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POLICY REVIEW / NEW POLICIES

Thank you to the families that have contributed to the policy review process - it is much appreciated. Please speak to a staff member if you have any questions about any policies. A friendly reminder - copies of all policies are kept in a folder in the foyer. You can also view all policies that are up for review in 2013 on the Alpine Children's Services website www.alpinechildrensservices.asn.au Please note that The Occupational Health and Safety policy has been re-named Workplace Health & Safety.

"Adults teach children in three important ways: The first is by example, the second is by example, the third is by example".

*Barbara Nicholson,
Attached at the Heart:
8 Proven Parenting Principles for
Raising Connected and
Compassionate Children*

Alpine Children's Services encourages families to ask questions and/or raise issues about our philosophy with staff or management.

JOEY'S ROOM

The Joey's have been involved in the Seedlings Program, by helping to plant seeds and watching them grow. Some of the children helped plant grasses in the outdoor space. The outdoor space is really working well now and the children and Educators are really comfortable in this huge space. Joey's are always keen to go outside and explore.

As it is nearing the end of the year transition is starting to take place, this is where the children who are moving up to the Wombats room get to experience time



weather and lots of outdoor play experiences before it gets too hot. Water play is always a hit!

This being the last newsletter for the year the Joey's Educators would like to thank the families for their support and confidence in our role in your children's life. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and looking forward to seeing you all next year.

Wombats

It's been another awesome quarter as our year starts drawing to an end. We have had many opportunities for children to be transitioning from and into the Wombats room. These have been through simple things like sharing our learning experiences, inviting others into our room for meals and group times as well as being invited to join the older rooms. We have seen many successes in development over the last couple of months. A number of children are showing positive signs with their toileting and really coming out of their shell and showing a whole new identity.

With winter mostly behind us we have enjoyed a lot of outdoor time. This has been wonderful sharing and developing interests of the children. Many of the other children haven't had much of a chance to get the strawberries as the Wombat children tend to get to the garden first. They all showed great interest in planting of the tomatoes and basil and children from all age groups have helped so far in the upkeep of these. The citrus trees have created a whole different learning experience. Not only are we caring for them with watering cans but

the children are learning about smell and texture from the flowers.

An important note to add is that we are currently missing our



gorgeous friend Phallen. She, unfortunately, has injured herself and we wish her a speedy recovery. We also look forward to her drop in visits.

KOOKABURRA ROOM

As the end of the year approaches it is evident that the children have a strong sense of belonging as they confidently explore the learning activities in the room and experiment with their own ideas. We have been exploring many different topics based on the children's strengths and interests such as road safety, literacy and numeracy concepts and experimental science.

Our road safety exploration has been a meaningful extension on the children's play with cars and roads. We have made our own box cars and a pedestrian crossing outside for the children to practice safely crossing the road. Songs and stories have promoted discussions and ideas about being safe in the car, on your bike and near the road. We hope to extend this learning with an excursion to practice crossing the road near the school.

The children have been very motivated to explore numbers through counting, simple mathematical sums and solving maths problems. This learning has been encouraged throughout the daily routine with some children even solving maths problems together at the lunch table! It has been great to see the children so interested in developing their understanding of numbers. Similarly there has been an enjoyment in exploring literacy concepts such as recognising names, writing words and creating stories. We have loved helping the children to write their own name and other words of their choosing. Our finger painting outside has been a perfect opportunity for the children to develop pre-writing skills and practice exploring letter shapes.

Experimentation has been the key with the scientific exploration of electricity and circuits that the children have been doing over the past few weeks. This learning has involved them to think logically about the flow of power through the circuit and to explore patterns that can be made with the help of a spinning motor. This play has provided opportunities for small group problem solving and shared learning, where together each child brings some knowledge to the experience. Our science experimentation has been also extended towards exploring flight using paper planes to explore the relationship between distance and structure of the plane.

The group have had a keen interest in exploring wildlife over the past few months through dramatic play, exploring specimens, looking at reference books and art. We have enjoyed learning about the cicadas that have been emerging locally and have been looking at the nymph shells. It was lovely to have one of our Kookaburras bring in a live cicada

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Just a reminder that our centres encourage involvement from parents and guardians. People can become involved in their centre by sharing information about their weekends or holidays or special events. This information then can be used as part of the daily program or incorporated into the fortnightly plan. Families can also be involved in the centre by special visits over lunchtime, special play visits, show and tell of photos, other family members or pets.

