August News... This month we will have our kindy photos (12th, 14th, 16th August). This year we are using a different company called MSP Photography who specialise in school and preschool photographs. Approximately two weeks after the photos have been taken; families will be able to purchase them. Please remember to be ready for photos on each of these three days.

BOOK WEEK 17th – 23rd August This year Mimosa Kids will join in the fun of Book Week, which is the celebration of books and Australian authors and illustrators. On Thursday 15th August (the lead up to book week) all families are invited to attend a Young Australia show entitled ‘Puggles & the Little Bent-Wing Bat’. Families and children will meet children’s author, Aleesah Darlison who teaches children about the native animals from her popular picture books, Puggle’s Problems and Warambi. Aleesah will read her stories using toys and puppets. The interactive session will also end with a fun creative activity. During Book Week we ask children to dress in their favourite story book characters and bring in books to share with their class. During story time we will be looking closely at the six books shortlisted The Children’s Book Council of Australia. (Visit http://cbca.org.au/bookweek.htm for more info) We will also be holding a loved book drive where families can donate pre loved books, which they are no longer reading at home, to the centre to enjoy. If you have any books you wish to donate, please make sure you write your family’s name in the front of the book, so we can remember and acknowledge those who were able to donate.

Bear Cottage Fundraiser What a wonderful week we had in July, supporting Bear Cottage and dressing up in our Superhero outfits. We’d like to send out a big thank you to all of our families who contributed as we were able to raise $464.20! We’d also like to thank Costume Box for donating a Batgirl costume; the children were very excited to meet the “real” Batgirl! Our involvement in this Fundraiser got the community talking and we were featured in the telegraph and Manly Daily. This experience really allowed the children to gain a sense of belonging to the community. We look forward to continuing our involvement in community fundraising and projects and Thank you all again for your contributions!

Team News We are very pleased to announce that Katie has now returned from maternity leave. Katie will be available from Tuesday to Friday between 9am and 5pm. Katie will resume the role as Director as well as help out in the Bilbies room on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. This due to the unfortunate news that Ann, our Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Bilby teacher will no longer be working at Mimosa Kids due to an on-going knee problem. Ann will be undergoing a full knee reconstruction in October. We wish her well and look forward to her visiting the Centre when she is feeling better. We hope to find someone to fill the W-F position, and have begun the interviewing process. We will keep you informed.
Starboard Fundraiser: We need your help! Over the past couple of months we have been looking into finding the perfect Starboard (Smartboard) for our preschool room. After much research and some help from two of our Bilby mums, we have found it! The Starboard is valued at $4433.00 and we are on the lookout for some fundraising ideas. If you have any ideas on how we can raise the money to purchase this wonderful Starboard, please speak to Katie. Thank you! For more information on the benefits of a Smartboard in a classroom, please visit http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/every_child_magazine/every_child_index/digital_natives_come_to_preschool_rethinking_practice.html

Road Safety: Please ensure that when you are driving along and parking on Blackbutts Road, that you are cautious of children and adults crossing. Please ensure that you are not driving over the double lines to pass a car that is parallel parking, as this may cause an accident. Road Safety is very important to us, and is a topic that we discuss regularly with our children. We often speak about the importance of crossing the road with an adult, wearing our seatbelt in the car and only walking on the footpath.

Service Delivery... We value your input, suggestions and participation in all aspects of our centre. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns with any aspect of Mimosa Kids service delivery please let us know. There is a suggestions box located next to the office door, you can always speak to us directly or contact us! Phone: 9453 1162 or Email: MKenquiries@MimosaKids.com.au Nominated Supervisor: Katie Norman, Katie.norman@mimosakids.com.au

Quality Improvement... Have you read our most up to date Quality Improvement Plans? – They are available at the Family Information Table and can also be e-mailed to you upon request.

In August we will be reviewing any plans for improvement set out in Quality Areas 1 and 2. Quality Area 1 focuses on our Educational Programme; we believe this is an area in which we strive. All educators agreed that they would like to attend more professional development in-services to help build their knowledge on The Early Years Learning Framework. Over the past eight months educators have attended a range of professional development in-services in relation to creating meaningful indoor spaces, quality documentation and developing meaningful school readiness programs. Another of our goals was to further incorporate the arts into our programme, since reflecting on this in January we believe we have a better understanding on how and why we should incorporate the arts. Educators have explored different forms of art, and used a range of materials to express the children’s artistic interest. The Kookaburra and Joey’s room displayed their wonderful artworks in their classrooms, creating their own art galleries.

