



Cairns TAFE Community Child Care Centre

APRIL 2016

OFFICE NEWS

2016 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Congratulations to our 2016 executive members who were appointed at our AGM in March.

President: Tim Jackson
Vice President: Kim Wilson
Secretary: Heidi Clark
Treasurer: Jeremy Rillstone

A big thank you to these parents and to those that joined as ordinary members, we can't operate without a committee and we appreciate all input from families.

CHANGE TO CCB RATES WHEN SIBLINGS ARE IN CARE

If you have a child in child care and another attending after school care you are eligible for Centrelink's Child Care Benefit 'second child percentage'. To receive this higher percentage, we have to put this information manually in to our fee system. So we ask that all families who have other children attending care, other than at our centre, inform us ASAP.

ABSENCES

Parents, please be aware that the centre requires a phone call/email when children are staying home on a booked day for any reason. And on your child's return we require a signature for all absences including holidays.

REMINDERS FOR APRIL

- PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
Mon 25th APRIL and
Mon 2ND APRIL
- Input for Quality Improvement Plan
- Have a look at the ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

FUNDRAISER

We are selling the Entertainment Books again this year. There is a sample in the foyer if you would like to have a look and an information sheet has been placed in your child's pocket. The centre receives 20% of the sales

EASTER 2016



The Centre's Easter Celebrations were a great success!

Thanks to all those that attended and to those that brought along a plate of food to share.

The children love having their families at the centre!

Have a great month,
Michelle

DIRECTOR'S NEWS

OUR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

At our team meeting we worked together to set new goals for our Quality Improvement Plan.

- **QA1 – Program and Practice –** Educators to use the individual goal tab on Educa to set short term or long term goals to extend on learning and programming
- **QA2 – Health and Safety –** To ensure all educators know the correct procedures to follow in evacuation drills – review policies and implement drills
- **QA3 – Physical Environment –** To extend the gardens in our outdoor play area to increase quality experiences and encourage respect and understanding for the natural environment – front garden, compost, water tanks
- **QA6 – Partnerships with families and Communities –** To ensure all children have access to the support needed at time of enrolment (focusing on children with additional needs and English as a second language)
- **QA7 – Leadership and Service Management –** To ensure that the Educational Leader promotes a positive learning environment for educators – through reviews, individual meetings, appraisals, organising professional development sessions

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IMPROVEMENT?

If you have any other ideas please come and see me or send me an email.

MEET OUR STAFF



THIS MONTH WE WELCOME MIRANDA BACK TO OUR TEAM!

Miranda has been on maternity leave since May 2015.

She will be returning fulltime in the Toddler Room from Monday 11th April. Miranda is Diploma qualified and has worked with us since January 2012. We are looking forward to her return.

THANK YOU

Rafa's family would like to thank everyone who donated items to send to Tokou Village in Fiji. We were able to send 200kg of new and donated clothing, towels, bedding, tools and tarps to some of those most severely affected by Cyclone Winston who have literally lost everything. This is double the amount we were originally aiming for! Thank you all so much for your support - we have been absolutely overwhelmed by peoples' generosity. Please know that your donations are already making a difference.

*Until next
month
Barb*

KITCHENCAPERS

The Get Up and Grow Healthy Eating Guidelines Guide our centre practices....

Healthy eating guideline 1: Exclusive breastfeeding is recommended, with positive support, for babies up to six months. Continued breastfeeding is recommended for at least 12 months – and longer if the mother and baby wish

Healthy eating guideline 2: If an infant is not breastfed, is partially breastfed, or if breastfeeding is discontinued, use an infant formula until 12 months of age

Healthy eating guideline 3: Introduce suitable solids at around six months

Healthy eating guideline 4: Make sure that food offered to children is appropriate to the child's age and development, and includes a wide variety of nutritious foods consistent with the Australian Dietary Guidelines

Healthy eating guideline 5: Provide water in addition to age-appropriate milk drinks. Infants under the age of six months who are not exclusively breastfed can be offered cooled boiled water in addition to infant formula.

Healthy eating guideline 6: Plan mealtimes to be positive, relaxed and social.

Healthy eating guideline 7: Encourage children to try different food types and textures in a positive eating environment.

Healthy eating guideline 8: Offer an appropriate amount of food, but allow children to decide themselves how much they will actually eat.

Healthy eating guideline 9: Offer meals and snacks at regular and predictable intervals.

Healthy eating guideline 10: Ensure that food is safely prepared for children to eat – from the preparation stages to consumption.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

[For something different here is a recipe for](#)

CLOUD DOUGH!

[Try this at home the children love it.....](#)

1 part conditioner

2 parts corn flour/corn starch

Food colouring (optional)

Step 1 - Pour your conditioner into a bowl (we used a home brand conditioner – note that not all conditioners are of the same consistency so you may need to add a little more or a little less corn flour to get the right consistency for you)

Step 2 - Pour in the corn flour

Step 3 - Give the mixture a good stir

Step 4 - (optional) Add a few drops of food colouring

Step 5 - Mix well using your hands. This part smells delicious!