Reminder of our Illness policy

This is a reminder of our illness policy. Children or staff who have infectious diseases or who are ill will be excluded from care at the Centre. Exclusion of infectious children significantly reduces the risk of the spread of diseases to other healthy children and Educators. The Centre follows the National Health and Medical Research Council's recommendations for exclusion periods.

Parents need to be aware that when a vaccine preventable disease is present or suspected at our Centre, children for whom the Centre does not have a complete immunization record may be treated as unimmunized. Please forward a copy of any updated immunizations to the office. Remember that a copy of all our policies is available in the foyer. We are also happy to make a copy if you would like to take any policy/procedure home.

Reminder of our medication policy

Use of Paracetamol, Ibuprofen or Similar Medication

Fever is when the temperature of the body rises to above 37.5°C (using a forehead thermometer) or an auxiliary (armpit) temperature greater than 37°C. Staff are not expected to diagnose childhood illnesses or to make judgments in relation to the administration of medication. This is the responsibility of the health professional in conjunction with the child's parents. The use of paracetamol, ibuprofen or similar medication for the treatment of common childhood illnesses has come under increased scrutiny in recent years. We are now aware of the potential for the masking of important symptoms, if it is administered without a doctor's health assessment. It is now clear that the administration of this medication should only be in accordance with a doctor's prescription. This will be in cases where the child has a clear history of high temperatures and the drug has been prescribed by a doctor, under clear future circumstances, and supplied accordingly, with a plan.

Administering Medication

- Short-term medication must only be administered to a child if:
 - The medication is in the original packaging,
 - The medication is within the use by date,
 - The medication is prescribed for that child,
 - The parent/guardian has properly detailed the medication in the Medication Book (including consenting to staff administering the medication),
 - The medication has been prescribed by either the child's doctor or an Emergency Service at a hospital and includes written instructions including: the name of the drug, form of the drug, strength of the drug, route of administration of the drug, frequency of administration of the drug and duration of administration of the drug.

that they had found to show us all. The children have been exploring the diversity of wildlife through animal collage and drawings too.

Dianne Kim Naomi Carolyn
Fiona



News from the Eagles room

The children have continued to explore their interest in our garden as more vegetables have become edible during the spring months, culminating in eating jacket potatoes with a variety of vegetable toppings. Elissa has led this experience with her passion for cooking and has presented the different vegetables in a variety of ways and encouraged the children to try them! We have discussed with the children what we should plant in our garden and have now planted potatoes and are to plant pumpkins which we have grown from our own seeds, as well as apples from seeds from the apples we have been eating. The children are keen to plant peas, beans, lettuce, tomatoes and corn, so these will be planted in the next few weeks.



The children have explored many "I wonder" questions with the support of the educators. I wonder why the sponge gets bigger in water; I wonder what crystals are made of; I wonder what lives in a rock pool; I wonder how motors work. To explore these questions we firstly used the mind map and gathered information the children already knew and find out any questions that we did not know the answers to. We then resourced some experiments to test their ideas and answer their questions. It has been a wonderful way to work with the children using books and technology to discover answers to our questions.

HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES AS THEY RELATE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES VISITING THE CENTRE.

Alpine Children's Services staff will ensure the provision of timely and appropriate care in the event of a child's accident, or in an emergency situation. Fire drills and evacuations are practiced with staff and the children on a monthly basis. Development of first aid knowledge, skills and attitudes enhances the performance of staff in their undertaking of Accidents and Emergencies Policy and Procedure. It is a vital investment from which our staff and Alpine Children's Services itself will benefit. Alpine Children's Services therefore provides first aid training (including CPR Refresher and Level Two First Aid courses) for all regular staff at no cost. If you see anything in your child's service that you believe to be a Health and Safety issue please bring it to the attention of the Team Leader or Health and Safety Officer. These officers are Gaby Thomson (Lake View), Julie Newlands (Mountain View) and Kate Kovessy (Alpine View).

Alpine View children's centre



Christmas Party!

Join us Wednesday 18th December

6.00pm

Pony rides plus Santa arriving at 7pm!

