



Newsletter

June - July - August 2014

Issue 12

Monday 6th July, 2014

Dates to Remember:-

July:

Monday 7th July to 11th July - Naidoc Week

Monday 14th July to Friday 18th July – Pyjama/Onesies Week

Friday 25th July – Tree Day (Children will be planting a tree at the Centre)

Wednesday 30th July – Wednesday 17th September (10am – 10.45am) – Bright Stars Program for 3-5 years

August:

Friday 1st August – Jeans for Genes day to help fight childhood diseases

Monday 4th August to 8th August – Crazy Hair Week

Monday 18th August to 22nd August – Book Week

September:

Friday 5th September – Father's Day Afternoon Tea (3.30pm – 4.30pm)

Friday 12th September – Photo Day (from 8am)

Monday 22nd September – Friday 26th September – Dress Up Week (no scary masks, swords or guns)

December:

Friday 5th December - Graduation & Christmas Party

Monday 22nd December, 2014 - Centre Closed for 3 weeks

Monday 12th January 2015 - Centre re opens today for 2015

Welcome & Happy Birthday!



Welcome to our bumper June-July-August 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 June, July and August – Sydney, Zac, Isla, Mikayla B, Tristan, Blake, Luca, Jayde & Kirralee, Eric, Deejay, Eleanor, Xavier, Jamison, Mason T, Bradley & Thomas!

Thank you!

We would like to thank the following people;

Mason B's Mum – donation of bibs

Ezekiel's Mum – Recipes and Basil

Violet & Eleanor's Mum – Recipe

Thomas' Mum – Mandarins, wonderful cupcakes for Mother's Day Afternoon Tea, and eggs

Isla's Mum – plastic bags

Gi's Mum – play dough

Jayde & Kirralee's Mum – hand bags for home corner and plastic bags

We really do appreciate your donations and help.

We would also like to thank all of our families that took their time to complete our parent survey. The information gathered assists us in our planning for the future.

Staff / Welcome

We welcome back Miss Kylie (Diploma) and Miss Natalie (Certificate111) who have now joined our team as casual staff members. We also welcome Miss Jade and Miss Homaira who are also casual staff members of Country Life and both are currently studying their Certificate III.

Community Pantry Drive- Food Within (Riverstone)

A big thank you to all of our families that helped with our Community Pantry Drive! Our last collection was on Friday 27th June. Food Within have been so impressed with our families generosity – thank you!

USB

Thank you to all of the families who have remembered to bring in a USB device to download your child's learning stories. For those who have not yet, there is still time, please hand them in a sealed envelope with your child's name on it asap.

Bright Stars Program (Wednesday 30th July – 17th September)

Bright Stars is a program designed for 3-5 year old children and is organised through The Wesley Mission. The theme this year is 'Space'. The children will follow 'Freddy the Frog' on his adventures through space and learn about the planets, etc. This is a free program and flyers with more information are coming soon.

Fire drills and Evacuation

Fire drills and evacuations are carried out regularly in the centre. Each child and staff member is to participate in this procedure every month. The local fire brigade is to visit the centre soon – date TBA.

Promoting Sustainability throughout the centre



The environment in which the children of tomorrow will grow up in is very much dependant on how we manage the environment today.

We will start our journey towards improved environmental sustainability by

- Focusing on reducing electricity consumption (e.g. Turning off light switches before going out to play.)
- Purchasing environmentally responsible supplies and equipment (e.g. natural products)
- Changing the way we operate so that we lessen our environmental impact (cleaning, meal preparation and washing)
- Reducing the amount of waste we create (e.g. Recycling to minimise waste)
- Reducing water usage (e.g. Turing off running water from taps)

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

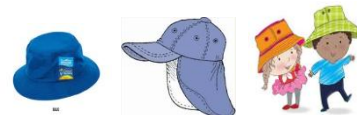
Please remember to bring in a hat for your child.

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.



Monthly Policy Review

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

Over the next couple of months, the policies that will be up for review are our 'Medical Conditions Policy' and our 'Arrival and Departure Policy'. The policy that is up for review will be placed in the office in a plastic sleeve located above the Sign In/Out Book.

We welcome our parents/guardian's to read, review, and provide your feedback.



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 Reminder – Please ensure that you only sign in/out against your child's name. We have had a few instances where a parent/guardian has signed out against another child's name which is of a concern.

