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**Centre Philosophy**

The centre's philosophy guides our educational program and all our other operations. Please speak to a staff member if you would like a copy of the philosophy or if you have any ideas to contribute.

*"Play is the highest form of research."* ~ Albert Einstein (scientist)

**CAR PARK SAFETY**

(taken from 'A Road Safety Guide for Parents', a Vic Roads publication)

Car parks are confusing for small children. You need to work out some rules to help your child to know what to do when getting out of the car.

**In car parks where there is no kerb side (as at Kiewa Valley Children's Centre):**

- Do not allow your child to leave the car until you are at the door waiting.
- If you need to get a baby out of the car, have your child wait inside until you are ready.
- Once out of the vehicle stand with your child and look around for moving vehicles and talk to your child about where dangers may come from.

**News from the Rooms**

**KIEWA KIDS**

It has been a fantastic and very busy start to the year. It was great to welcome new families to the centre as well as lots of familiar faces.

**Family Trees** - after reading a story to the children about families, lots of them responded by naming all the members of their family. The children have also enjoyed naming their peers on a collage of photos from last year displayed in the room. We have worked on a display of family trees which they each painted and brought in pictures from home to glue on. This is displayed in a place where children can see at their eye level. It has initiated discussion about who is in their families. Through these discussions children have been able to notice and react in positive ways to similarities and differences among their families (Community) and also to sense and respond to a feeling of belonging to their family as well as the Kiewa Kids family (Identity).

**Making a book about Circles** - this was a great experience. The children began to recognise the circle shape at the play dough table, where we cut out different sized circle shapes and rolled balls together. This led to a circle hunt outside and we took lots of photos of all the circle shapes we could find. Helen then added some words to the pictures and developed a book which we have read in the room. Many of the children are in the book. They love to see themselves in the pictures, plus all the familiar equipment. This helped them feel a sense of belonging to a group (Identity) and also encouraged them to be curious and enthusiastic participants in their learning (Learning).



**Transition** - we have several 2-3 year old children who are beginning to spend time in the Bogong Room in preparation for them to move over permanently. It has been fantastic to see how well they are all doing and how much fun they are having. We have had opportunities to work with small groups of 2-3 year olds to focus on some of the skills they will use later in the Bogong Room, such as serving themselves morning tea, practising to dress themselves and helping to make play dough. The children in the Kiewa Kids room have shown that they are ready for new challenges, and can make choices, manage change and are learning to cope with frustrations (Wellbeing).



Other ways the children have shown that they are ready for the next adventure and new challenges has been in their physical development. They have been eager to climb and attempt difficult climbs. To guide this we have supported their climbing to the tops of equipment, giving them the choice to climb till they are comfortable and then support them to climb down. Some children have made several attempts, climbing a little higher each time and making it to the top feeling very proud of their achievements (Wellbeing). We have also taken small groups into the Bogong Yard to give them opportunity to try the more difficult equipment. With these experiences has come lots of practise at turn-taking and waiting which the children have shown they are more than capable of doing - another indication that many are ready to move on to the Bogong Room.

**Helen and Georgie**

**BOGONG ROOM**

This year in the Bogong Room began rather quietly, giving lots of opportunity to get to know the children, and to begin forming those important relationships with them. The children are adapting very well to the room routines which are important, as this helps children to know 'what comes next', a predictable pattern to their day. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, four children from the Kiewa Kids room participate in transition time along with another Educator. These children will be turning three over the next few weeks, so this time assists them to become familiar with the room, the daily routines, other children and educators. So far, this is working very well, the children are settling in very nicely.

**Chicken and Vegetable Risoni**

(Adapted from: The Australian Women's Weekly Fresh Food for Babies and Toddlers)

- 100g chicken mince
- 1 small red capsicum finely chopped
- 1 large zucchini finely chopped
- 310g tin creamed corn kernels
- 400g tin crushed peeled tomatoes, undrained
- 2 tablespoons risoni

1. In a lightly oiled pan, cook chicken for 5 minutes or until brown. Transfer to a bowl and set aside.
2. Cook capsicum in the same pan over medium heat, stirring for 3 minutes
3. Add corn and zucchini; cook, stirring, for 2 minutes
4. Add tomatoes; cook stirring until vegetables soften. Combine with cooked chicken.
5. Cook risoni in boiling water until tender; and drain
6. Toss risoni with 1/3 cup of chicken and vegetable mixture. Blend or process until smooth for younger babies.

