



Wine and cheese night

Friday 21st May the Parent Social Group hosted a Wine & Cheese night. Everyone had a fantastic time meeting other parents and staff from Smartie Pants.

There were bottles after bottles of different wines to chose from and a taste testing competition kept everyone guessing if they were drinking the 'cheap stuff' or 'top of the shelf'. What was meant to be an hour and a half of mingling



turned into an 11pm finish with only a couple of bottles unopened. We look forward to the next event organised by the Parent Social Group. Bottoms up!



Illness and Exclusions

There are certain illnesses that require exclusions from care due to their ability to spread and infect others and/or their degree of seriousness. In the foyer at Smartie Pants is a copy of the Department of Health's exclusion table. Please feel free to have a read of this anytime. Our staff are always happy to help if you are unsure what to do in the event of illness.

Smartie Pants also has a very strict policy on child illness which every parent has access to via policy book, email or website. This policy outlines what illnesses are manageable (eg. Runny nose) in care and which require an absence from care (eg. Temp of 38+). Our policy also states that a 24 hour clearance from the last case of diarrhoea, vomiting and a temp of 38+ is needed before re-entry to care. Smartie Pants staff can also request a medical certificate to clear a child for care if they feel necessary. We understand that a sick child can often put stress on a family to organise alternative care arrangements, our policies



regarding illnesses are put in place to protect not only the child that is ill but to prevent the spread of an illness to other children in care. If your child is unwell and is requiring additional cuddles and attention this can prevent an equal share of care in the room and unsettle other children. Often a child just needs a quiet day at home to recover. If you would like to know more about our illness policy please speak to a staff member.

Parent Policy Review

We would like to thank all the parents who contributed to our recent policy review. Your feedback is important to us. We would like to remind everyone that the opportunity to review our policies is always available and you can do so by emailing us or visiting our website.



Upcoming Accreditation for Quality Assurance

Its time for accreditation! Over the next 6 weeks we will be informed of the date we will be assessed for quality assurance. For families who are not aware of this process here's abit of info: The NCAC (National Accreditation Council Inc) is responsible for making sure Childcare Centres maintain a particular level of care and provide stimulating, positive experiences and interactions that nurture all aspects of a child's development. After we submit a self study report an assessor spend 2-3 days at the centre observing all routines and interactions and going through all our programming and documentation. After all this is done the NCAC then give us a rating of our services. We currently hold a rating of High Quality which is the highest accreditation a centre can get. Throughout this process will be handing out surveys for families to complete for the NCAC. These surveys are a compulsory component for accreditation and we appreciate your time filling them out. If you would like to know more about accreditation please feel free to speak to your room leader or management.



Kinder Open Day a Success!

We recently had our Kinder Open Day on May 15th. We are very pleased with the outcome of the day and feel confident that more families are now learning the advantages of continuing at Smartie Pants for Kinder. If you would like to know what makes Smartie Pants a better choice for your Kindergarten year our Kinder team are always happy to explain our program and what makes us special.



Cold weather approaching

We have said goodbye to the warm sunny days and slowly the winter weather is approaching. As we still love to get outside for a play we are reminding parents to pack wet weather gear. Gumboots, jackets and beanies are great items to keep in your child's bag. A plastic bag to put any used wet items is handy to stop other items in your bag getting wet.

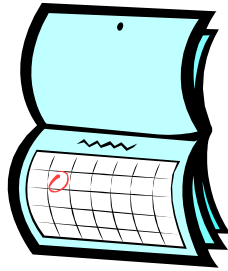


Important: 2011 Enrolments!!!

We are constantly receiving waitlist enrolments for 2011 for all rooms and kinder. We are unable to confirm any future enrolments until we firstly confirm the vacancies for 2011 in each room. This year we will be starting a re-enrolment system to not only confirm positions for the following year but to also accommodate for families that wish to change/add days to their bookings. In the past it has been very difficult to swap days booked around due to the rooms being heavily occupied. In late Aug/early Sep each child will receive a re-enrolment form. This form will allow parents to put in a request for change of days, re-enrol their child for existing days, enrol into our kinder program or notify us that your child is leaving for school. This form will be due back by 4 October 2010. Any forms not returned will be assumed as not needing care for 2011. Please see Emma if you have any questions regarding this process.

NEW: Event Calendar

Our event calendar is now available to view on our website and in the foyer at Smartie Pants. This Calendar displays our incursions, special days and parent info nights. Check out all our upcoming events so you don't miss out!



Next event: Red Nose Day 25 June

Send your children to care dressed head to toe in red to support a charity very close to our hearts. Red noses and merchandise available in the foyer. Donations welcomed!



