



Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

July 2023

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News from Louisa

Welcome to our July edition of the newsletter for 2023. We have had a busy month during June and July. We also have a few events coming up over the next month. Please continue to check emails as we

will keep you updated.

Shoe Box Revolution

We will continue with this collection of goods to go into a shoebox for the homeless. [Here](#) are the items that we will be collecting to pass onto the organisation to go into the shoeboxes. Thank you for your support in the very worthy cause.

4-Year-Old Vision Screening Thursday 20th July and Wednesday 26th July

We will be having a nurse from Central Coast Local Health District coming out to the centre to screen all 4-year-olds as well as any 5 year olds who were missed last year. This is a free service funded by the NSW Government and is essential for all children who are 4 and 5.

Consent packs were sent home last month. They need to be completed and returned to the centre. If Wednesday or Thursday is not your child's day, we encourage you to bring your child into the centre from 11.15am – 12.30pm. Each screening takes approximately 10 minutes. Please email with your preferred booking time and I will confirm if the time is available. Alternatively, if these days don't suit you are welcome to book an appointment at the Child and Family Health Clinic in Gosford. If you would like to book an extra day for your child to attend on these days, please see myself or Erin to check availability.

Centre Photos

Our photo week for 2023 will be Monday 13th November -Friday 17th November. More information will be provided including links to register closer to the date.



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News from Louisa (cont.) ..

40th Birthday Celebrations

On Sunday 27th August from 11am-2pm we will be celebrating 40 years in operation. Please join us for this wonderful celebration. Please also spread the word as we would love to have as many of our current families as well as past families and members of the community. We will begin to publicise this event in the Community News, emails, invitations and via our Facebook page.

Christmas Concert

To provide you with plenty of notice, we have already scheduled our Christmas Concert for 2023. Please pencil Friday, December 1 at 4.30pm into your diaries for our end of year celebration at the Centre. More information will follow closer to the date.

Sharing Photos of holidays or special events

Please feel free to continue to email any special photos from holidays or weekend adventures that your child may like to share with the room for news. Please email photos to mountainchildren@bigpond.com and we can print them out for your child to show for news. You may also like to include a brief description to prompt questions. If we do not get time to do news on the day, then we will do them on the next day your child attends the centre.

Nut Free Lunchboxes

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation to keep the Centre nut free due to children with allergies. Just a reminder to please not pack any nuts or food containing nuts. This includes peanut butter, Nutella, muesli bars and any spreads containing nuts.



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Farewell to Holly

Today we farewelled Holly. Holly will be relocating to Adelaide to live with her partner. We will miss Holly and her beautiful personality. We wish her all the very best in her new adventures.



Kind Regards

Louisa Foxford
Nominated Supervisor

News from our Educational Leader Kathy

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

As part of following our Early Years Learning Framework we provide a play-based curriculum for all children. Our Philosophy states that we believe that all children learn through play.

So how do children learn through play? What exactly is play based learning?

Play based learning provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise, and imagine.

Play is an important part of a child's early development. Playing helps young brains to develop and for their language and communication skills to mature.

'The role of play has an important impact on children's learning and development. Play is integral to children's development of language skills, social skills, intellectual and emotional intelligence.

Adult's role in play is also important, providing resources and support.'

Play based learning capitalises on children's natural inclination to be curious, explore and learn.





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News from our Educational Leader Kathy (cont.) ..



One of the essential benefits of play-based learning is that it helps children develop cognitively. Through play, children can explore, experiment, and discover. This hands-on learning allows them to understand concepts and build critical thinking skills. Play also helps children practice problem-solving.

Unstructured free play is the best type of play for young children. It isn't planned. It lets children use their imagination and move at their own pace.

What is an example of learning through play in childcare?

Playing games like dress-up, make-believe, and hide and seek engages your child's imagination and creativity, as well as social skills when engaged in play with others. Playing with sensory materials like playdough can develop your child's fine motor skills and creativity. Constructing activities provide opportunities for trial and error, problem solving skills, math concepts, and again creativity. Engaging in arts and crafts promotes creativity and the ability to express ideas and make meaning as they use a range of media.

Any play experiences provide so many wonderful developmental opportunities for learning!

So when you see your children engaged in play, they are not just 'having fun' but developing so many skills that assist them with their growth and development.

Until next time



Kathy

Educational Leader



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Joey's Room News

Kristy Hirons (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday), Cassidy Turner (Monday to Friday), Trudy Gray (Monday to Friday), Eva Sung (Tuesday to Friday), Antoinette Xuereb (Programming and Lunch Cover), Lovely Samejon (Programming and Lunch Cover), Abigail Rickards (Casual)

A special welcome to **Otis** who has just started with us in the Joey Room. We look forward to getting to know you.



