

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you goes once again to our wonderful families for your continued support in participating in our children's program and for your wonderful donations. Thank you Kate Barrass, Yvonne Gatt and mum (Angelina's nan) and Tracey Brown. Also to Claudia Winders for sharing your culture with our children. Thank you so much!!

We encourage all of our parents and families to feel ownership in our centre and welcome you all to participate in all aspects of our centre's life. Every level of participation is appreciated and highly respected.

HOW CAN FAMILIES GET INVOLVED

We always appreciate feedback from our parents – positive or negative so please feel free to talk to us at any time. We appreciate what a valuable resource you are to us. If you wish to have any input into the program or the daily running of your child's room, please talk to the staff member in charge of your room. The weekly program is on display in each room for your perusal. The staff concerned would greatly appreciate any feedback.

ACCREDITATION

Our Self-study Report and Continuing Improvement has been submitted to National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC).

NCAC has acknowledged receipt of our Self-Study Report and a Validator has been appointed to visit our service to validate our practices over two days which will take place the last week in August.

DENTAL HEALTH

Little Grinners, trained dental professionals attended our kindy to talk to our children about dental awareness, the importance of taking care of our teeth, the correct brushing and good food and tooth decay.

The main cause of tooth decay is an acid attack on the surfaces of the teeth. This acid is produced by bacteria which cling to the surface of the teeth in a strong invisible film called dental plaque. Sweet sticky sugary foods encourage plaque to make acid which causes tooth decay and bleeding gums. To facilitate and promote oral/dental hygiene amongst children and families, staff of Buzy Bee Kindy

follow our Dental Policy and will plan, implement and evaluate an educational program on dental health by:

*Providing experiences which reinforce the benefits of good dental care procedures (eg drinking water every day, avoiding sugary foods and sweet drinks, consuming foods that require chewing, brushing at least twice a day at home, and visiting the dentist regularly)

*Inviting health professionals to speak with children/families

*Making available up to date dental information to families through newsletters, pamphlets and displayed poster

*Establishing and maintaining the routine at Kindy of “swish and swallow” (ie rinsing mouth with water) following food consumption.

CAN I BOOK MY CHILD IN FOR EXTRA DAYS?

The centre is bound by regulations as to how many children of each age group it can take at any one time. Therefore, unless a room has a permanent vacancy on a particular day, spare places only occur when children are absent because they are sick or on holidays. When this happens, the centre can take a replacement of the same age group. While the centre is often aware of planned holidays, places available from other children being sick are often not known until the day so it is always worth a quick call to enquire if in need.

Buzy Bee Kindy does not offer occasional care, and all extra days are at an additional cost to regularly booked days. We do not ‘swap’ children from their regularly booked days onto spare days, they can only be taken an ‘extra’,

unless you wish to change your permanent booking.

FAREWELL

We wish to say farewell to Jessica our cook and thank her for the time she has spent at our kindy preparing daily meals for our children and accommodating our children’s nutritional needs.

We welcome Jenny our new cook who is a qualified chef and has many years of experience including running her own restaurant. We hope Jenny has a wonderful time at our kindy.

We also say welcome to Angela who is a familiar face to most of our families and children who will be working part time mostly in the Buzzie Bee room.

WHAT WILL CHILDREN EAT AT KINDY

We supply all food for children, including breakfast, morning and afternoon snacks. All food is prepared on the premises and we encourage the children to eat a healthy well-balanced meal at lunchtime. If a child refuses lunch alternative meal will be offered, if this is also refused than a savory dessert, eg. yogurt or a piece of fruit will be offered. The monthly menu is on display outside the kitchen and in the preschool locker room. If your child has specific dietary requirements we will accommodate them, so please remember to keep us updated with our child’s requirements.

As all food is supplied, no food or drink is to be brought onto the premises by children and their families. This is to prevent liability in the case of food contamination. Most important it

prevents other children with possible food allergies managing to find and consume your child's snacks. Please ensure all food is consumed before entering the centre.

Meals are prepared daily using all fresh produce. Fresh fruit is on the menu daily for afternoon tea.

