



# Newsletter

## April - May 2014

Issue 11

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2014

### Dates to Remember:-

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Apr** – Easter Hat Parade

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Apr** – Centre Closed – Good Friday – Public Holiday

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Apr** – Centre Closed – Easter Monday – Public Holiday

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Apr** – Centre Closed – Anzac Day – Public Holiday

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May** - Mother's Day Afternoon Tea (3.30-4.30)

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May** – Aboriginal Program by a Community Elder (10-11am)

### Welcome & Happy Birthday!



Welcome to our April-May Newsletter and a very warm welcome to all of our new children and families that have joined us recently.

We would like to wish our children a very Happy Birthday for those that have and will be celebrating their Birthdays during April and May – Lilly, Luke, Annabelle and Albury!

### Thank you!

We would like to thank the following people;

Ezekiel's Mum – for bringing in fresh corn!

Natasha & Kiera's Mum – toy laptop for Cheeky Monkeys room

Sophia's Mum – plastic shopping bags

Bradley & Thomas' Mum – plastic shopping bags

Gi's Mum – plastic shopping bags

Mason B's Dad – reading a story to the Busy Bees

Mason B's Mum – for donating dress-up clothing

Miss Ashley - for bringing in dress up clothing from Bali

We really do appreciate your donations and help.

### Easter Hat Parade

This year, we are celebrating Easter by asking all families to be creative and to assist your child /ren to make an Easter hat!!!! Please bring this in with your child/ren on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April so that they can showcase their fabulous creations in front of their peers. The parade will be at 10.00am and if any parent or guardian would like to watch the parade and Easter egg hunt please come along. If this is not your child /ren normal day of attendance and you would like to participate, please come along but we ask that you supervise your child/ren.



### Staff / Welcome

From time to time, just as your children fall ill, so can our permanent staff members. We also have to keep within ratio and have a set roster for permanent staff but at times require extra staff to accommodate the extra hours (eg. late evening).

For the Centre to run smoothly, we like to have a few Casual staff available to assist us during these times.

So, if you see a new face around the Centre supervising your child/children, it is to accommodate child:staff ratio.

## Chocolate Fundraiser

A big thank you to all of our families that helped to raise money in our Chocolate Fundraiser!

We are very excited to inform you that we are creating an outdoor nature play space!

There are a range of natural materials that we will be using that facilitate and encourage sensory exploration (such as bark chips, river pebbles and rocks, a wooden bridge, a wishing well and some fairies! We endeavour to include in our curriculum, experiences that utilise our amazing new area to its full potential. The children will be provided with activities that stimulate all areas of their development and help them to develop a healthy respect for the environment and the natural world around them.

With the money raised, we will be able to continue building our Outdoor Nature Play Space, have purchased multicultural resources, musical equipment and a worm farm to continue children's learning on sustainability and we will purchase some extra beds for the children's rest time.

Thank you to you all, it will be great to see the results of your fundraising efforts.

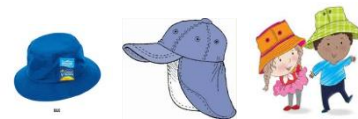


## Very Important - Absences – Signatures Required

Please notify us by **9.00am** if your child will be absent from the Centre on any scheduled day.

When arriving at the Centre on the next day after an absent day, please indicate the day(s) of absence by writing 'absent' as applicable and signing to provide your confirmation. Please note that this is a DEEWR (Dept of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations) requirement to ensure that absences are reported accurately and are approved by the parent/carer.

**Reminder:** Child care benefit will only be paid for days where the child care attendance records (both arrival and departure) are accurately completed and signed by the parent / guardian or other nominated adult collecting the child.



## Very Important - Parents to Provide Hats for Child (Busy Bees & Wise Owls Only)

Please remember to bring in a hat for your child .