In **June** we had a huge month of activities and celebrations, including Parents Day, World Environment Day, World Oceans Day, National Sushi Day, International Yoga Day, the Winter Solstice, International Sunglasses Day and Pride Month.

World Environment Day and World Oceans Day in the same week was the perfect opportunity to talk about and bring awareness to plastic pollution and trying to limit our use of single use plastics. The Joeyes were all very interested in the plastic rubbish that collected on top of our net, representing plastic pollution in the ocean.



We participated in some wonderful cooking activities, making cheese and vegemite scrolls and tried our hand at making sushi. The sushi was a hit with most but some not so sure what it was all about.

Toward the end of June, we celebrated International day of Yoga. Trudy engaged the children in a session of Yoga. The children practiced stretching up high, standing on tippy toes, squatting like frogs, hanging down low and tickling our toes, and wiggling our puppy dog tails high in the sky in our simple Sun Salutations.





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Joey's Room News (cont.) ...

Thanks for a great month and looking forward to catching up next time.

Kristy, Cassidy, Abi, Jess, Eva & Trudy

Joeys Room Staff

Trudy



Kristy



Cassidy

Abi



Eva



Antoinette



Lovely





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Lizard Room News

Room Leader – Paris Helson (Monday to Friday), Belinda Stark (Tuesday to Friday), Mary Todd (Monday, Thursday and Friday), Georgia Dawson (Wednesday and Thursday) Antoinette Xuereb (Programming and Lunch Cover), Lovely Samejon (Programming and Lunch Cover)

Firstly, we would like to welcome Jackson and his family to the Lizard room. We hope you are enjoying your time with us. We are loving watching the growing maturity of the children in the Lizard room which is reflected in their interests and skills. We are seeing them becoming increasingly interested in pre-literacy skills such as recognising and writing their name. We have supported this through games of letter bingo, and name recognition activities as we transition between activities and letter tracing.

Counting has also been a child-lead focus, as they have become increasingly interested in playing board games, which promote social skills and corresponding counting.



The children have enjoyed our many community-based activities, as we celebrated Pyjama week, Naidoc week and had a Teddy Bears picnic. They have also enjoyed sharing their camping experiences with their peers through the drama play area and craft activities.





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Lizard Room News (cont.) ...

We have been promoting verbal communication skills by inviting the children to have a turn at bringing in a book from home to share with their friends. The children are most enthusiastic participants who can't wait for their turn. Thank you for your support in ensuring the children have a book with them when it is their turn.



Please let us know if there is anything you would like us to include in the program that interests your child. We would also love family and community members to share their skills or interests with us. Please see Mary, Paris or Belinda if you would like to share something with us.



Until next time,

Paris, Belinda, Mary, Georgia, Lovely and Antoinette



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Lizard Room Staff



Paris



Belinda



Mary

Lovely



Antoinette





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Snake Room News

Room Leader – Kathy Rawsthorne (Tuesday to Friday), Allison Monaghan (Monday to Friday), Lovely (Programming and Lunch Cover), Georgia Dawson (Monday) and Holly Pearce (Wednesday)



Welcome to July.

We have enjoyed a relaxed school holiday period where we all enjoyed wearing our pyjamas for Pyjamas week. This is a wonderful week where everyone gets to relax and be comfy in their pyjamas, and enjoy a short period of watching a movie whilst eating popcorn. Needless to say the children love it, and so do the Educators!



During the month we also celebrated Naidoc Week, which is a week dedicated to celebrating the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Through celebrating this we can help the children develop a deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture.

Throughout the week we enjoyed reading and discussing special dreamtime stories. We set up an indigenous discovery area for the children to explore. It included aboriginal books, puzzles, tapping sticks, flags and special sand trays for the children to draw aboriginal symbols in with sticks. The children created aboriginal flag handprints to add to the area and we discussed what the colours on the flag meant. They also helped to paint a mural that contained aboriginal flag handprints as well as



Aboriginal symbols. We incorporated some dot painting craft, and even participated in games of Aboriginal symbol bingo. This group game provided a wonderful opportunity to explore the many different symbols that the Aboriginal people used in their storytelling. We added a variety of natural items to our natural playdough to inspire traditional creativity with their sensory experience.

We also introduced a traditional Indigenous song called 'Taba Naba'





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that originated from the Torres Strait Islands. This is sung in the local language of its origin and it describes the everyday activity of going out to the reef to fish.

Snake Room News (cont.) ...

Snake Room News (cont.) ...

As an embedded practice we do our Acknowledgement of Country each day. We gather the children using our wooden tapping sticks and sit together under the tree in our yarning circle. We touch the earth and look at the sky as we say our Acknowledgement together.