## POLICY UPDATES

In the last 2 months a lot of policies have been reviewed and updated (see an outline of updates below). As of February 2013 all parents will receive an invitation either via email or in your pocket to review the current month's policies. We would love to have your feedback. You can reply to these reviews with any comments via an email to our Administration officer Paula at [pmiotto@alpinechildrensservices.asn.au](mailto:pmiotto@alpinechildrensservices.asn.au)

The services would like to thank all the staff, parents and guardians who have thoughtfully replied to our policy reviews. Please remember that our centre's policies are also available in the foyer or on the ACS website if you wish to read of them. Alternatively, we can provide you with a photocopy if you would like to take any policies home.

### Recent Updates to Policies:-

1. As per the Illness and Infection Control Policy & the HIV, Aids and Hepatitis Policy the service will not launder blood-soiled clothing, instead contaminated clothing will be removed and stored in leak-proof disposable plastic bags and sent home for laundering by the parent/guardian.
2. Excursion Policy now incorporates procedures for routine (regular excursions) and non-routine procedures. Families will be asked to give permission annually for routine excursions to the service's community e.g. local shops, library and park. The risk management plan is available in the policy folder if families need to see this.
3. The Fee Policy and the Enrolment Policy has been changed to reflect the changes to the early learning centre in Bright and their 'universal access' program. The policy has also been updated to reflect the application of both kindergarten programs at Lake View Children's Centre. All services managed by ACS must now comply with the Department of Education and Employment Workplace Relations Priority of Access. The Fee Policy also includes a section stating that in the event that a service is required to close (e.g. for an emergency), families are required to pay their scheduled fee for that day. The enrolment policy now includes a section on cancellation of booking requirements that 2 weeks written notice must be given for all permanent booking cancellations and if bookings are cancelled for any reason a new enrolment or child on a waiting list will then move into vacancy.
4. The procedure for the decanting of chemicals as per the Dangerous Goods Policy has been modified slightly and now any decanted chemical must be placed in an appropriate container and labelled with the chemical name and the dilution rate (if applicable).
5. The Immunisation Policy - now contains the website to access the 'conscientious objector' form. It also notes that the Alpine Shire Council immunisation dates will be displayed in the foyer of each service.
6. The Delivery and Collection Policy now has a procedure to follow when a licensee/staff member/educator has reasonable doubts about allowing an authorised person to collect a child (for example if the authorised person is under the influence of drugs or alcohol). If the licensee/staff member/educator believes that doing this would place the child in danger then the licensee/staff member/educator should attempt to convince the parent or authorised person to allow the service to contact another authorised person to collect the child. If the parent or authorised person refuses and/or becomes aggressive the licensee/staff member/educator should allow the parent or authorised person to remove the child from the service. As soon as practicable, the service should contact the police and then the Victorian Child Protection Services to advise them of the incident. As soon as practicable, the service should contact both the Team Leader and the General Manager to advise them of the incident. Either the Team Leader or General Manager will file an incident report to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
7. The Nutrition Policy now excludes the section on bringing a healthy lunch and snack at Bright & district kindergarten as all food is now supplied at Alpine View children's centre. There is also a new section on the guidelines for heating formula in a microwave.

The children have been very busy in the room. Lots of open-ended art/craft experiences. Providing children opportunity to explore and express themselves. The purpose of an open-ended experience is to allow children to use their imagination, as well help them gain skills which will allow them to express their ideas with confidence. Open-ended crafts are left to each child's interpretation. These experiences included: box construction, collage, painting and pasting, drawing and clay. These activities used a variety of 'ways' of doing each one, so lots of variety for children to experience and explore.

The Bogong Room has a budgie called "Bluey" and fish that will stay while H is working in the room. Bluey (in his cage) moves around the room, and outside with the children. Interacting with and learning to care for pets can be a valuable part of a child's learning. It's something new and interesting. As an extension of having fish, the children have been making paper fish to hang in our fish pond that hangs from the ceiling. Remi Barter wanted to paint a shark and hang it up, so after a discussion with Izzy about 'what other animals live in the ocean',



our fish pond has now turned into "Sea World", and if you have a look, it has octopuses, sharks, crabs, star fish, and even a mermaid. The children had fun with this.

The children are also enjoying music and movement. The 'Crossover song' and the 'Magic Play dough' are the two popular songs. We would be happy to demonstrate them to you upon request.



Technology has also played a big part of the program in the Bogong Room with children keen to explore math concepts on the ipad. We have also used the ipad to find information about caterpillars on the internet. The children have their own office and are often busy working and taking calls.

In order to develop socially, emotionally and cognitively, children need plenty of free, unstructured play. This is also how we the educator see your child holistically so we can plan for them. In this free play and with guidance from educators, your child learns to interact with others with care, empathy and respect, and become aware of fairness. Your child learns to become stronger in their social and emotional wellbeing. Free play also assists your child to develop a range of skills, processes such as problem solving, inquiry,



experimentation researching and investigation. Your child has access to free play (child initiated) every day.

