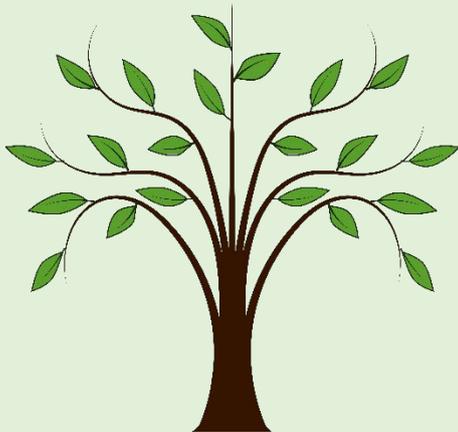


Tots Gazette



Food For Thought

"Children need the
FREEDOM to appreciate the
infinite resources of their
HANDS, their EYES, and
their EARS, the resources of
FORMS, MATERIALS,
SOUNDS, and COLORS."

Loris Malaguzzi

From your Director – Kay Lacy

How different has this past three months been – I have survived my eight weeks in the wheelchair and have now progressed to walking with a cam boot. This week I was given the go ahead to return to the workplace two days a week. This has been very exciting for me – those who know me well will realise that “me at home is not a good thing”! I am so looking forward to increasing my days over the next few weeks and being able to return fulltime. Over my time of absence I am pleased to say that I have seen “growth” in all of my Educators. I have been encouraged by the way each of them have risen to the occasion where necessary and taken on extra responsibility.

At our recent Educator Meeting, Kaitlyn Dearing our Cook was appointed as our OH&S person. Included in her role Kaitlyn notifies the Director should there be any maintenance issues that need attention as well as ensuring that regular Evacuation practices take place. It was decided that each individual Learning Environment be responsible for organising an evacuation practice once a year. These are now being implemented and documented accordingly, so if your child comes home reporting that there was a “loud whistle blow” you will know we are in “practice mode”.

Once again can I please remind you to check your Family Pocket each time you are in attendance at the centre. These are quite deep so please reach into the bottom to ensure you don't miss out on some vital information.

All children within the centre must have an updated Immunisation Record in their file. Please download your Medicare Report and bring it along to be added to your child's file.

As the Director of your chosen Early Learning Centre, I am grateful that I have the ongoing opportunity with my Educators to continue the partnership of caring and educating your children. I thank you daily for your trust in us and look forward to continuing on this incredibly rewarding journey.

FAMILY DETAILS

If you have changes in your Family details can you please inform the centre. In recent times we have experienced difficulty reaching a family due to a change in their phone number. There is a Communication Book placed on the Reception desk if there is no-one in attendance at the desk for you to write notes to the Director or you can phone the centre or email director@time4tots.com.au. It is vital that this information is kept up to date for safety and legal reasons.

FEE PAYMENTS CHANGES

For any business to continue to offer a service there needs to be a financial plan in place. On enrolment each family is given a Parent Handbook that explains the Fee Schedule. Currently families are charged weekly for the current week of usage.

Commencing in January 2018 there will be a change to the centre Fee Payment Schedule. The change will be that Fees will be charged at the commencement of the week for the week in use and the following week in advance.

We encourage each of you to keep up to date with your fees in order for us to deliver a high quality service to you and your family.

Ezi Debit is the centre's preferred method of payment. If you are not on this system please consider this as your best option and speak with the Director regarding this.

EARLY & LATE ARRIVAL

Please be advised that the centre is registered to operate from 6.30am – 6.30pm. Arriving earlier than this time is not permitted due to the registration of the centre.

With the rise in our enrolments, to avoid us saying "no" to extra days, please book ahead where possible.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Signing your child/children in and out on the centre tablet is the responsibility of the family.

Please be advised that this is a legal requirement that must be adhered to at all times.

Please assist us in this to avoid the centre being breached.

CENTRE ACCESS – CHILD SAFETY

Please **DO NOT**

Allow your child to leave the centre without you

Allow your child to memorise the entry code

Allow your child to swing on the entry gate



TADPOLES TALES



“WELCOME” to our new Tadpoles – we are happy to see some new faces joining our family and trust that you will settle into your new environment well.

In recent weeks we have implemented an “under the sea” area with a new wooden boat the centre purchased for our Learning Environment. We have used material to create the image of the water and added sea creatures for the children to explore. The children have been extending their gross motor skills by rocking backwards and forwards in the boat.

We have also implemented a mirror into the Learning Environment as the children have been showing a strong interest in their own reflection. It is so rewarding to see the delight on their faces as they see another image of themselves.



During Naidoc Week the children together with Kathryn created a simple mobile, using pictures of Indigenous people, dot painting, flags and landmarks. Whilst the children are too young to understand the depth of knowledge we believe it is important for them to be exposed visually to this culture and the background to celebrating Naidoc Week. Following on from this experience we have added “Galimbang” to our equipment to expose Tadpoles children to Australia’s history and Aboriginal culture.

Over the next few weeks we are planning to build/purchase some new outdoor equipment similar to these photos below to enhance the play area enabling the children to explore a little more during the Spring/Summer weather.



We would welcome any suggestions that you as families may have.



PEBBLES PRATTLES



The year is going by so fast that the children in Pebbles room are growing into independent, confident children, exploring their room with great enthusiasm, as shown on our Display Book in the hallway outside our door. Please families, stop by, have a look and leave a note.