If you have any ideas, questions, comments etc. regarding how the Centre is achieving in or could improve on Quality Area 7 please let us know via face to face, phone, e-mail or by posting a note in the suggestion box located next to the office door.

The Mimosa Team
Another adventurous month has flown by in the Joey’s room. We started the month with our balloon experiment. This was an extension from our discussions on “different forms of transport” that started after Corben and Harry's last ride on the Sydney Monorail. The Joeys began questioning forms of transport in the air. Our balloon experiment helped to introduce the children to science where they could see how a hot air balloon works. We went further into exploring this topic looking at the dynamics and functions of a plane using paper aeroplanes. We looked at why one plane would work better than another.

Celebrating NAIDOC week, the Joey’s were all involved in a variety of different aboriginal intentional teaching experiences such as; aboriginal rock dot painting, rainbow snake puzzle, aboriginal flag easel painting and our rhythm stick music experience where the Joey’s were using taping sticks. They loved to replicate the noises they heard in a YouTube video clip of the aboriginals dancing. We looked at the different beats, patterns, tempo and volume used and many Joey's started understanding the difference in the music.

The interest in hairdressers has exploded this month with many children and family members showing off their new look after visiting the hairdresser. Looking into different communities and some of our families occupations, the Joey educators provided the children with the hairdresser’s experience by setting up our own Joey Salon. This salon appeared very busy with the children using a variety of tools to groom their hair creations. To further explore this topic our own Hairdresser Jess was able to show the Joey’s what it is like getting a haircut using Amy as her model. We ended this topic by explaining to the children that “only Mummies, Daddies and hairdressers cut hair – NOT you or your friends!”

Investigating a spontaneous experience, this month the Joey’s have learnt more on the different textures involved in art work. We looked through sand art, collage art and crepe paper while using recycled paper and natural materials for these creations.

This month we have also supported Superhero Week, where we raised $464.20 for Bear Cottage. We have been discussing and reading through "When I’m feeling kind". During this story time we spoke about how superheroes are always kind to their friends and always want to help others in need, like we have for the Bear Cottage Foundation.

As it's now hit the halfway mark of the year, the Joey educators have started providing more challenging experiences in order to prepare the children for the Bilbies room next year. These experiences consist of; Bilby level puzzles, dominos, memory match, shape revision, colour revision, number revision, threading activities and Bilby language group times. These experiences and “looking into the Bilbies” will be more focused on from next month and until the end of the year.

Have a great month ☺️ Vicky, Jess & Amy
BILBY NEWS

Thank you to all the parents who were able to make it to our parent night. It was a great opportunity for all our educators to catch up with you and discuss all the fabulous things your children have been learning.

Sadly, Ann’s knee has not recovered as well as her doctors had hoped, therefore she will not be returning. Bec, who is currently studying her Diploma of Children’s Services, will become our group leader on Wed, Thurs, and Fri under the guidance of Katie.

Throughout June, the children have been learning more about people who help us in the community. Charlotte’s dad came in and told us all about the work of a police person. He talked about keeping safe, safe people, road safety and wearing a seat belt. Ian also brought in his police car for us to look through.

The children have been asking “where’s Ann” so this has led us to investigate hospitals, doctors and nurses. More recently Josie and her mum were involved in calling an ambulance for a man on the weekend that had fallen down. All of this culminated in dramatic play in the sandpit. Josie and her friends came running to the educator saying “We just called OOO!” We asked which emergency service they needed. They told us “we need the ambulance for a man who has fallen down, we have a stranger so we need the police and there is a fire too, we need a fire engine!” This group of seven children has collaborated to demonstrate a fantastic understanding of our emergency services.

We also learnt about the postman and the process our mail goes through to get to us. We incorporated recognising numbers, addresses, writing etc. Then we sent our letter to our own address. The children were very excited to tell us when their letter had arrived.

Playing shops has instigated discussion about customers, shop owners, cashiers, and money and giving change.

Colour mixing has continued to be a huge interest in the room and we have explored this with painting, mixing colours in play dough, mixing coloured oil and water and then watching them separate again.