For Autumn, the children will be doing a variety of Autumn art and craft, as well as using natural resources to be creative.

## 3 Year Old Kindergarten - Term 1

What a happy and enthusiastic group of children we have in the 3 year old group this year. After a few tears and separation issues early on the children are now settling well into the Kindergarten environment. The first few weeks focused on introducing the children to the Kindergarten rules, routines, educators and each other. By establishing clear routines and transitions the children are then able to predict what will happen next and have a greater sense of belonging.



We have spent a significant amount of time learning each other's names so that the children feel more comfortable within the group. We have had a lot of open ended art and craft experiences available for the children to engage in. It has been observed that this group particularly enjoy art and craft experiences and many of the children create several artworks a day. Another keen interest of this group is singing, music and movement activities. We have learnt some of the following songs and dances;

*"The Wiggerly Woo" "Build a House"  
"Jump, if you feel you want to"  
"Dingle Dangle Scarecrow"  
"Fairies like Flowers"*

Alongside these songs and dances the children have loved reading several big books. "We're going on a Bear Hunt" "Goldilocks and the three bears" and "The three Billy Goats Gruff". As an extension of reading the three Billy Goats Gruff we played out the story with our large hand puppets. It has been beautiful to observe that the children play out this story amongst themselves with the puppets during the session.



We have enjoyed the many Special Guests we have had during the term and look forward to meeting many more during Term 2.

*Thank you Eloise, Gaby and Babette.*



## 4 Year Old Kindergarten - Term 1

What a wonderful start to the Kindergarten year the 4 year old group have had. The first few weeks of the term focused on familiarising the children with the Kindergarten rules, routine, educators and each other. As this is the first time we have had five hour sessions it took a little time for both the children and educators to adjust. I am happy to report that as we near the end of Term 1 the group have gelled nicely and the flow of the session is working well for all involved.



We have already had our first incursion; Diane from North East Water visited the children and talked with them about the many ways water is used and recycled in the world and how we can all take care of this precious commodity. As an extension of these discussions the group talked about Nutrition and Healthy eating. We discussed what type of foods are 'sometimes foods' and those that are 'everyday foods'. The group enjoyed reading and singing "The Incredible Edible Alphabet" and completing the related activities.

During group time we have also read "The very hungry caterpillar" which also addresses the topic of food and then the children created their own caterpillars made out of egg cartons. We are currently making butterfly paintings as an extension of this activity. The Healthy Eating



discussions and activities have resulted in more children eating better during meal times.

It was lovely to see so many children and families at the Welcome Breakfast and I would like to pass on a huge thank you to the Kindergarten Committee for hosting another very successful morning.

The children have loved participating in movement to music sessions and we are currently practising our performance for the Mount Beauty Music Festival. The children are scheduled to perform at 11.15am on Saturday the 20th April at the Community Centre. Details of the performance are under tight security so you will just have to come to the performance and see for yourself.

Before the end of Term we will be doing some Easter art and craft activities as well as having an Easter egg hunt on the last day of Kindergarten. We had another incursion on the 21st of March with the Responsible Pet Program visiting the Kindergarten.



Just a reminder that the children will be completing the Bike-athon on the first Thursday of Term 2 (18th April) so we encourage children to gather as many sponsors as possible before then. This fundraising aims to raise money to be spent on a new CD player and a white board/big bookstand for group experiences.

The last day of 4 year old Kindergarten for Term 1 is Thursday the 28th March. Thank you to all of those who have been able to participate in our Special Guest Roster and we hope to see many more of you in Term 2.

Thank you

Eloise, Gaby and Kay



## Lake View Children's Centre



**Be part of the future for your community.**

Lake View Children's Centre is actively seeking community volunteers, parents and staff to assist with the development and implementation of the outdoor children's learning environment. We need a small, proactive group to get this project into gear.

If you are community minded, resourceful, interested in gardening or are good at getting things done please join us!

**When: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013**

**Time: 10am-11.30am**

**Where: Lake View Children's Centre**

**What: Meet and greet, site visit, review proposed plan, generate ideas and actions on how to proceed.**

To register your interest please call Susan Anehagen on 0409 784 283 or speak with Isabelle at the Centre.

*Why focus on the outside environment?*

- *Contributes to the education, care and welfare of the children*
- *Offers the children a special place where they can learn new skills, have fun, play and develop self-confidence by spending time and undertaking activities in harmony with the environment.*



## WELCOME PICNIC 2013