Over the last few months the Pebbles children have been encouraged to use their independent skills by having access to their drink bottles off the trolley. Decision making is part of learning independence. Reaching for a drink when feeling thirsty or not is one of these decisions. Many of the children have been very successful in regard to this decision and are developing this skill quickly. They are also recognising their own drink bottle, some even recognising their friends and offering to help their friend to reach out for a drink too. Not only are they using their independence but gaining good social interactions at the same time.

While being curious as to what is on offer in the room, the children are becoming Picasa's as they have shown a great interest in drawing or painting. Pebbles artwork is on display in the hallway and sometimes in the indoor Learning Environment. We encourage you to take the time to look around and find your child's creations. They are very interested in how different objects can work together to create art, it may be a brush, pencil or recycled material. The children find these experiences fascinating, and are showing a desire to learn more and become a little more creative.



Over the next few months the Pebbles children will be continuing their interest in art introducing a wider variety of art medium.



Part of the Quality Improvement Plan for our centre is to encourage parent input into our program, so as Educators we are eager to hear families suggestions and encourage you to pass on your ideas to us.

Thank you
Cristy and Megan.



GRASSHOPPERS NEWS



Last month Grasshoppers experienced their first Excursion. Following the interest a number of children, especially the boys we ventured out to the vacant land next door to view the highway traffic and enjoy a picnic lunch. There was much excitement as the children viewed many different sized vehicles some of which gave a “toot toot” as they went past.

As is most days there were a number of Emergency vehicles travelling on the highway at great speed. This has been followed up by a recent visit from the local CFA. Unfortunately the day was wet and cold so the children were not able to experience getting inside the fire truck, but thanks to the very generous and friendly firemen the children witnessed the fire hose and lights in action.

We acknowledge our local Pakenham CFA and thank them for their time.



During the cold frosty winter days there has been much discussion with the children about the “white frost”. As Educators we discussed ways of using these discussions to add to our daily activities. Together with the Educators the children mixed shaving foam and bi-carb soda together and created “snow”. This allowed the children to experience a wonderful tactile activity. Another activity to enhance learning regarding “frozen and melted” was to fill containers with water and plastic animals (penguins and fish) place them into the freezer and when frozen then take them out and watch the melting process. The use of polystyrene noodles allowed the children to use their fine motor skills in creating “snow mobiles” which have been displayed in our Learning Environment.



We encourage families to give us feedback by commenting on our “Day Book” displayed each day – this is part of our ongoing Quality Improvement Plan.

Niranjala, Emma, Kat and Carly



We have welcomed a number of new families in recent weeks and trust that you and your child have settled into the Frogs environment well.

We have also appreciated having Tara working with us whilst Debbie is on holidays. Tara is a past student that did her placement hours at Time 4 Tots and has recently completed her Diploma. We wish Tara well as she now goes off to her final placement in teaching and will graduate at the end of the year.

One of the highlights for the Frogs children recently was celebrating Naidoc Week.

The Educators set up a display of Aboriginal art and then provided an art table with various objects for the children to explore. The end result of this learning experience were some very interesting and creative pieces being made. Among these were didgeridoo's, dot paintings and flags.



We have noticed that our children are progressing well with their problem solving and fine motor skills over the past few weeks which has led to introducing more complex puzzles and construction sets for them to be challenged in these areas.



A number of children have been chatting about “jungle animals” – Skye decided to follow up on the children’s discussion in this topic and together they created a Jungle Space within the Learning Environment using a variety of recycled materials.

The children were excited about the space they had created and were proudly showing other Educators when they entered the room.



As a team of Educators we would welcome your feedback in relation to our “What We Did Today” information that is displayed outside our Learning Environment each day for you to view.

Debbie, Nyamal and Skye



KINDERGARTEN NEWS



The Kindergarten children have experienced a very exciting Term with a wide variety of interesting learning experiences.

As I took on the role of “Kindergarten Teacher” here at Time 4 Tots I felt that I needed to revise the program and routines to enhance the children's play and learning. These have been restructured to allow the children the best possible learning outcomes.

During Term 2 we have explored many topics. The children have shown a keen interest in Science and have begun to learn about chemical reactions, change of state, environmental science, gravity and the human body. As we learnt and developed knowledge of these scientific concepts we participated in hands on experiences such as cooking, gardening, a campfire, construction, experiments and making our own Paper Mache volcano. Another area of exploration has been Mathematics and Literacy through a play based program. The children have developed knowledge of the alphabet, phonics, name recognition and writing their own names. As we looked into mathematics the children have developed knowledge on balance, symmetry, patterns, counting with one to one correspondence to large numbers, colours and colour mixing.

In Term 3 we have studied Agriculture and Farming, looking into where our food and products originate from. With this subject the children have participated in a range of cooking experiences which has extended their knowledge on food origin and productions.

We have also had a strong influence on building social and emotional skills that are essential to develop as they become ready for their formal school journey. This will continue throughout Term 4.

FRIDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER WE INVITE ALL KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN TO BE PART OF OUR VISIT FROM MUSEUMS VICTORIA OUTREACH PROGRAM

The topic we have chosen is BACKYARD BUGS.

We would like to see everyone arrive by 9.15am on this morning.



We trust that you and your child are enjoying the Kindergarten year as much as we are – thank you for your support to the team.

Claire, Sarah and Amanda.