Happy New Year! 2013

JANUARY’S EDITION

Happy New Year to all of the new and existing families in our Kidz Club community. We trust that everyone enjoyed the Christmas and New Year period with family and friends and that a good time was had by all. We would like to extend a very big thank you to all of the parents that gave the management and staff generous Christmas gifts. They were greatly appreciated and very yummy. Thank You again.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Management and staff at Kidz Club believe that you can never know enough about children and their stages of development. This is why we continue to attend training sessions to gain more knowledge to maintain the high quality of care that all our Kidz Club families are used to. 2013 will be no exception. Our staff will be undertaking many courses and seminars focussing on topics such as the NQF (National Quality Framework)/Accreditation, Behaviour Management and team building just to name a few. If you have any ideas on professional development or training that may be of use to the staff please speak to Melva or the staff within your child’s room.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Once again Kidz Club will have the Calendar of Events up and running. It is currently in the process of being formulated and the themes will be displayed each month as in previous years. The children will learn much about the months selected topic and their art work will add great colour and creativity to each room. We also look forward to the many guests and performances that will visit the Centre to accompany these themes. Keep a look out in your family pockets so you are updated on the upcoming events scheduled.

SUMMER

We are now finally experiencing the heat of summer. On the occasions where the children can go for a run outside (before the heat sets in) they will be required to wear a broad brimmed or legionnaires hat. They will also need to have sunscreen applied to protect them from the harmful rays of the sun. PLEASE supply a hat that is clearly named for your child each day so they can enjoy the sunny weather. If your child has sensitive skin and cannot use the Centres sunscreen please supply your own and make sure you pack it with your child’s bag each day or if you like, you may label it with their name and leave it at the Centre for your child to use when they attend. And last but not least, please remember that your child needs to wear appropriate clothing and their T-Shirts and dresses MUST cover their shoulders. These guidelines correspond with Kidz Club Policies. Please see management for further details.

PARENT INPUT

We at Kidz Club value the ideas and opinions of parents, and welcome any feedback that you may have regarding the Centre and the service that we provide. If you have any suggestions, for changes within the Centre or have any comments please do not hesitate to approach staff or management. We will do our best to assist any parent and we hope that together we can continue to provide an exceptional service that children enjoy and parents can trust.

NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK (NQF)

Under the NQF, services are assessed against seven quality areas in the new National Quality Standards (NQS). Different rating levels can be awarded for each quality area, as well as an overall rating. Under the NQF Kidz Club is still waiting for an assessment to be conducted by The Australian children’s Education and Care Authority (ACECQA). In the meantime we are working through our improvement plans and finalising our documentation.

POLICIES

In the beginning of the year we will be revising all Centre Policies and making any necessary changes. A policy and procedures folder is located in the front foyer and is available for perusal by parents.

GOOD-BYE

At the start of school and kindergarten term we have many children who will be leaving us. We wish all of these children the best for their continuing education and we know that they will make new friends and grow to be confident and intelligent young people.

NEW ENROLMENTS

Management and staff would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new families. We hope that the children have settled in and have started to form secure bonds with educators and developed new friendships. If you have questions or concerns about your child’s settling in process, please speak to a staff member within the room.

Kind regards from Melva and her team.

.Calendar of Events for JANUARY

Activities & Celebrations
Performances and Guest Presenters

To kick off the Calendar of Events for 2011 we are having a little fun with “It’s Summer” Month. The children will participate in fun and creative experiences that promote sun and water awareness.

They will also explore what Australia Day means and learn more about our wonderful country.

PERFORMANCES

Jumping Jay’s Castle with Slip and Slide — Wednesday 16th January
(please bring a towel and extra change of clothes)

Swimming and Pool safety from State Swim — Thursday
Welcome to the first newsletter for the year 2013! We hope that you had a great New Year celebrating with family and friends.

We would like to welcome all the new children and their families to the Baby Room. The children are settling in well and have been forming secure bonds with the educators and making new friends with all the children.

In the Baby Room we value your input into your child’s development and interest as this will help us with programming for your child. We look forward to working with you and your child with documenting their milestones as this is such an important time in their lives.

