

Monthly Newsletter

February 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2015. We hope you had a great Christmas and relaxing break and have returned to the New Year all refreshed.

Firstly we would like to wish all those returning to school and those starting school the very best for the year ahead.

So we left 2014 with a bang. In our final weeks of the year NCC had their assessment and rating visit. This is effectively when an auditor comes out and rates our performance across 7 quality areas of care, with each quality area having several standards to meet, totalling 58 standards across the entire audit process. The 7 quality areas of care are:

Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Quality Area 3: Physical Environment

Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements

Quality Area 5: Relationships with Children

Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities

Quality Area 7: Leadership and Service Management

Late January saw the arrival of the final report outlining in detail, the audit outcomes that were overall very positive. The report also includes strategies in each section for changes, improvements or modifications that will enhance the care and educational environment we provide. Of the 58 standards the centre met 43 completely and 15 standards were marked as "working towards". None of the categories were deemed non-compliant; however I would like to share some of the feedback to ensure families have information and opportunity to relay their experiences, that we can include in future Quality Improvement Plans.

For example

Quality Area 2, Standard 2.2.1 states "Healthy eating is promoted and food and drinks provided by the service are nutritious and appropriate for each child".

Vacation Care

As we are getting closer to the first school holiday of the year, we would like to start a new procedure for booking your child into vacation care. Could all parents please place their vacation care paperwork including permission slips and payment for all excursions your child will be attending, in an envelope with child's name, amount and date on it and place in the fees box located in the foyer of Community Kids.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

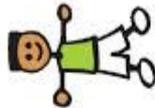
- 19 Chinese New Year
- 22 Clean up School Day

March

- 1 Clean up Australia Day
- 2 Day Lily fundraiser due back
- 1 - 7 Sea week
- 8 International Women's Day
- 15 - 22 Cultural Diversity Week
- 17 St Patrick's Day
- 19 Ride to School Day
- 26 Purple Day - Epilepsy Australia



The overall feedback for this quality area was positive saying we had water available, many physical activities and nutritional information available. However the auditor did mark this as “not met working towards” with the following comments:



1. most children’s meal packs were observed to include a variety of packaged food items
2. during meal times opportunities to sit with the children and engage them in conversations were missed



So it is obvious to us that we can meet the standard by simply arranging staffing so there are people available to get lunches organised, tend to children’s immediate needs and make up beds but also have a staff member purely concentrating on engaging in conversation at mealtimes.



However to meet the first point we really need to be talking to families, and think how is this best embedded in our program and not just a flash in the pan project that we dismiss in weeks to come.



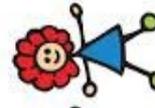
We would love to hear your feedback and will announce in the next newsletter what method you think would be most thought provoking and effective for you and your family.



Our ideas so far:



1. A graph in the room (no children identified) of what comes in lunchboxes. Columns like fresh fruit, sandwiches, packaged food and dairy. Hopefully this would spark discussion with the children about healthy choices.



2. Some centres remove certain packaged foods from lunchboxes and send them home at the end of the day unopened. I actually don’t agree with this idea, but want to include all the suggestions, so no ideas are dismissed.



3. Encourage food containers; these are containers that can be purchased that you can place food items directly into the container rather than wrapping items and placing in a lunch box.



4. Competition for the best healthy food recipe with the monthly winner’s recipe to be placed into the newsletter.



Feedback forms can be found at the front foyer at each centre. Please fill out and place into fee box.



Reminder to all families that the centres have a NUT FREE policy, this includes Nutella, peanut butter and nut bars. This policy is to protect all children.



The CTC overarching theme for the year is “Keep it clean 2015” which means tying up loose ends and keeping things clean.



As it is the start of a new school year, permission forms will need to be filled out for children being taken to and from Community Kids and the Nanango State School for before and after school care. If this relates to your child/ren there will be a permission slip handed to you to please fill out.



Community Kids have applied for a sun smart grant to install a shade sail over the main grass area. We should receive a response by mid March.



All staff have received a CTC hat and with such extreme heat can I please remind all families to bring named wide brimmed hats for your children



As of the 16th February Rachelle has started as the full time assistant educator in the pre-prep room and Sean has become the schoolies assistant educator.



Thank you, Renae and Megan.



CTC CHILDCARE BUS SERVICE
 CTC Childcare offers a bus service to the immediate Nanango district. This service incurs a cost of two dollars per day, per child. This service is available to the children that attend CTC Child care. If you have any enquires please don’t hesitate to contact myself or Megan.

NEWS FROM THE ROOMS

Cubs room

Wow!! How fast has the year started to fly by already. We have all settled into the room really well and would like to welcome Indy and Chloe into our room. The children had a great week before Australia day spending our time doing lots of activities based around our beautiful country and had a great celebration on the Friday eating all of the yummy Australian food. Our toddlers have been working on our speech with using small words such as "Ta", "Mum" and "Dad". Everyone is doing such a wonderful job at mastering these and using manners when needed, they are growing up so fast. Please remember at the end of each day that you take home your child's water bottle so it can be washed for the next day in care.

Until next time

Miss Jaimee and Miss Kacy

Cheeky Cheetahs Room

The year is just flying by already! Firstly we would like to wish our "big kids" well as they move down to Miss Rhonda's room. It has been a pleasure having you in our care and we will miss you all greatly.