All these experiences promote respect for cultural Diversity as we explore the Indigenous culture, traditions and history.



The children have been very interested in dinosaurs lately – often digging up 'dinosaur fossils' in our yard. So, we packed away our fairy area and turned it into a fabulous Jurassic world discovery area. There are many different types of dinosaurs to explore! We all helped to paint our Dinosaur

cave, complete with cave paintings! We also have dinosaur fossil excavations happening!



We incorporate the creative arts into our interest centre by presenting a variety of dinosaur craft experiences that extend on fine motor, scissor and creative skills.

Literacy is also promoted through providing many different dinosaur books - both fiction and non-fiction. This led to exploring some real fossils, which were fascinating to investigate.

Due to an overwhelming interest in presenting news, we introduced book news bags. The children contribute to News time so enthusiastically, which promotes self-esteem, confidence, and communication skills. The listeners develop respectful listening, attention span and ability to ask relevant questions.



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Snake Room News (cont.) ...

Funny Things Kids say

One of our girls ran up to me all flustered saying, "There's an animal on our bin!!" I enquired about it, picturing a rat or a possum on our outdoor bin. "It's an animal! I'll show you!" she said. I followed her as she led me to the bathroom. She pointed to our paper towel bin, and yes, on top of it was....a mosquito!

One of our friends had been away from the centre for the week. I enquired as to where he'd been. I asked, "Were you sick? Did you have a bad cough, or were you vomiting?" He shook his head and said, "No, none of that." One of our other friends was listening and asked innocently, "Did you have bum worms?" I never did find out what was wrong! (Too busy giggling)

Until next time

Kathy and Ally

Snake Room Staff

Kathy



Ally



Lovely



Antoinette





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News from the Office

Changes to Child Care Subsidy

From 10 July 2023, there are changes to the way Services Australia work out your Child Care Subsidy (CCS) entitlement. Child care will be cheaper for most families.

A fact sheet about the changes to be implemented can be found here: [Changes to Child Care Subsidy Fact Sheet - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

A calculator can also be accessed to work out the approximate gap fees that will apply to child care for your children from July 10: [Child Care Subsidy Calculator at Starting Blocks.gov.au](#)

Working Hours of Administration Officer

I work part time at the Centre on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, between 8am and 2pm. If you need to contact me, please feel free to do so on my workdays - Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. You can also email me at any time at mountainchildren@bigpond.com and I will get back to you on my next workday or Louisa will reply in the meantime. In urgent cases, please feel free to contact the Centre on any of our opening days (Mondays – Fridays from 7.30am to 5.30pm) and speak to any of our staff.

Statements

Statements are sent out weekly on Wednesdays. Please check your statements closely - on page 3 or 4 under “**Account Transactions**” of your statement you will find the future payment to be deducted with “**Fee Payment by Batch DD/ CC**” in bold and the date and amount next to it. If there is ever a problem with the date or amount to be deducted and you need to change this, please contact us as soon as possible to avoid a dishonour fee of \$19.95 (this is charged by Debitsuccess who handles the payments for us and beyond our control). If you need to make any changes to your payment date or amount, please let us know with a minimum of 48 hours’ notice to amend a payment as they are locked in by Debitsuccess after.



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News from the Office (cont.) ...

We have had a few families querying why their CCS % rebate has changed lately, unfortunately this is out of our control, and if you have any queries, you will need to call Centrelink directly, or log on to your MyGov account. There can be a number of reasons why your CCS can change including a parent returning to work, an older child turning six, you may have lodged your Tax Return and your family's income may have changed, you may have an outstanding debt with Centrelink that they are recovering through charging you higher fees (Centrelink's Debt Recovery Line is 1800 076 072).

I am always here to discuss your account with you if you have any concerns.

Immunisations

Thank you to everyone who has recently sent through their children's updated immunisation history statements. Updated immunisation history statements can be downloaded from your Medicare services within your myGov account. Please ensure that you email us an updated copy after each immunisation as we are legally required to keep them in your child's file.

Excursion Permission Forms

Thank you to everyone who has filled out the emailed Google Form Excursion Permission Form. Last week I have re-emailed and also printed off a copy for any families that still need to return the form for their children, could you please either fill out the emailed copy or the paper form and return it to me at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Erin

Administration Officer



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Dates for your Diary ...

JULY

Thursday, July 20 11am

4-Year-Old Vision Screener

Wednesday July 26 11am

4-Year-Old Vision Screener

AUGUST

Sunday, August 27 11am-2pm

40th Birthday Celebrations at the Centre

NOVEMBER

Monday 13th – Friday 17th November

Photo Week

DECEMBER

Friday, December 1 at 4.30pm

Christmas Concert at the Centre