Please make sure that your child's hat is an approved Sun Smart hat by being a broad rimmed or bucket hat that shades their face and neck. **Please, no caps , ties or strings. Please make sure that the hat is labeled with your child's name.**

Please note that if there is 'no hat, shade play only'.

Children's hats are to be placed in to the pockets outside with their name. Hats should be taken home on the last day of your child's weekly attendance, washed, and brought back in for the following week.

Please also remember to apply sunscreen to your child each morning before or upon arrival to the Centre. Sunscreen is accessible next to the Sign In/Out Folder in the office.

## Positive Changes

Over the last few weeks we have been continually evaluating the Centre's Health & Hygiene procedures for our Quality Improvement Plan.

**Drink Bottles:** As you are aware, the Centre has been providing drink bottles for all of the children at the Centre but during the survey, staff have noticed that our 2 year olds are having difficulties in recognising their own bottles.

To stop cross-contamination, you are now required to bring in a drink bottle with your child's name labeled on it.

We have also noticed that children are also learning more about hygiene and the importance of using their individual drink bottles.

**Breakfast:** We understand that being busy parents, it is often more convenient to feed your child/ren after they leave home in the mornings. However, as our staff are focusing on welcoming and settling the children in the morning, they cannot be responsible for supervising children that are eating breakfast during this time. There are also concerns with regards to choking and allergies.

Due to these staff observations, we are requesting parents to now feed breakfast to your child/ren either at home or on the way in the car. We can unfortunately no longer support children having breakfast within the Centre.

**Lockers:** If your child attends the Centre for 5 days a week, your child's locker remains your locker for the full week.

If your child attends less than 5 days, your locker may change from day to day.

Please do not remove another child's name tag from a locker, please choose an empty locker without a name tag.

### **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea**

We would like to celebrate Mother's Day with an afternoon tea for all of our Mums/Carers/Nans on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Please come along and we would love it if you could bring a plate of something to share with the other ladies (eg. cakes, slices, biscuits, etc). There will be a lucky door prize too!



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### **Collaborative Partnerships With Parents**

We are always looking for ways that we can strengthen our partnerships with the parents at the Centre. You are most welcome to visit the Centre at any time, to spend time with your children.

We are keen for you to give us feedback and suggestions on many areas of our operations. You can write comments in your child's Daily Diary, add to the Room Program which us up on the wall, or put suggestions in our Suggestion Box located in the Office. We would also love it if you could spare some time to read with or cook with the children. You may also like to share your interests, work role and/or culture with the children. Please talk to your child's room Educator about this.

From time to time, we update various Centre Policies and Procedures. We leave these policies in the Office with the one for Review up on the wall. We would love for you to take the time to read these and provide us with your feedback and/or suggestions.

### **Monthly Policy Review**

Each month, the staff at Country Life Child Care Centre will be reviewing one of our many Policies.

For this month, it is our 'Education, Curriculum and Learning Policy'. We welcome our parents/guardian's to read, review, and provide your feedback.

### **Important – Updated Asthma Plans and Medications / Ventolin for Health Conditions**

Please provide updated Asthma Plans and Ventolins, etc that have not passed the expiry date.

We cannot administer medicine that is out of date.

An Asthma Plan must be reviewed by the parent/carer with their GP annually and an updated copy given to the Centre.

If your child requires the use of a 'puffer' as directed by a GP but has not been diagnosed with Asthma, you must provide a letter from your GP stating that your child requires a 'puffer' for a health condition. We cannot administer ventolin to your child without an official letter from your GP.