If you have any suggestions with regards to menu plans, please feel free to write in the suggestion sheet located outside the kitchen.

PARKING

Please note that we have had some comments coming from concerned parents about our centre's parking area. For our children's safety we are asking our families to please park on the road. When leaving kindly please ensure you hold your child's hand at all times.

We support and promote safe arrivals and departures as well as road safety using our traffic lights and our pedestrian crossings. We also refer to our roads safety posters displayed and the Kids and Traffic "Hold My Hand" gate sign on the entrance gate.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Staff show professional judgment in applying new learning in the workplace enriching our children's program and learning.

Sarah and Angela attended "Play" workshop for children aged up to 3 years old. The workshop focused on the importance of learning through play and at the same time helping children develop their language and motor skills. Providing opportunities for extended play based upon individual needs and interests.

Ann, Michael, Cathy, Amanda, Angela and Jenny attended a "Safe Food Handling and Nutrition" workshop covering effective and current food safety and hygiene practices.

NEWS FROM THE BUTTERFLY ROOM

Our centre's philosophy provides an important framework within which our program decisions are made. Children's experiences is flexible to meet our children's individual needs with a variety of opportunities for children to pursue their current interests and develop new ones.

Through Ben's interest in 'Master Chef' we were able to coordinate an experience in 'role play' where the children were actually the 'Chefs'. Within this experience the children discussed healthy/unhealthy food – cut, sliced, chopped, peeled and grated a variety of foods, thus extending their fine motor skills as well as language. The children also had a turn of being 'The Master Chef' server.

The Crazy Hair & Disco Day – was great fun and the children loved it. Miss Kelly did a great job with the face painting whilst Miss Tanya did the crazy hair and Miss Pat made hamburgers with the children. Lunch was self serve and we used the lettuce that we grew in our garden! Dancing and bubbles were the most popular!

Senses – children explored their senses through taste, smell and touch. Most of the children did not recognize the taste of the vinegar. They knew it was sour!! (Their faces were priceless). The children really enjoyed the 'spice collage' pictures.

Our story book - The children have created their own story book about 'Sparkle the Fairy Princess'. Every day the children added something different to the story until it was completely finished. The children were the

'authors and illustrators' more to come – surprise! Children are very proud and happy of their story.

News – We are focusing 'Our News' on 'Family Photos' which means photos of mum, dad etc. This is to link up to 'Our Heritage', if you could please write on the back of photos where your ancestors came from that would be great.

Dental Health Incursion – Miss Cheryl a health care professional came to visit us with her puppet friends. She discussed how important it is to look after our teeth. She also spoke about 'sometime food and food that are good for us. All the children had a turn of brushing the puppets teeth teaching the children the importance of brushing their teeth morning and night. Implementing our 'Dental care policy', at lunch time as we drink our water we encourage children to establish dental care practices that is workable at the centre and are encouraged to 'Slash, sloosh'.

Jack and the Beanstalk – The children thought that it was absolutely wonderful when Nina's mum came and told the story in German. As the children are so familiar with this story, they were able to interpret what was happening. They were focused and listened intently. A big 'Thank you' 'Danke' to Claudia Nina's mum.

Parents if you have any special talent or anything you would like to share with our children, please let us know.

Getting ready for school - Children are now beginning the 'Phonics' – sounds of the alphabet. This will be incorporated into our daily program. The children will also learn how to form the particular sound.

As you may have heard from the children, also as part of school readiness we have introduced

a Merit Award system where all children will be awarded for their efforts. This again is another transition to school encouraging social and learning skills children need for success in school. So far this is operating successfully.

Take care Miss Pat & Miss Kelly

NEWS FROM THE CATERPILLAR ROOM

What an exciting few months we have had in the Caterpillar room and how quickly time is going!

In the Caterpillar room we have been involved in lots of 'messy play' allowing children to enjoy sensory exploration and stimulation, helping to release tension feelings and emotions, to use and refine fine motor skills and hand-eye co ordination. Also to experiment with the consistency of various mediums, to share the enjoyment of the experience with others and to enjoy being free to explore their environment.