Sinking and floating has also been investigated. This was a great opportunity to hypothesize what is going to happen and then test it and comment on the result.

We also had the Nutrition Magician come and present a show for us. This initiated great discussions about dental hygiene, healthy eating and general hygiene. This was included over weeks and proves to us every time just how much our children understand about these concepts. Katie even came in to bathe baby Archer, showing us more about hygiene and baby care.

Have a great month!

Dionne, Ann, Bec & Katie
We’ve had another jam-packed month in the Kookaburra room, with lots of Family Input to explore. Early last month Isabella and Tahlia had some news to share about some minor surgery they had. Both of these discussions sparked a great interest in our doctors dramatic play area. The children used their imaginative skills to turn this discussion into a wonderful role play experience. Throughout this exploration the children displayed compassion and care for one another, as well as developing an appreciation for community members like doctors and nurses. This also sparked some discussions about occupations.

Also inspired by family input, we explored the history of Dinosaurs. Mitchell told us all about his trip to the Museum of Sydney and the amazing dinosaur bones that he saw in the Dinosaur Hall. We talked about fossils and the scientists who find them. Mitchell also told us that Dinosaurs are now extinct; we explored this term and created our own fossil inspired artworks.

Grace told us all about her holiday to Hamilton Island, where she visited the Wildlife Park. Grace was able to get up close to a Koala, and told us all about the other animals she saw. The next day Ellie brought in a wonderful book all about animals, this prompted further discussion about the types of animals found in the world. We explored reptiles, mammals, amphibians, birds and fish. The children were most interested to learn about sharks; Eddie was surprised that sharks are considered fish, not amphibians.

As NAIDOC Week approached the Kookaburra’s began exploring Aboriginal culture. Whilst using visual aids to explore Indigenous Australia, the children became quite interested in Aboriginal artwork, inspiring us to create our own Aboriginal art. Using natural resources like sticks and rocks the children were able to create colourful pieces of art. Throughout this exploration the children began to ask questions about what some of the artwork meant. After some research we learnt that Aboriginal art always has a meaning and we can often find Aboriginal symbols throughout. The children became quite familiar with some of these symbols and began pointing them out each day. We also talked about Aboriginal body art; the children enjoyed having some of those symbols painted onto their own bodies. The children developed a deeper understanding of the world around them and displayed a great respect for diversity.

To extend on the children’s interest on literacy based experiences, we set up the office in our dramatic play area. The children enjoyed using the keyboards, telephones and calculators to explore their letters and numbers. This also encouraged the children to verbally spell out their names and physically, by “typing” them into the keyboards. We added rulers, protractors and clipboards to the experience where the children began exploring shapes, lines and patterns. This entire experience was a great opportunity for the Kookaburra educators to gain a better understanding on how the children are developing their literacy skills.

Thank you to all of our families who were able to attend our Parent-Educator Meetings. If you were unable to make the evening, please feel free to organise an alternate time to speak to a Kookaburra educator. You are also more than welcome to take your child’s portfolio home overnight.

Please note that from now Ashleigh will be back in the classroom full time, now that Katie has returned from maternity leave.

Have a wonderful month!

Ashleigh, Ashley & Emily
What’s Cooking in the Kitchen?!?

Our centre menu is available on our website www.mimosakids.com.au, please feel free to contact us if you have any comments or suggestions.

Which recipe would you like to see in our September Newsletter? Let us know!

Healthy Vegetable Soup with Veggie and Cheese Ravioli, with Bread

(Serves 4 – 6)

Ingredients:

- Veggie Stock
- Diced Onion
- Diced Celery
- Peas
- Diced Carrots
- Corn
- Diced Zucchini
- Latina Fresh Cheese & Veggie Mini Ravioli
- Whole meal Bread

Method:

1. Stir fry veggies in a pan until brown.
2. Add veggie stock and cook for five minutes.
3. Add Latina Fresh Cheese & Veggie Mini Ravioli and cook for a further five minutes.
4. Serve with Whole meal Bread.

Although soup isn’t always a crowd favourite, the children loved that we added the mini ravioli to the dish!

Enjoy!
This Month’s Policies on Review...

The following policies and procedures we have provided for you are the policies and procedures we are currently reviewing.

We value all input from our families and the wider community, if you wish to comment on a policy, please either fill out the comment sheet provided, or speak to a team member. We value your thoughts.