B.Y.O picnic dinner

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME!

Staff are willing to work with families to support children who are:- Experiencing emotionally challenging events, e.g. separation, divorce or death of friend or family member. Please speak with your services team leader or ACS manager Jenny Kromar if you are experiencing any difficulties and would like some support. There is a great service called Child First that offer a wide range of help and support to families. If you are struggling from financial hardship Alpine children's services may also be able to offer special child care benefits to help you over a difficult time.



The children are showing ownership and a sense of belonging, being and becoming as they organise many experiences both inside and outside. Some wonderful building, using a variety of materials has been evident, with the children working collaboratively on projects over several days. Likewise dramatic play experiences have been developed by the children. Inside we have had a camp site, complete with an esky for the sausages and marshmallows made from cottonwool to toast! At present we have dress up area with a bus, so that dad can go to work, mum can go shopping and the children can go to school!

their transition.

The children who will return to Alpine View in 2014 in our Universal Access program have begun to discuss the sorts of things they would like to do when they return. This will form a basis for the experiences we will offer as the children commence in the new Emus room! Likewise the Wombat children who will transition to the Emus room have begun to work with Mica and Kristy to plan the experience they would like to do in the Emus room!

The Educational team are very excited to introduce a 2 year preschool program in the Emus room commencing in 2014. We feel that offering a curriculum to all 3-5 children in the one room will enable the children to be exposed to all of the experiences every day and all day, enabling them to revisit experiences as often as they wish as well as extending their interests more readily. The inclusion of Mica and Kristy will assist the children with their transition from the Wombat room, which is already occurring, with the Wombat children visiting both the Eagles and the Kookaburras room quite regularly. The continuity for the Eagles and Kookaburra children will be provided by Dianna, Naomi, Elissa, Denise and Marlene.

We wish all families a happy and safe break and look forward to working with your family in 2014.



There has been a lot of dancing, singing and drama of stories. When we had the flying bookworm visit Denise led the children to re-enact the 3 Billy goats gruff, which we filmed on the I pad! Barry Peters came along to teach us about owls with some songs and dances. Pete the plumber taught us about the water cycle. Some children and Educators from Mountain View in Myrtleford came on the bus to see him too! He was very funny (according to the children)!



A huge thank you to the family and friends for their support in funding these wonderful experiences for the children each year. With school transition visits commencing, we have been reading stories to the children about school and encouraging the children to share their experiences of school with everyone. This is a great way to support children with

Vegetarian Spaghetti Bolognese (serves 4)

Ingredients

1 brown onion 2 broccoli
 2 carrot grated 1 capsicum
 2 zucchini grated 1 tsp garlic
 1 x 700g pasta sauce
 10 mushrooms
 1 tsp vege stock
 1 x tomato soup

Method

Fry onions, garlic and capsicum.
 Add mushrooms, carrot, broccoli and zucchini.
 Add pasta sauce and tomato soup.
 Simmer until cooked.
 Add extra stock to taste if needed.
 Add cooked spaghetti and mix through.
 Serve with parmesan cheese.



Alpine View Family & Friends Group



Living Fundraisers. Thanks to everyone who sold herbs / veggies / flowers for our Living Fundraiser. We have raised over \$2,000 from this fundraiser, an absolutely fantastic result. Please, if you have any unsold items at home, or money for sold items, please return them ASAP so we can maximise the profit made from

the fundraiser. A big congratulations to Sarah Higman who sold a massive 29 units and raised \$174, Annette Perkins-Paech who sold 26 units, raising \$156, Ruth Waymouth, who sold 22 units, raising \$132 and Kate Simpson who sold 25 units, raising \$150. Well done everyone!!!

Tea Towels. These should be arriving in the next couple of weeks, if you haven't paid for your order, please drop your money off to the office ASAP.

This will be the last F & F update for this year. If you haven't had the chance to be involved in any of our fantastic fundraising initiatives this year and still have a child at the centre next year, there is plenty of opportunity to get involved. We will be holding our AGM early next year and we welcome new members, and input and ideas from everyone who thinks they would like to make a difference to your child's centre. Please let us know if you are keen to help out with anything at all or have any suggestions for great fundraising ideas.

*Have a happy and safe Christmas & holiday period.
 Thanks everyone
 Lisa*

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