

May/June 2016

Some of you may have noticed a different face around the centres over the past few weeks, that was me! I am the CTC Children's Services Manager, Susan Jerome. I usually visit the centres once or twice a week but have wanted to do a bit of intensive observation and mentoring with the staff and children, so our management team decided a four week project was a great way to start. I have had such a lovely time meeting lots of new families and spending some time in the rooms with the children, I was able to meet with a few parents who had expressed concerns about different parts of the service and we were able to resolve those issues together. On that note I encourage any of you who want to talk whether good, bad or maybe some new ideas to please email at susanj@sbctc.com.au; I will not be here full time but I will be happy to make appointments to see parents when I am in Nanango.

Important Messages

Congratulations to everyone. I thought it would be a mission and more to get the immunisation records up to date and the government "no job no pay" policy was going to leave many families in difficult situations. But we did it, everyone is up to date and accounted for, I know how difficult it is to get time off work, make doctors appointments that suit work hours, school hours etc, so I am delighted that this has been so successful for our services. I know it takes extra commitment from families to find the time to do things that could be easily put off until next week.

There have been some minor changes to staffing and where staff are currently working. We have had to look at budgets and made sure we are rostering staff wisely. If you have researched the fees of childcare across the South Burnett you will know that CTC Childcare Services are significantly cheaper than all of the other centres. As an organisation we have chosen to keep fees as low as possible to keep childcare affordable for families. Unfortunately at the start of every year centres face the dilemma that enrolments are lower and especially at Community Kids at the moment the numbers are very low, so we have moved Rachelle to Nanango Childcare and when numbers pick up at Community Kids again we will reshuffle.

You may also have noticed that the school age children are being picked up by one Educator on most days, this is due to enrolments being so low, I have considered the risk factors, we have talked to the school in advance and have their support to help the preps to the meeting spot. The following measures have been put into place:

- ◆ Educators carry a mobile phone with parents and centre contact numbers on it
- ◆ There is a crossing guard on duty
- ◆ Children walk from school gate across to CTC gate
- ◆ Days when numbers are larger two staff members shall go to pick up children
- ◆ The ratio for this age group is 1 staff member to 15 children
- ◆ If staff member has any concerns they are able to contact the centre for support immediately

South Burnett CTC is a Public Benevolent Institution and is required to do an annual self assessment. As part of this self assessment we have attached a survey to each newsletter and would appreciate any feedback you would like to provide.



0-2 Nursery

During my days at the Nanango Childcare Centre over the month I scored lots of cuddles and giggles from our babies. What a delightful and chatty little group. Lunchtime is great in the nursery with lots of storytelling most of which I didn't understand. There was a moment one day where one of our maintenance people was fixing a gate in the nursery and one of the children had been chattering away to him, Dave our maintenance man left the room to get another tool and was brought into line real quick with shouts from our young person. Laughter filled the room as the staff told Dave he was getting in trouble for walking out mid sentence.

Rachelle has become part of the Nursery Team and has really made an effort to build relationships with each of the infants, I was there for her first two weeks in the babies room and watching those attachments develop was just lovely. We can talk education and learning all day long but there is nothing like the bond that a baby shares with family, then to include the Educator in that circle of trust, that is special.

2-4 Tigers

Well what a busy room this is, almost at capacity every day and filled with energy. The time I spent in this room I found some of the routines challenged many of the children, it seemed like the day was filled with routine and caregiving with not much time left for fun. However when we broke free outside, the obstacle course was a hit and as I held tiny hands while they balanced on the beams and jumped on the trampolines, laughs were shared and connections made. I have been an Early Childhood Educator for over 20 years and I still love those moments where you can share a story, laugh together or get messy with paint. There are lots of photos throughout the room and just wandering around you can see the learning that is happening everyday with building, creating, obstacle courses, sand and water play. This age group is true to our philosophy "Learning to Play and Playing to Learn".

Pre- Prep

I have been lucky enough to know most of the children in this group for a while now, as I spent a lot of time at NCC last year and spent more time at CK this year. They are a great group and I watched as they interacted. They are at that middle point of nearly ready for school and not quite there. Parents often worry "is my child ready for school?", and there are some clear indicators like; can they recognise their name? Can they write their name? Do they still need a daytime nap or can they toilet themselves? We are working on all these skills in this room, there are days where it might look like a bomb has hit the room, that usually means we have had fun. Miss Dee has the group practicing their names every single day at group time and everyone's self help skills are improving through routine activities like lunches (no one will be there to peel fruit next year). These might sound like small steps but every small step is building confidence and resilience in the children as they move toward school.



School Aged Group

Since the last newsletter the school age children have had vacation care and returned to school. They did a range of activities and excursions with the pool always being a hit during vacation care. Miss Naomi has resigned and we are seeking a suitable replacement Educator. In the meantime they have continued their arts, craft, homework and games with Miss Tracey and other Educators. The time I got to spend in the school room during my visit was so insightful, their knowledge and experience particularly around nature, bugs and insects was amazing. I could sit and listen to their descriptions and stories just soaking in their enthusiasm, I have no interest in those lizards in the fish tank but the conversations with the children made me curious enough to take a peek every time I went into the room.



Recipe of the Month – Classic Pumpkin Soup



Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 leek, chopped, washed, dried
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1.25kg butternut pumpkin, peeled, seeds removed, cut into 2cm pieces
- 2 cups Campbell's Real Stock Vegetable
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup Chang's Fried Noodles, to serve

Method

1. Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add leek and garlic. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes.
2. Add pumpkin, stock and water. Cover. Cook for 20 to 25 minutes or until pumpkin is tender.
3. Blend soup in batches. Return to saucepan. Heat over medium heat until hot. Season with salt and pepper.

CTC CHILDCARE SERVICES CONTACT DETAILS

Community Kids

07 4171 0033

Nanango Childcare Centre

07 4163 1279

Director

Rena White

Email: renaew@sbctc.com.au

Service Manager

Susan Jerome

Email: susanj@sbctc.com.au

CTC SERVICES CONTACT DETAILS

Headquarters 4162 9000

Disability Services

CROSB 4162 9081

Gumnut 4168 1852

Youth Services

Kingaroy 4162 7788

Murgon 4169 5940

Partners in Foster Care

Wondai 4169 0587



EVENTS CALENDAR

June

- ♦ **20 World Refugee Day United Nations**
- ♦ **21 National Aboriginal Day, Canada**
- ♦ **27 School Holiday's commence**

July

- ♦ **3 Naidoc week begins**
- ♦ **4 Independence Day America**
- ♦ **6 Dali Lama's birthday**
- ♦ **11 School resumes**
- ♦ **14 Bastille Day France**
- ♦ **24 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Children's Day**

Important Notice

There will be a fee increase as of July 1st. It will be a \$5.00 per session increase across both centres. The regularly CPI increase also comes into play with CCB then as well, which is why we have held off so the increase will have less out of pocket expense for families.

CTC CHILDCARE BUS SERVICE

CTC Childcare Service offers a bus service to the immediate Nanango district for children who attend Community Kids or the Nanango Childcare Centre. Using the service incurs a small cost of \$2.00 per child per day. For more information please contact Megan or Renae.