### **Illness / Fever**

Please take note of the following excerpt from our 'Management of Illness and Exclusion Policy':-

#### **1. Exclusion Periods**

- Vomiting – one vomit, parent contacted to collect child from Centre and is only able to return 24 hours from the last vomit symptom
- Yellow, green or bloody discharge from nose – parent contacted to collect child from Centre and can only return once nose is clear or running clear
- Temperature over 37.5 Degrees – parent contacted to collect child from Centre and can only return 24 hours since last high temperature
- Diarrhoea or loose stools – 2 loose stools, parent contacted to collect child from Centre and is only able to return 24 hours from the last loose stool
- Unusual spots or rash – parent contacted to collect child from Centre and seek medical advice. Please provide medical clearance upon returning to the Centre
- Discharge from eyes - parent contacted to collect child from Centre and seek medical advice. Please provide medical clearance upon returning to the Centre

#### **2. Medication**

If a child requires medication to be given on their day of attendance, it needs to be handed in to that child's Educator and the parent/carer will need to complete and sign a Medication Form. Please note that prescription medication can only be administered to a child. A child must have had the medication 24 hours prior to attending the Centre to ensure that there are no allergic reactions. Medications and creams are never to be left in a child's bag.

### **Immunisation Record Update/Save The Date to Vaccinate**

Please make sure that you your child's immunisations are up to date and each time they receive an immunisation, you will need to provide us with a new History Statement that shows the status as 'up to date'.

You can obtain a copy of your child's immunisation history statement:-

- Online – <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/medicare-online-services> OR <http://www.mygov.au> (Option to print or email updated statement to [admin@countrylifeccc.com.au](mailto:admin@countrylifeccc.com.au))  
Download the mygov App to your phone (Option to print or email updated statement to [admin@countrylifeccc.com.au](mailto:admin@countrylifeccc.com.au))
- In person at your local Medicare office
- or by calling **1800 653 809**

### **So that you never forget when a vaccination is due...**

- Download the free phone App *Save the Date to Vaccinate* for a personalised vaccination schedule for each child with reminders to ensure children are vaccinated on time. To download the app, visit the Save The Date To Vaccinate website ([www.immunisation.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.immunisation.health.nsw.gov.au)) and follow the links to iTunes (for iPhone) or Google Play (for Android).

### **Banking Details for Country Life Child Care Centre**

#### **Banking Details**

Account name: Jamie Enterprises Pty Ltd  
BSB: 062 347  
Account # 1055 1706  
Please use your child's name as the Reference

### **Updates From Your Children's Educators:-**



### **Cheeky Monkeys (Miss Shirley, Miss Ashley)**

Dear parents / Guardian

The bottle preparation and feeding policy has been changed

Formula bottles:

- Parents are to bring in pre measured amounts of their formula in a container; this must be clearly labelled with the child's name and type of formula.
- Families need to bring in sterilized, premeasured water in the child's bottle clearly labelled with the child's name and to be placed in the tray in the fridge.

Thank you for your cooperation.

What a fun filled month we had in the Cheeky Monkey room!

We went to visit the nature garden in the big play area; we used our gross motor skills to climb up the wood stumps and we loved bringing the bucket up and down using our problem solving skills.

We further explored music and extended this with craft; we love to sing Baa Baa Black Sheep and we made our own sheep with cotton wool and paint using our fine motor skills and sensory play; feeling the cotton wool and the paint on our hands. We love sound and movement in the Cheeky Monkey room so please parents let us know what your child's favourite nursery rhyme is. If you want to share other important information about your child's interests let us know.

We also used our gross motor skills to ride our bikes and some children are getting really good at it.

We looked at harmony day and made some beautiful orange people chains that are displayed in our room.



### **Busy Bees** (Miss Tracy, Miss Louise)

The Busy Bee's have been rather busy !