Arrival / Departure – Collection of Your Child

If there is to be a variation in the arrangements of who will be collecting your child from the Centre, please advise us in writing by filling in the form "Authorisation for New Collection Contact". The Centre has developed a new form for all families requesting new persons to pick-up your child. Please note that the authorised person must be over the age of 18.



Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR)

If you have noticed recently that your weekly fee amount has changed, this can usually be due to 2 things:-

- 1) You have contacted Centrelink and updated your family income which can either increase or decrease the total CCB%.
- 2) Centrelink pay up to \$7,500 per child, per annum for CCR (ie. for a working parent that passes the work, study, training eligibility criteria and has 50% of their out of pocket child care expenses covered. Once the threshold is reached, the fees fall back to the full rate until the 30th June. From the 1st July, the \$7,500 recommences.

If you have any queries regarding your invoices, please do not hesitate to speak with or email Karen (Office Administration) who is more than happy to assist you.

Staying Healthy In Child Care / Exclusion Periods

The staff at Country Life Child Care work hard to limit the spread of disease and to prevent illness within the Centre.

Parents/Guardians are sometimes asked to keep their child at home (called 'exclusion') in the event of illness or disease within the Centre. The aim of exclusion is to reduce the spread of infectious diseases in the Centre. The less contact there is between people who have an infectious disease and people who are at risk of catching the disease, the less chance the disease has of spreading.

We at Country Life Child Care understand that many of you may be under pressure to fulfill work, study and/or other family commitments and may find the exclusion ruling for your child difficult to manage.

By excluding one ill child, many other children (and staff) can be protected from becoming ill. The need for exclusion and the length of time a child is excluded, depends on:

- how easily the infection can spread
- how long the child is likely to be infectious
- how severe the disease can be

It is a doctor's role to make the diagnosis of an illness. The Centre, however, decides on the response to an illness eg. excluding the ill child, in consultation with our Public Health Unit. This may also involve excluding susceptible children and staff with whom the ill child has been in contact with. To make a decision on the response to the illness, the Centre refers to a list of recommended minimum exclusion periods.

For your reference, we have attached a 'Recommended Minimum Exclusion Periods' sheet to this Newsletter.

Medication Policy & Requirements

Country Life Child Care Centre and all educators can safely administer any medication as necessary to children with the written authority of the child's parents. It is important to follow strict procedures to promote the health and wellbeing of each child using the service.

The Centre will ensure that the Administration of Authorised Medication Record is completed for each child using the service who requires medication. A separate form must be completed for each medication if more than one is required.

Medication may only be administered by the service with written authority signed by the child's parent or other responsible person named in the child's enrolment record that is authorised by the child's parents to make decisions about the administration of medication.

In the instance that the child's registered medical practitioner prescribes a medication, the service must ensure the medication is administered appropriately.

Medication must be provided by the child's parents including the following -

- Original container. Medication will only be administered from the original container.
- Original label that is clearly readable.
- Child's name clearly on the label.
- Any instructions attached to the medication or related to the use of the medication.
- Any verbal or written instructions provided by the child's registered medical practitioner.
- Any person delivering a child to the service must not leave medications in the child's bag or locker. Medication must be given directly to an educator for appropriate storage upon arrival.

Australian Child Care Week

Australian Child Care Week 2014 is our chance to shine a light on our wonderful, rewarding and invaluable sector and help put early childhood education and care on the map. From Monday 16th to Friday 20th June 2014, we celebrated Australian Child Care Week.

Unlike previous years, the majority of Australian Child Care Week Awards will recognise and reward the efforts of early childhood education and care services – and their staff – made throughout the year, not just during Australian Child Care Week itself.

Wish us luck as we submit our entries by 25th July. We will find out if we have been nominated for any awards by Monday 18th August!

Belly Dancing Performance

Linking our Centre with the local community, we had a special performance by one of our very talented parents on Thursday 3rd July. Jessica showed us some of her belly dancing skills and the children loved getting involved too! Thank you so much Jess, we all had a fantastic time.

Schools Tree Day – Friday 25th July

Research shows that contact with nature helps kids thrive.

Intellectually – by improving creativity, concentration and academic performance and by diminishing symptoms and severity of ADHD.

Emotionally – by lowering levels of stress and depression and by increasing confidence and self esteem.

Physically – by reducing risks of obesity and myopia and by improving healing and recovery.

Ethically – by developing environmental stewardship and a stronger sense of concern and care for the environment in later life.

