from the Fire Brigade which sparked an interest in learning about rescue teams. The children learnt about emergencies and what steps they need to take when faced with an emergency! We have been focussing on our colours during these beginning months of the year and the children have displayed great progress in learning about both primary and secondary colours. We celebrated Easter in April decorating some beautiful egg shapes using our chubby markers.

We will be adding a Family Thoughts board to our room where we will encourage families to add their thoughts about ideas for the program, their children's interest at home and what may have happened over the weekend! Each week there will be a new question to encourage each family to add their thoughts to so that they are having an input into what their children are learning and the experiences provided for the children are connected to home! We are looking forward to the coming months celebrating Mother's Day and in July NAIDOC week!

Kayla, Laura and Amber



Investigators

What a busy few months we've had! The Investigators are such enthusiastic participants in all cooking experiences. We have made our very own pizzas, fruit kebabs, banana cake, pear and apple cake, plum and pear cake and Anzac Slice for Anzac Day. These experiences enable the children to develop their mathematical concepts with measurement, language and social skills when communicating the process.

The Investigators have had some exciting visits from Bruce (Jade's dad). He brought in his fire truck and showed the children a range of picture cards. These cards described fire dangers where we had to identify safe and unsafe situations. Bruce also reinforced the number that we call in an emergency '000.' The Investigators had the opportunity to turn on the fire hose with assistance from the fire brigade. We were lucky enough to have a tour inside the truck. We also learnt about the different tools that are stored in the truck for emergencies.

Mr Murphy the puppet man came in and did a show for the High Flyers and Investigators. He entertained the children with his fantastic and funny puppets. This inspired the children to create their own frog puppets.

Frankie the lizard made a visit to our room. The children were amazed to discover that she ate the same foods as us like, corn, apples, pear, blueberries and rocket; but she seemed to favour the meal worms. The children felt the texture of Frankie's skin and discovered her spikes are actually soft! As a group we gave Frankie a bath outside and discussed some facts about Lizards.

A big thanks to Vanessa (Angelina's mum) who brought in their two gorgeous Green Tree Frogs. The children had a blast holding them and watching them eat up the crickets. Some frogs even jumped onto our clothes and our heads! This led us to watch Tadpoles grow into frogs in our room, thank you Sharon for bringing the frogs in. After a few days the Tadpoles turned into frogs and we had to say goodbye to them as they were heading back to the pond.

Rochelle has introduced her new frog puppet called Franklin. The children have responded well and loved having Franklin to join in with group times and meal times through the day. Franklin has been a good addition to the frog project.

The Investigators have been working hard with number recognition, shapes and writing our names. The children have started number games where they roll the dice to see the number that is shown. The children can also count the dots to see what number is shown. Pattern cards have enabled the children to practice recalling the shapes names as well as working out how shapes fit in sequence. Recognition of our names is shown through signing on each morning. Please remember to take the time to sit with your child to sign in. The children have loved finding their name on the board.

Jethro brought some grass in that had grown from a seed. This sparked numerous conversations about how he made it. Billie brought in some Snow Peas for the children to plant, feed and look after. Billie brought in Jack and the Beanstalk to read to the children. The Investigators drew their interpretations of the beanstalk which will be put on display outside.

To all the mothers, have a wonderful Mothers Day!

Rochelle, Kylie and Billie

High Flyers Room News

It's May already, the last few months have flown by and the High Flyers have shown interest in a variety of things. The animal visits have been popular and the children loved meeting the family pets, we had Emily's dog Zulu, Cooper's dogs Max and Oushy, Summer's dog Tinkerbelle, Lachlan's dog Toby, Janine's dog Max, Billie's Bearded Lizard Frankie, Angelina's frogs and Baba (Billie's mum) brought in one of our chickens from last year .

Some of our projects were also on animals; children developed new and previous knowledge and showed respect to the animals. They were able to add words to their vocabulary as they learnt about the life cycle of the monarch butterflies. How they live in a cocoon/ chrysalis/ and it goes through metamorphosis.

The next animal the children focused on was Frogs; they watched the tadpoles grow into frogs and saw their legs grow and tail shrink.

Our long-term project has been our hermit crabs. The children know that they need water every day and will help to fulfill their needs.

As educators, we are continually observing their interests and looking after their needs, as we do everything in the best interest of the child. Earlier this year, children were into guns and fighting and we talked about how we should use our words and that guns don't solve everything. The police men (Emily and Samuel's dads and their co-workers) also reinforced this when they came for a visit and talked about our own safety and what to do in an emergency. The fire fighters (Jade's dad and co-workers) also came for a visit and told us how to keep ourselves safe from fire.

The High Flyers were also delighted when Taylor's mum came in and made Easter baskets with us. Kylie brought in fillers for the baskets and the children made decisions on what they wanted, sharing the variety of the gifts.

The children thoroughly enjoy these visits and we always encourage partnerships with families as it teaches the children how we value each other's knowledge.

The High Flyers and Investigators have been working very hard using their fine motor skills to thread bracelets for Mothers Day gifts and using the fine brushes to paint their cards!

The High Flyers have been developing and working on their relationships with educators and peers. They have been encouraged to use their words and are learning to tell others how they feel. They have been supported to work collaboratively and we all do this every day. They enjoy doing art together, building together and playing in the home corner, reading and socio dramatic play - families, Donkey Kong and recalling and re-enacting stories and songs such as 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'.

Munch and Move has also been a very central part of the program and children have enjoyed learning new games and experiences however, we recognise that they still need to practice the fundamental skills such as hopping, skipping, balancing, kicking, catching and throwing so we have been working on these. They love to play balloon games and have enjoyed limbo. When it rains we make up games inside such as ribbon dancing, catching and throwing bean bags and bob down games which they also enjoy during music.

One of their favorite games during music is 'Kangaroo Skippy Roo'.

This game is fantastic as it gives them the challenge of listening to other voices and guessing without looking, they take turns and they also sing. Almost all of them can recall the song without any assistance, we are so proud of them.

In relation to munching... we have been making lots of food, incorporating fruit into our cakes, we also made Pizza and Anzac Slice with Janine and Billie. We will continue to cook throughout the year as it is a great learning experience where children discuss, measure and help one another to complete a task.

The High Flyers' numeracy and literacy time gives children an opportunity to practice and learn. They listen, recall and retell stories, act them out, learn and recognise rhyming words. They work on categorising, sorting, numbers, counting, adding and subtracting through games, such as dice games. Lately we have been working with opposites cards as we realised the children are still learning how to identify and describe opposites.

They show their knowledge in play inside and outside such as the Dr Play, home corner, construction and technology. Their workbooks have been giving the children the opportunity develop their cognitive skills but to also give them an idea of what to expect at school. They have been doing so well!

Diana, Janine and Mary