If there is a policy you wish to read, there is a policy folder in the office that is available at all times. If you think there is a policy we should review or that needs to be put in the newsletter that also can be arranged.

Thank you again, for your on-going support.

Feed Back on Policy and Procedures

Name of Policy and Procedure:

Comments:

Name:
Contact Number & e-mail:
NAPPY CHANGE PROCEDURE

- Wash hands before starting
- Get everything ready to change the nappy
- Put gloves on, place paper towel on change mat.
- Place child on bench, using the ladder if necessary.
- Keep one hand always on the child.
- Interact with child throughout the nappy change.
- Remove any soiled clothes and place in a plastic bag. Remove the child’s nappy and place in bin or in a plastic bag if needed.
- Clean the child’s bottom wiping from front to back with wet wipes. Place in bin or plastic bag with soiled nappy.
- Remove paper towel and place in bin or plastic bag with soiled nappy.
- Tie a knot in plastic bag with soiled nappy, wipes and paper towel and dispose in nappy bin.
- Remove gloves by peeling them back from your wrists, turning them inside out as you go. Place in bin.
- Put clean nappy on and dress the child.
- Lift child down or use ladder and direct child to the sink to wash hands.
- Disinfect the change table.
- Clean own hands by washing, role modelling hand washing to the child.
- Assist the child to finish washing hands.
- Return child to play areas.
- Fill in chart
- At completion of nappy change carry used nappies to bin. Must be done after each nappy time therefore 9.30 am, 11.30 am, and 2.30 pm, also late afternoon change times. Remembering times are individualised also.

Please Remember: A CHILD MUST NEVER BE LEFT ALONE ON THE CHANGE TABLE AT ANY TIME. Nappy changing is to be a pleasant time for both you and the child. Always positively interact and engage in conversation with the child while changing their nappy.

NAPPY TIME: Nappy changes are flexible and responsive to children’s individual need and occur at routine times throughout the day as well as occurring at any time of the day as needed.

This a positive time when each child can gain a positive one to one interaction with a staff member. Nappy time is a fun time, when staff can talk with, sing to or play tickle games with each individual child.

Families are consulted regularly through verbal discussions to ensure each individual child’s needs in relation to nappy change time are met. E.g. some parents may request their child has cream applies or the child may be used to a song being sung at nappy change time. Staff strive to meet each child’s need and provide consistency between home and care.

Safety and hygiene standards must always be observed, e.g. a hand must be placed on a child whilst the child is on the nappy changing bench to prevent a possible accident. Surfaces must be cleaned and gloves changed between each child.

When a child shows interest in the “big toilet”, we begin to toilet train them, after first discussing it with their parents. Independence is encouraged, praise is given to all attempts, including helping pull up own pants, washing own hands etc.

Hygiene such as hand washing are encouraged through discussions, posters and role modelling.

Staff monitor toilet and nappy change areas throughout the day and ensure the areas are kept in a clean, safe and hygienic state.

Staffs keep Toileting and nappy change areas aesthetically pleasing and comfortable areas for children.


Education and Care Services National Regulations,

National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care, Reviewed: February 2013
NAPPY CREAM POLICY AND PROCEDURE.

**Aim.**

To provide a manageable policy and procedure for the application of nappy creams, for children in nappies, whilst keeping with current regulations.

**Implementation.**

- **All Nappy Creams in the centre are to have a pharmacy sticker.**
  Pharmacy Stickers must clearly display the child’s full name and use by date of cream. Staff must check the correct information is clearly labelled on sticker.

- **Parents are to fill in the Nappy Cream application form.**
  This form is filed in the joeys bathroom with the creams, so it is available for casual and permanent staff to be able to access at all times.

**When must the request form be filled in?**

- When parent is requesting nappy cream for their child at any time.

- If new cream is brought into the centre due to the current cream being out of date.

- If new cream is brought into the centre due to there being no more cream left.

- If the brand of nappy cream is changed by the parents.

N.B - This policy is for children in full time and sleep nappies ONLY.

All other creams must be requested through the MEDICATION REQUEST FORM.

_Sourced:_ Staying healthy in child care (National Health and Medical Research Council) 2005

_National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care, Revised 2 November 2010._

_Developed:_ February 2013

_Reviewed:_ February 2013