It is true your child is playing. They are choosing what to do and enjoying it, but there is much more to just playing. They are observing, interacting, absorbing, exploring and most importantly, they are learning how children are supposed to learn: by playing according to their own individual developmental stage. When children are playing, they are being genuine. It is the way they live, share and coexist as a mini society. Exploratory and creative activities that young children initiate themselves in are the basic ways in which they develop concepts and understanding about the world. We all know that language is essential, but sometimes we forget that it needs to happen in the appropriate environment for it to matter and to be memorable. For a child, what is memorable play? When a child spends hours playing with blocks, play-dough, sand and water, they are having fun and making a mess! But they are also developing skills in logic, statistics and visual-spatial relations. They are starting to understand scientific concepts, such as cause and effect, balance and gravity, as well as mathematical ideas like quantity, classification, counting, sorting and sequencing. They are predicting, hypothesizing and evaluating. This is the starting point for understanding math and science, quantities, shapes and sizes. So, is your child just playing?????

In the Baby Room we have been doing just that......’playing to learn’. Educators having been spending quality time with all the children offering activities based upon each child individual developmental stage underpinned by what interests each child. The environment in the 0 -2 year room offers choice and variety whereby needs, strengths and interests are all meet.

During this month the children will be having summer fun with water play, bubbles and creating and exploring with various sensory experiences related to summer!

Baby Room Staff
Welcome to the Toddler Room newsletter for 2013. We hope everyone had a safe and relaxing Christmas and New Year and have had an opportunity to enjoy some time with family and friends!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new children and their families to the Toddler Room. We have been getting to know the children and their interests which will make for a smooth transition from home to their child care environment. If you have any questions or concerns about how your child is settling in please do not hesitate to speak with an educator in the room or give us a quick telephone call to check on their progress.

To start the year off with a BANG the children have been creating various New Year celebration art work. This will make our room bright and colourful, which will work in well with a summer theme for this month. During this month we will also have a jumping castle with slip and slide for the children to enjoy and cool off with the warmer weather! Look out for a note with the date and time posted on the Toddler room door.

With the warmer weather here, many parents have taken the opportunity to introduce toilet training to their toddler child. This can be an exciting time for children but a testing and difficult time for parents. Please speak with educators about your child’s progress and for any further information to make toilet training as stress free as possible. If you choose to train using pull-ups please remember to pack enough to last the day, while your child is in care. Please remember to pack several changes of clothes, including shoes.

During this year the older Toddler children will have opportunities throughout the day to practice pre-writing and literacy skills in small groups with an educator. This practice will prepare them for the Kindy Room as numeracy and literacy takes a greater importance ready for school.

The educational curriculum has ceased over January and will recommence for the beginning of February. More spontaneous activities will be implemented during this time. To assist educators with the implementation of the program, please feel free to write on the Parent Input sheet any interests or ideas that you would like to see included. If you have any questions regarding the curriculum please speak to Marita.
Happy New Year. We trust that everyone enjoyed their Christmas/New Year break, and are ready to face the new year ahead. We are all excited about 2013, and are looking forward to the many new challenges, fun and happy times that the year will bring.

NEW CHILDREN

We will be welcoming many Toddlers into the Kindy Room this year and hope to form some wonderful relationships as we get to know the children and their families.

TRANSITIONS

Transitions into early childhood education and care environments and into school are important milestones for both children and families, but they can also be challenging times. The Early Years Learning Framework (COAG, 2009), describes the following factors as important to successful transitions:

⇒ building on children's prior and current experiences;
⇒ ensuring children have an active role in preparing for transitions, in partnership with families;
⇒ assisting children to understand transitions, routines and practices of the settings they are moving to and feel comfortable with this process;
⇒ helping children negotiate changes in status or identity, especially during the school transition phase; and
⇒ working collaboratively with each new educator for the child and other professionals to make certain that a successful transition occurs.

At Kidz Club we encourage families and educators to work together, forming a partnership. A partnership helps to establish an understanding between educators and parents about expectations and attitudes, and provides a foundation for building on the knowledge of both parties (COAG, 2009).


SHOW AND SHARE

Show and share is a component of the Kindy program that helps develop self confidence, language and communication skills. Each child is allocated a specific day throughout the week for their show and share and are asked to bring something from home ONLY on this day.

We have a topic each week and which is displayed on the door of the room and we ask that they bring something that relates to this specific theme. (eg. week 1 - bring something that is Australian orientated to share with the group).

Parents are encouraged to get involved in their child's learning. Sometimes the theme may be to draw a picture, or make something from home. This give the children an opportunity to bring their learning home and extend and share their knowledge.

Excursion

The excursion to the Maritime Museum was cancelled due to extremely hot weather. We are in the process of rescheduling this experience for the children for Thursday 17th January. The existing parental signed forms will apply. You will be receiving new information regarding this excursion in your family pockets. Parents that have already made payment for this excursion and no longer want your child to attend, the cost will be reimbursed.

Until next time, Kindy Staff

Kindy staff