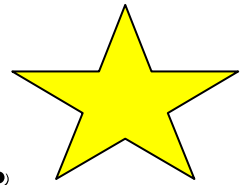


FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER.



Most of the children have now adapted to the changes they have encountered as they have moved from the toddler's room through to the big room or have just started in the big room for the first time. All of the staff are excited to see how independent the children have become when given the opportunity in the big room. The children are now serving their own morning and afternoon tea, packing up after themselves, assisting staff in setting up new play areas and putting on their own shoes. We strongly encourage all of you to support your child in using their independence skills at home through packing up, helping cook, and dressing themselves.

Some helpful tips to encourage your child to pack up after themselves:

- Ask your child to pack up the red toys first and then the pink toys and so on,
- Ask your child to pick up one toy and then to pick up two,
- Always use positive reinforcement when they have done something good, or what you have asked them to do,
- Take pictures of a before and after. Say to your child "while you are playing it is ok if your room/ play area looks like this, BUT when you are finished you need to make the area look like this (pointing at the picture)",
- Use a cleanup song for example: "Clean up clean up everybody everywhere. Clean up clean up everybody do your share". It's very repetitive as it keeps going in a round until the children have finished packing away the toys etc. so it is very easy for children to memorise (and also for you too).
- Or play a game similar to 'Where's Wally' instead it is 'where's your toy' and the child has to find the toy you ask or describe to them.

Group time

Over the past few weeks the children have really enjoyed participating in group times. These group sessions give staff the opportunity to talk with the children about what they have seen in the news, discuss the expectations of the room, explore the children's interests, read stories, play with puppets and sing songs. As it is the beginning of the year one of the main discussion topics has been the expectations of the big room and we understand that learning and adapting to new surroundings takes time and patience. We support the connection between home and care and encourage the children to share with their peers especially at group time. Children are encouraged to bring a book or a picture of a special event eg a trip to the zoo to share and discuss, please leave toys at home.



Brown bags

After a successful trial last year we will be repeating our Brown Bag activity. This entails taking home an empty paper bag and returning it with specially chosen items such as family photos and magazine cuttings of favourite toys. The purpose of this activity is to develop a strong connection between our children and the community in which they live. Each child is encouraged and supported to participate at group time to explain and discuss the items with their peers. It is very helpful if the items are familiar so photos (that are copied, displayed and returned) are recommended.

Garden

Our garden is growing *crazily* after all of the sun and rain we have had over the past few weeks. We recently harvested the corn. Some of the children from last year remembered planting the kernels and were astonished to find so many kernels on the ears of corn. We investigated the bugs and creepy crawlies on the corn and in the disturbed earth and paid special attention to the root system of the corn stalks. The stalks were 'planted' in the sand pit to create a lush jungle and the corn was chopped and eaten raw at afternoon tea. Our garden bed is looking bare so when the cherry tomatoes are finished we are leaving it fallow for awhile and the children are encouraged to bring in one small container of vege scraps to add to the soil to replenish the nutrients. Then we will decide what to plant next.



Donations

'One man's trash is another man's treasure'

We would greatly appreciate donations of the following items: Old pots and pan, utensils, materials, children's CD's which we could download on to iTunes, or recyclable resources such as large plain paper and cardboard tubes.

General reminders

- Could all parents please remember to sunscreen their child upon arrival, we will apply it throughout the day, but would greatly appreciate it if you could do the first application.
- Please ensure that you pack additional clothing for your children when they are in care in case of a toilet accident ,your child gets wet from play or unexpected changes in weather.
- No opened toed shoes are to be worn by children whilst they are in care.
- All children need a labelled sun hat and brush/comb.

Parent/ teacher meetings

I would like to strongly encourage all parents to arrange a time to meet with Catherine/Angela to discuss their child's development. We have now commenced taking observations of your children and would like to discuss these and the developmental expectations for the 3-5 age group as well as how the programme reflects these expectations.

February birthdays

Hannah(staff)	12 th	Jarrah	14 th
Angela (staff)	16 th	Millar	22 nd
Irena (staff)	22 nd	Xavier D	18 th
Ruth (staff)	1 st		

The centre will be closed on Monday 12th March for the Labour Day public holiday.

Please remember if you have any questions or queries please speak to Angela or Catherine as soon as possible.

3-5 Room Staff

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