We are joining over 2,000 pre schools, day care centres, primary schools and libraries across the country in the largest nature-care and tree planting event in Australian schools!

We will be planting a shrub or two on Friday 25th July!



Aboriginal Painting and Storytime Visit

On Friday 9th May, we were very fortunate to have Jamie and his father (an aboriginal elder) visit our Centre along with Kim from The Wesley Mission, Riverstone. Jamie and his father told us Dreamtime stories and some amazing Aboriginal history. During the story telling, they painted a wonderful mural on our cement pipe and everyone then got to place their handprints on it. This is now a great part of Country Life Child Care Centre history!



Updates From Your Children's Educators:-



Cheeky Monkeys (Miss Shirley, Miss Ashley)

What a beautiful time we have in the Cheeky Monkey room! We would like to welcome our new babies who have settled in really well into our room.

In May and June we had our animal project. The children enjoyed creating all those beautiful animals using different materials and different techniques. We, Miss Ashley and Miss Shirley are really proud of our Cheeky Monkeys; you all did a great job!

We also introduced the vegetable smoothie for afternoon tea, it's easier for the children and we are sure that they have enough servings of fresh vegetables.





Busy Bees (Miss Tracy)

We have been busy in the Busy Bee class. What fun we have had. We welcome our new Busy Bees!

We have continued with our celebrations. Mothers Day - we enjoyed making beautiful gifts and making biscuits with 100's and 1000's for all of the things that our Mums do for us. Next, was National World Environment Day which took us into our garden to crunch and munch on the home grown lettuce. Recently we ran a small project on the 2014 Soccer, Mason holds an interest in this and brought and shared with us many soccer items and pictures.

A few reminders for our room ... If your child has a dummy it is to be placed in their named container upon arrival and collected when departing (Please do not leave it in your child's bag). We are still in need of family photos for our 'Belonging Tree'. Do we have your photo? Art work folders need to be emptied, please check if your child has any craft in their folder. Please be aware that bed linen and bed bags need to be labeled with your child's name. EVERYTHING your child owns needs to be labeled including shoes.



Wise Owls (Miss Rebecca, Miss Alesha)

The Wise Owls have again been very busy with a lot of learning and development. The past few weeks we have been focusing on MONSTERS, if you look around the room, you will see all the creative monsters the children have been imagining. The children are using art, drawing, painting, clay and so forth to express ideas and make meaning. The children have also enjoyed reading the story THE GRUFFALO, along with other monster, witch, ogre, fairy and creature stories to bring about imagination and creativity.

Our school readiness groups are progressing well, we have been focusing on a letter each week, and are now up to the letter K. Children are also asked to analyse the sounds and differentiate between similar sounds such as C and K. We have a little song we sing each day, which promotes learning and speech development, maybe they can teach you at home to develop their learning further! The non-school leavers do not miss out, and do learning activities with Miss Alesha each day.

Thank you to families who have been contributing to our curriculum by bringing in books, photos, weekend sheets, and Gibson stories. We encourage these items so we can learn about our peer's home life and extend this diversity in the classroom. We do kindly request that toys, apart from comfort/rest toys are kept at home as there will be a good chance they will be fought over, lost or stolen. We have a variety of age appropriate and developmentally challenging toys in the classroom.

We have recently started our News Program with the children. You can help prepare your child for presenting their news by discussing what they want to talk about the night before as this can help prepare them to speak to a group with confidence.

We would like to inform parents that we are available to discuss your child's development at any time, if you would like to speak about your child in depth, please feel free to arrange a time to discuss this at a time convenient for both parties. We are sure some families may want to discuss as learning stories and school readiness reports start to head home, and we are happy to arrange a meeting with you if required.



Community Corner

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

Tresillian Parent Help Line

You can ring and speak to one of Tresillian's qualified Child and Family Health nurses on any aspect of parenting children aged up to five years.

Life with a baby or young child can be unpredictable and sometimes you just need to talk to someone, that's why our Tresillian Parent's Help Line is so popular.

Ph: 02 9787 0855 or 1800 637 357 (Freecall outside Sydney and within NSW)

**** We have attached some helpful information regarding Tantrums ****

Food Intolerance Network - www.fedup.com.au

Sue Dengate's best-selling Fed Up series, published by Random House

Australia, will help you understand how food affects your child's behaviour and what you can do.

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.