Changes to our Team



This month we sadly said goodbye to Kerri our Little Geniuses room leader. Kerri starts a new adventure in another area of childcare and we wish her all the best. We wish Kerri the best of luck and hopes she comes for a visit soon. We now welcome Megan to the Little Geniuses team as the new room leader. Megan has been with the Smartie Pants team for 2 years now and is looking forward to her new role in the kinder room.

Thankyou!

Thankyou to everyone who donated pots and seeds to the kinder program for their new garden. We are very grateful for the help and our garden will be growing before we know it!

Reminder:

Just a reminder to pack extra spare clothes in your child's bag no matter what room they are in. We have spare clothes in each of the rooms that we have been using but quite a few items have not been returned. Please remember we have limited supply of spare clothes. If your child is sent home wearing SP clothing please return by the end of the week. We will now be sending a note to remind parents if clothes are not returned.

Hug A Bubs Room Report

Room Leader- Jean, Assistants- Samantha and Alisha

Hi to all the Hug a Bubs Families, Well it's here, WINTER! We have finally completed our Autumn Artwork just in time. The children thoroughly enjoyed being able to use the paste and stick the leaves onto the paper, they have created some lovely art that you can view as you come into the babies room. We have also been working on animals and the noises that they make. Some of the sounds the children make are very accurate and others are quite amusing, so if you would like to continue to ask your children what noise a Cow, Duck, and any other farm animals you can think of, I am sure you will be impressed with what they have achieved over the last couple of weeks. (you may even get a laugh out of it) Over the next month we will be using the colder weather to do some winter art. This will involve some finger painting, glitter pasting and lots of fun! Also with the colder weather could it just remind all the parents to pack a warm hat, coat and boots if you wish into their bags. As it is also that time of the year where we have lots of running noses, we will be using our judgement as to whether or not we will take the children outside. We will though, endeavour to take them out as much as possible. We would also like to welcome lots of new families into the babies room, so if you see a new face, please stop and introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. Until next time, rug up and stay warm.

Hug a Bubs Team

Pip Squeaks Room Report

Room Leader- Janine, Assistants- TJ and Roxanne

Pip squeak's children have settled in quite well with new staff, new children and new routines. We have been busy getting to know each other and learning new skills. We are currently learning to eat all by ourselves and tidy our dishes. Some of us are even learning about socks and shoes. With winter here now we won't have as much time for outside play but we do still go out to play so please supply jackets and possibly gum boots because it is quiet wet and muddy in our yard. We have also been busy little bees, creating beautiful artwork which is displayed around our room. So parents please feel free to come and check it out.

Mini Minors Room Report

Room Leader – Jenna, Assistant-Kayla

Wow, we can't believe it's already half way through the year! We have done so many fun things already this year! Recently we made Smarty cookies and ate them for our afternoon tea. The children are loving the baking experience and we would love to hear some ideas for some simple

recipes we can bake/cook in the room. We have been reading "The Rainbow Fish" and have made our own rainbow fish pastings. They are hanging on our roof over our book corner! We have started making dream catchers by threading beads onto wire and making butterfly paintings by using different colours and folding our paper to mix the colours! During group times we have been doing puppet shows! The children love watching them and joining in and have started doing their own puppet shows to each other. We have been having heaps of fun playing with the sensory trays! We have filled them with sand, stones and tanbark and used them to create environments for different toy animals. Next month we will be conducting carer/parents interviews. All spots have been booked for the first date but hopefully in the next week or so we will inform parents of another date they can arrange an appointment for. These 15 minutes interviews gives us a chance to talk with you about your child's interests and development we have observed and also a chance for you to speak to us about anything you would like us to work on with your child and ideas for the program.

Little Geniuses + Kinder Room Report

Room Leader- Megan, Assistant Jackie, Kinder Teacher- Brad,
Kinder Assistant- Sharon

In the Little Geniuses room we have been busy working on our arts creation including an inside garden with paper flowers, a big tree and plants, we have also been enjoying playing outside doing a lot of gardening involving planting herbs and flowers. In the past week we have also been doing some aboriginal art dot paintings and hand prints and an environment activity of pasting leaves and sticks onto paper plates. Other things we have been enjoying playing with as well as learning about are dinosaurs, insects, reptiles and also the season autumn! The children are also starting to settle into some new routines and staff in the room as well. As winter is here and it's starting to get very cold outside we please ask you to pack a coat or jumper in your child's bag.

Our kinder children have also created some beautiful activities from creating 3D bugs and reptiles and a habitat for them to live in. You would have noticed this near our sign in table. The children have been creating their prehistoric dinosaur sculptures out of play dough which have looked quite scary. We just received our monthly stash of new books which the children have loving and whilst outside, focusing on developing our ball handling and hand/eye coordination skills. We have been doing some lovely music and puppetry with 6 autumn leaves which we have sent home so hopefully your children have put on a lovely show for you.