Step 6 - Have FUN moulding, squishing, shaping and playing with your new Playdough

Have fun, Michelle, Candice and Barb

Nursery Natter

Wow into the month of April already, I hope everybody enjoyed their Easter break and didn't eat too much chocolate.

Nar Maya is settling in well and enjoying getting to know all our wonderful families.



We are starting to explore using different types of paint brushes to paint with.

I have been noticing that when we are painting the babies like to paint their hands and do hand prints, some even go a little further and try and paint their arms and legs. So as a follow up we are going to be doing a few sensory activities.

Benefits of Sensory Play: A lot of learning can occur while children are doing what they do best: playing and exploring! Consider the following benefits of sensory play to children: Cognitive development, Social skills, Sense of self, Physical skills, Emotional development and communication skills.

So please make sure you put extra clothes in your baby's bag, as some of our activities could be a little messy. Also make sure your baby's items are clearly marked with their name.



 Birthdays
for the
month of April:

Patience is turning
two on the 16th
April, Ellena is
turning one on the
20th April and Lex
will be turning two
on the 22nd April.

We are still waiting on a few families to bring in a family photo for our display. Could we please have these ASAP?

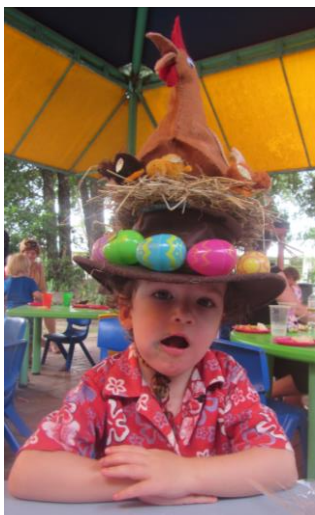
Remember we have an open door policy, and also available for any questions you may have.

Kathy, Nar Maya and Jelenka.

Toddler Torque

What has been going on in the toddler room?

So much has been going on we had Spotty Bears Amazing Adventure show that totally mesmerised the children. The children thoroughly enjoyed interacting and listening to Lionel the actor as he cleverly captured the toddler's attention with all his music, songs and Spotty bear. It was great to see the toddlers confidently and positively engage with a visitor to the centre. They were all so well behaved parents should be proud!



Then we had our Easter parade.

Thank you so much for all of your efforts in making your child an Easter bonnet and attending the celebrations, the children proudly wore their hats in our centres parade. We have a video of the parade on Educa if you haven't already seen it, have a look it looks really cute.



*Welcome back
Miranda.*

On the 11th of April Miranda will be returning from maternity leave, Miranda will resume her role as toddler room assistant, we look forward to having you back Miranda. I would like to say a big thank you to Kate and Rohana who have both done an excellent job in Miranda's absence.

Happy Birthday.

**To Frankie who turns
3 on the 25th of April
and who will soon
begin to transition
into the big pre-school
group.**



Teddy bears picnic.

Our picnic yesterday was so much fun, we cuddled our Teddies, sang songs and danced with them and we practised our chef skills by making our own sandwiches for picnic lunch. Because only the Thursday children got to experience the Teddy bear picnic we will be having another one soon! As a follow up from our picnic we are going to focus on bears and teddies by reading stories and singing songs about them.

Toilet training.

For all of the toddler's toilet training we require at least 4 sets of underwear and clothing for accidents. Please remember to check the soiled clothes buckets in the bathroom for your child's clothes we usually write a note in the comments section of the sign in sheet as a reminder.

Artwork.

In your child's locker there is a plastic pocket hanging from the hook containing their artwork to take home.

*Cheers, and have a lovely April
from Cheryl, Kate and Rohana*

Preschool

March is over for another year and winter is slowly approaching!! We have been extremely busy this month with Easter and many other national celebrations.

You might have noticed, we have had Miharu our Japanese friend helping us in the preschool over the last few weeks and she has been amazing teaching us how to sing "Twinkle Twinkle" in Japanese and demonstrating origami. It's been so great to have this cultural experience and the children have really gained insight into the Japanese culture.

Leading up to Easter, the children have been very excited about the Easter Bunny so we made lots of Easter decorations, Easter cooking, read lots of Easter stories and of course prepared for our Easter bonnet parade which was a hit last Thursday!

We also had a visit from Spotty bear and Lionel last week. Spotty Bear was a very special bear as he was covered in spots of every colour but he was not happy because he was different. After going on an adventure, Spotty Bear starts to think that maybe being different is what makes us all special. Through stories and dancing, the children learnt that being different is ok.



We have some new faces in our room also this month with the lovely addition of Aizah-Lee and Keith. Welcome to you both and your families!

Karly, Kathleen, Hedy and Angie

The children have been enjoying participating in science activities. Experimenting with cause and effect is great fun and we are finding the children are gaining a lot of learning from these experiments.

At a glance

- Science involves a lot of communication with other people.
- Science develops patience and perseverance in kids.
- Science teaches kids about the world around them.
- Science can spark in kids' minds that they, too, can help solve the world's big problems.



This month we have been learning about different types of families and that being different is OK. People have many ways of defining a family and what being a part of a family means to them. Accepting these differences enables us to feel a sense of belonging.