We have enjoyed focusing on 'celebrations of the year'. We started with Valentine's Day 14/2 making beautiful paper plate wall hangings, using a steady hand to collage on sequins. Next we looked at St Patrick's Day 17/3. Lots of activities that involved the use of the colour green. Painting /collage for craft and streamer dancing for music/movement. As you can tell the Busy Bees love craft ! Please be aware that all craft is placed in your child's craft folder (located on the locker shelf) please remember to clear out these folders every few weeks. Our last celebration we have focused on was Harmony Day 21/3 with a wonderful 'Super Sailing - Multicultural Show '. The Busy Bee's liked to dress up, dance with flags and lanterns, listen to information about different countries and best of all, having a turn of wearing the dragon mask to celebrate the Chinese New Year. we have been So, so busy ☺ Miss Tracy





## **Wise Owls** (Miss Rebecca, Miss Alesha)

Yet again another busy term we have been having in the Wise Owls room. Lately we have been discussing multiculturalism, which is a follow on from Harmony Day. We had a lovely presenter come in and share with us diverse ways of living around the world, which we are now learning more in the classroom. The children are also able to express their self-identity as they discuss their own culture, including Australia.

Gibson has been on the move and very busy! We have seen him go swimming (many times!), the Blue Mountains, shopping and hanging out at home. Thank you for the effort families are making. Gibson helps children connect with each other, gain confidence as they share their news, and shows the educators what your child's interests are! Please feel free to sign up for Gibson on the front notice board. A big thank you to parents / guardian who have been sharing their weekend with weekend sheets, and parents /guarding sharing their Childs interests with books and photos. We love children to bring in news, but do kindly request it is "special news" a photo, book, something to do with our topic, a special gift, etc. This limits toys and other items that may be lost, broken or fought over. We have many developmentally appropriate toys for the children in the room, and bringing some from home can cause confusion of what toy belongs where.

The children have started their school readiness groups, and have been doing a fantastic job. So far we are looking at a letter a week, with the week of 24<sup>th</sup> March starting with C. School leavers may like to discuss these letters with you, maybe you can make a game of finding things that start with A/B/C/D etc on the car ride to school? Non-school leavers do not miss out, and are given opportunities to develop their skills in a more age appropriate way with activities and games with Miss Alesha, preparing them for the big group next year! You will notice school leavers will be bringing home "busy work" where they develop skills such as pencil grip, fine motor skills, letter recognition and so forth.

A few parents have been addressing sleep concerns with us lately. This is a natural age where children will start to "grow out" of day sleeps. Not all children will and it is important we give children daily opportunities for relaxation and sleep when needed. Studies show children perform better after a day sleep when they are tired. A good night time routine is essential for children to learn how to manage their rest and sleep cycles appropriately. Having dinner, bath time, and reading to a child nightly helps them settle at any age and is a great time for bonding!

According to regulation 81, and in line with the code of ethics, we cannot force a child to stay awake during the day. We cannot pat them to sleep etc, but if they fall asleep naturally, it is in fairness of the child (who is obviously very tired) to leave them for a period. After a reasonable time we will try to rouse them, but if they go back to sleep again we cannot force them awake. Many parents may find help from this website for any age group:

[www.tresillian.net](http://www.tresillian.net)

As always your educators are always free for you to ask questions or concerns about your child. Due to supervision and timing, sometimes we may have to schedule a time where we can go off the floor if your talk is private/serious. Please just let us know to organise a time. The best policy is to address questions early so we can all work on ways to resolve them!



## Community Corner

Please see below for some useful tips/information and some events that are happening within your local community;

- **Kellyville Baby and Kids Market** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
At Bernie Mullane Sports Complex Marella Avenue, Kellyville from 9am – 12noon. \$4.00 entry, Kids free, free Kids Activities.
- **Riverstone Festival and Street Parade** 17 May, 2014 Start time: 09.00AM  
Council and The Combined Churches Riverstone would like to invite local community to their annual Riverstone Festival and Street Parade on Saturday 17 May at the corner of Park and Pitt St, Riverstone.
- **Multicultural Story time at Riverstone Library** 9 April, 2014  
A fun filled hour for preschoolers, their parents and carers.  
These sessions include stories and songs from different countries and interesting craft activities. The treat is that a different country is featured each week. From 10:30am to 11:30am, every *second* Wednesday of the month during school terms only.

The staff at Country Life Child Care Centre pride ourselves in taking the utmost care of your child and making your child's day with us a special one.

