



# ★ Newsletter May 2011



## Policy Reminder: Gastro

If your child is sent home ill with symptoms of Gastro (vomiting, cramps or diarrhoea) please see a doctor to gain a certificate stating either; child has gastro or child does not have gastro before returning to care. We are required to report any cases of gastro to the Department of Health. If your child does not have gastro they are allowed to return to care 24 hours after symptoms have ceased. If the illness is Gastro department regulations now prohibit them from returning to care until 48 hours have passed since the last symptom. For more information on this policy please see staff.



## Play Gym

After repeated requests we have booked another Play Gym session at Balance Gymnastics Research for **July 10<sup>th</sup>**. This was a huge

success last year with kids really enjoying having free range of the gym and it's equipment. A booking form has been emailed out to families so please do this promptly as spots are limited and going fast.

## Mother's Breakfast

We will be organising a mother's breakfast for the 18<sup>th</sup> June. Last year we held parent committee meetings at Rivers Cafe and had such a great time getting together that we have decided to do a Mother's Breakfast there. An email invitation will be coming but please email your interest to Emma. Mother's Breakfast will be held on Saturday morning around 9.30am.

## Changes to Fee's

Due to the increasing CPI, employee award and changing Children's Services Regulations, Smartie pants will be increasing fees effective 27 June 2011. To be fair to family budgeting we are also giving notice that fee reviews will now be conducted every January and July. In the past we have tried to hold off fee increases but with regulations constantly being updated and the general cost of amenities forever increasing we feel these reviews will prevent the need for an extreme hike at a later date. **Fee for child under 3=\$79, over 3=\$77 and fulltime \$345.** If you would like to discuss this change further please feel free to speak to us.

## Chocolate Fundraiser

Thankyou to everyone who sold/ate chocolates in our recent fundraiser. We sold almost 100 boxes of chocolates. For those who have still got chocolate fever ,even after Easter, we still have a couple of boxes left to sell. Please see a staff member to collect an extra box. We still have some outstanding money to collect so if you have not returned your money please organise a time to do so.

## Toys from home

One of life's hardest battles is removing a loving toy from a child's hands. This is not only a heartache at home but in care as well. It is so exciting for all the children when a new toy is shown but excitement gets the better of them and children end up in tears over sharing (or lack of) or the toy going missing. Smartie Pants is now asking that NO toys be bought into care except for sleep comforters and scheduled show and tell. Any toys that are bought in will be placed in the storeroom until the child's home time.

## Cold Weather Wear

The weather is getting colder but we still love getting outside for a play as much as possible. It is a great idea to have a winter wardrobe bag for your child to bring with them to care. This does not have to be anything fancy, just a plastic/calico bag with a winter jacket ,gum boots and a beanie. Having these items on hand means that the children can enjoy playing outside without being cold and getting their shoes wet. Children who do not have appropriate cold weather clothing will continue inside play.



## Red Nose Day 24 June

It is a Smartie Pants tradition to celebrate Red Nose Day and raise money for SIDS. A donation tin and product box will be on the front desk very shortly. Red noses will be available for purchase the week of and on the day. If your child is in care on Friday 24 we will be dressing up in red to show our support. Gold coin donations are appreciated.



## Event Calendar May/June

13 June- Public Holiday Closure

18 June- Mother's Breakfast

24 June- Red Nose Day



## Hug A Bubs Room Report

Room Leader- Megan, Assistants- Kerry/Hermia

In the Hug a bubs room we have been enjoying playing outside a lot while the weather is still nice outside. We have also been busy doing lots of art work at the moment for Easter, mothers day and trees, suns and bumble bees for our baby garden wall. The children have also been enjoying playing in home corner with babies and the cradles whilst also reading book and singing songs. We would also like to give a warm welcome to all new children and parents in the Hug a Bubs room.

## Pip Squeaks Room Report

Room Leader- Janine, Assistants- Kacey and Roxanne

Well its been a great few months for the pip squeaks children and staff.

Pip squeaks have been very busy making their Easter cards to take home and have also decorated a lovely Easter wall display, as you enter the room.

So parents please come and admire your children's work.

With the room so busy we have been focusing on social skills and encouraging the children to play nicely together.

We have also been focusing on the children learning self help skills and encouraging them to do things on there own such as putting there shoes on, they have been doing a great job so far.

The cooler weather is arriving so we would like to ask parents to please bring in appropriated clothing such as jackets and warmer hats.

Could parents also remember to please name all of children's clothing before you bring them in.

We have noticed that some of the children in our room do not have nappy cream and we do not supply centre cream as it is against our hygiene policy.

So could you please check that your child has cream clearly named to use while at Smartie Pants.

Have a great and safe Easter.

## Mini Minors Room Report

Room Leader – Jenna, Assistants- Jackie, Samantha

We hope everyone had a lovely Easter break! Before the Easter break the Easter bunny came to visit the Mini Minors room. He hid

eggs out in the playground. We found them all and then got to enjoy a yummy afternoon tea of chocolate eggs and hot cross buns! We also had a visit from the rock pool animals. We saw seahorse, sea stars, crabs and a little shark. We had turns to touch the creatures and hold them. Lately in the Mini Minors room we have been busy working on creating beautiful gifts for Mummy's for Mother's Day! We caught some ants and created an ant farm. The ants are making tunnels in the sand! In the next coming weeks we are going to be doing some gardening. We are planting some flowers and we are going to create grass heads! Make sure you come in and see our pretty flowers we are growing and how long our grass heads are growing! We are also going to be doing some cooking, making smarty biscuits in the morning so we can enjoy them for afternoon tea.

A reminder to all parents to please label children's clothing, hats and comfort items (blankets, dummies) We have a lot of dummies which are the same colours and they have no names so we don't know who they belong to.

We hope all our Mum's have a wonderful & relaxing Mother's Day

## Little Geniuses + Kinder Room Report

Room Leader- Jean, Assistants- Kerri & Kayla

Kinder Teacher- Brad

Hello to all the Kinder Parents,

This term we have been very busy doing Easter art and our mothers day gifts, we have also done a lot of other art work such as our self portraits and pastel drawings and rock paintings. We have had a special visit from the rock pool, where we got to touch and hold rock pool creatures such as, star fish, sea horses, sea cucumbers and we even got to touch a baby shark which the children really enjoyed.

We have started setting up a community in our kinder room which include a post office, vet and hospital and our latest edition is a bakery, which the children have really enjoyed. They have fun using there imaginations and role play skills by pretending to be shop keepers and customer's.

Next term we will be spending time learning about the different fairy tales and nursery rhymes and getting the children to act out their Favourite fairy tales at the end of the term. We will also be focusing on their physical development by doing skipping with the skipping rope and lots of running and jumping outside.

We will be starting to paint and build our tissue box cubby house so just a reminder if you could please bring in tissues box's as we still need plenty more.

Many of the funded kinder children on our program have been really enjoying taking home their readers. It is great to see that many parents are recording short notes about their children's attitude towards the books as well as the ease and difficulty they might be finding in particular styles of books, keep up the god work. These parents will soon be getting notes about parent teacher interviews, inside their children's readers, as all of these children will be eligible to go to primary school next year. If you child is not going to school next year, but you are still interested to know how you child is developing, other times for parent teacher interviews will be provided later in the school term.

We are putting a call out also for tissue boxes to be used for craft. If you would like to donate your empty boxes we would be very grateful.

Thankyou from the Kinder Team