As a follow up of messy/exploratory play we have also been participating in experiences involving the senses, encouraging children to further increase the development of their senses – exploring by tasting, hearing, seeing, feeling and smelling. Children develop their cognitive skills through sensory play by observing, experimenting and formulating solutions. Experiences such as sensory bags, taste testing, scented playdough, playdough with rice provides resources that encourage children to represent their thinking.

A topic that we recently focused on was 'camping'. Children's choices was supported to extend and explore their ideas. The children had some excellent ideas of different things we could do whilst camping including "cook potatoes on the fire" (Tim), "listen to the animals"(Libby), "cook marshmallows "

(Charles), “get a torch” Bowyn) and “find scary bears” (Lachie. B)... So that is what we did! We had lots of fun lighting a pretend fire, singing songs around the fire, using torches, cooking marshmallows, going on a bear hunt and also listening to and discussing the different animals we could hear. This experience encourages children to develop an appreciation for nature and the outdoors.

We have also been involved in lots of construction play, encouraging ‘team work’. Construction play enables children to develop and extend math and science concepts, imagination, problem solving skills, physical skills and peer interactions.

Bubbles, bubbles, bubbles ...what fun we have had experimenting with and exploring different types and ways of making bubbles, Blowing bubbles with bubble blowers, blowing bubbles using straws in soapy water and also using the bubble machine!

Due to the children’s interests, the Butterflies and the Caterpillars participated in a ‘Crazy Hair Disco day’. The day involved dressing up, face painting, styling and colouring our hair, dancing, music, playing games, bubbles and lots more! We had a special lunch on this day making our own hamburgers! We picked the lettuce we grew from our vegetable patch and used this amongst other salads to put on our hamburgers. The children had a great day whilst developing their interpersonal relationships and social interactions. The environment was created with many opportunities to support relationships that guide children’s interactions with others in a meaningful way.

NEWS FROM THE BUZZIE BEES

Over the past month in the Buzzie Bee room the children have been busy learning about the theme “under the Sea”. This interest was formed through children’s play and ideas. We used songs, photos, craft, felt board stories and exploration activities to encourage children to learn through play, after all play is the most important part of children’s learning. The children really seemed to enjoy the felt board activity “10 little fish” which encouraged counting and colour recognition as well as extending their interest.

Thank you to those who have provided family photos and special photos to display in our room, the children love referring to them throughout the day. We look forward to displaying more in the coming weeks.

We have been focusing on further encouraging children to make own choices in play and activities encouraging children’s independence and self help skills. Some of children’s favourites have been box construction, flash cards, balloon play and felt board stories. We have been learning some new songs from different cultures as well as some fun and classic ones songs too! I am more than happy to provide you with the words if any parent is interested.

The children who attended the “Little Grinners” (dental awareness) incursion seemed to enjoy it and gained useful learning outcomes encouraging children to self regulate their personal hygiene and dental care practices.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful children and families as well as the whole team at Buzy Bee Kindy for giving me the opportunity to become a finalist in the local

Business Awards. I was over the moon when I found out and it is all thanks to the wonderful support around me. Thank you!!

NEWS FROM THE BABY BEES

We have welcomed several new families in the Baby room. This is always exciting as new friendships develop and new personalities add to the room. Any queries our new families (or our existing families) have please do not hesitate to see me (Miss Sarah)

In the Baby Bee room we have been looking at Australia. This started by looking at the animals and landscape. We moved on to looking at our indigenous culture, through simple stories, songs and art. As Australia is a multicultural society we are now looking at other cultures. If parents could let Miss Sarah know about any word, songs or stories from your culture/background that you would like incorporated into the program.

Motor skills have been focused on with experiences provided for fine and gross motor. Ripping, tearing, bead mazes, hole punches, special grip crayons are all some of the experiences provided to help develop hand and finger strength. Ribbon dancing, bouncing animals, hobby horses and lots of floor play are helping to develop arm and leg strength, balance and co ordination.

Children's interests in trains, boats and animals are continued being looked at. In the coming weeks we will be looking at cooking, baby dolls and Dora.

Thank you to all parents who viewed and left feedback on children's portfolios. All portfolios will be ready at the end of the year to take home.