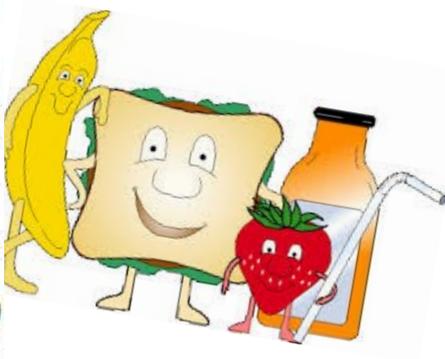
Water bottles: It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that your child has a clearly named water bottle each morning. These are to be placed in the white basket on arrival. Of an afternoon during pick ups we ask that you take your child's water bottle home with you and wash it for their next day at the centre. We no longer have spare water bottles for your children to use, but can provide a cup on the occasion that it is needed.

Sheets for rest time: We ask that parents provide suitable bedding for rest time. Our beds are cot size and we welcome you to bring whatever sheeting your child requires to feel comfortable. Pillows are also welcome. We do ask that sheets are taken home daily and are washed at least weekly for hygiene purposes. We are now unable to store sheets at the centre due to needing the space in our storeroom for resources for your children.

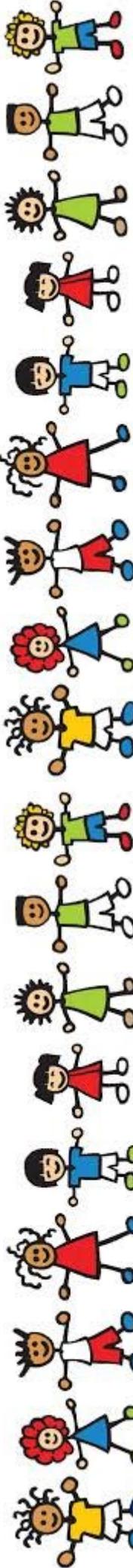
Each day we are talking with the children in regards to healthy eating and the contents of their lunch box. We encourage the children to eat our fruit salad for morning tea, a sandwich for lunch (more if required) and yoghurt, cheese, fruit etc for afternoon tea. Children are encouraged to eat the healthy options in their lunch box before eating the unhealthy options. No nut products please as allergies can cause serious problems for some children including death.

Please have a look at our day book each afternoon as we do put a lot of time and effort into its production. It includes photos and a brief description of what we did for the day.

Have a great month. Miss Dee, Miss Sheryl and Miss Mary Anne



Pre-Prep



Welcome to all our families.

School has commenced and the Pre-Preps are now in their own room. Although there has only been a few children this week, everyone has enjoyed activities both inside and outside. This week some of the children helped Mr Sean plant all the herbs in the garden beds. They also assisted him to dig holes for the beautiful flowers that are now in our yard.

We are going to focus on healthy eating and encourage everyone to bring nutritious food in their lunch boxes and perhaps less packaged/processed food. It is also important that each child has their own drink bottle each day. We will also be discussing the need for exercise.

A new year means new portfolios. These are always readily available for families to peruse. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to ask Mr Sean or myself.

Conversations will be treated with confidentiality at all times.

All Pre-Prep children do require a wide brimmed hat plus their own bedding. It is imperative that all items are named to avoid any confusion.

All parents are welcome to contribute to our program. In fact we would really love any family member to come and share their skills or talents, or even just to come for a visit. Please don't be shy.

Looking forward to spending time with you all, Mr Sean and Miss Rhonda.



Schoolies Room

Before school care is running smoothly with all the children in pre prep room in the mornings and their schoolies room in the afternoons.

In the schoolies room we have set up some new areas for fun and learning. Puzzle table, games table for chess challenges, scrabble, UNO etc., reading rest area with a great selection of books, arts and crafts for creating, computer room, piano for the "X-Factors" and outdoor activities for our sunny days.

Schoolies personal folders have arrived and the children are designing their own covers. Their folders will contain their art, stories and photos of their activities, with written captions from each child. Parents are most welcome to view these at any time.

On entering our room we have a welcome board where we will display coming events, birthdays, reminders and the days photos that parents are welcome to take.

We wish all families a great year. Come and see us anytime.

Thankyou Miss Tracey and Miss Shelly.



Recipe of the Month - Hearts and Crosses Salad

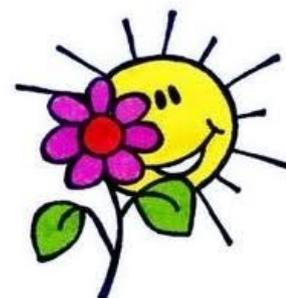
Ingredients

2 strawberries
1/2 small cucumber
Snow pea sprouts

Method

Step 1: Use a small sharp knife to cut a small V-shape into the top of 2 strawberries, removing the hulls. Halve each strawberry lengthways to make hearts.

Step 2: Cut 4 V-shaped indents lengthways into 1/2 small cucumber. Thickly slice crossways to make crosses. Serve the strawberry hearts and cucumber crosses with snow pea sprouts.
You can add whatever fruits or vegetables that are in season



CTC CHILDCARE SERVICES CONTACT DETAILS

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