

**In this Issue:**

- News from the Rooms at Lyndhurst
- Thank You's
- Policy Review
- Support Services
- Communicating with Children
- Alpine Early Years Conference - Reading for Life
- New Accounting / Admin System - Hubworks

**Thanks to all families who completed our 2012 parent surveys.**

**We value your comments and are dedicated to making positive change to improve our service to your family.**

**POLICY REVIEW**

You are now able to participate in the review process for all ACS Policies and Procedure by finding our current policies to be reviewed on the Alpine Children's Services website under 'Our Policies'

[www.alpinechildrenservices.asn.au](http://www.alpinechildrenservices.asn.au)

The policy will be reviewed in light of all feedback and if the document is revised it will be:

- posted on the Policy Review Noticeboard at each service
- provided to all Care Providers, and
- placed in staff communication folders at each service

**We welcome all parent feedback.**

**News from the Rooms at Lyndhurst**

**NEWS FROM THE 0 - 2 ROOM**

There has been heaps of progress in the 0-2 room in the past few months. All of the children's communications and language skills are coming along nicely. Meal times have become much more vocal with the children wanting to chat about what they are eating or wanting to sit with their friends. There has been lots of naming friends and educators as well as the foods on their plates. The children who are moving to the 2 year olds room in the new year have been drinking out of cups without lids, there have been many mishaps with spilt drinks at the table but most of them are getting there.



It is great to see most of the children have a named sun hat that is kept at Lyndhurst, and all children are happy to have suncream before they start their day. Suncream is applied first thing in the morning, after morning tea and again after a sleep. Please remember to talk to educators about the suncream if you have any concerns and if your child does not have a sun hat please bring one along ASAP.



Most mornings we have the gate open to the big yard. Most of the children take the opportunity to head up there and play with siblings or with the big kids toys. The bike area and the slide are very popular as well as the dolls house.

**2 - 3 ROOM REPORT**

Recently we have welcomed two new children to our group - Connor and Stella.

We have continued with our rolling morning teas and added in rolling afternoon tea. With the introduction of these we altered our regular routine with mat times. We have now reviewed this and returned to our old routine of having a mat time each day after these breaks. The children benefit from this time with learning to concentrate for a length of time and also appreciation



of music, rhythm and book learning as well as language development, all important areas of learning or Intentional Teaching within our environment of learning through play.

With a mixture of weathers we have lots

of both indoor and outdoor play. Indoor play has enabled a build in skills with art activities, puzzles, block construction and role play in the Home Corner.

We have also seen growth in the children forming friendships with lots of requests from the children each day as to whether their special friend is coming today.



Outside has seen lots of fast riding on bikes especially on the motor bikes which are a real favourite.

A lot of the time we have also had the gate to the big room open allowing the children a choice of which yard

they will play in and also teaching them to develop new skills to use the bigger equipment which takes more challenge.

We joined the big kids with their Teddy Bear's Picnic and Heather Munro visited for a session of music and movement. Heather is the facilitator of our much loved Cross Over Song.



**3 - 5 ROOM REPORT**

During the last few months we have watched the children continue to extend their skills in all areas of their development. The children have gone from building basic block constructions to building with purpose and precision. The children have used reflective thinking, numerous strategies and problem solving to complete their constructions, even measuring how high the building is to make sure it isn't hitting the electricity lines. It has been fantastic to be involved in their journey and conversations during their constructions.



## Support Services

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.

## COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN

Listening, talking and responding to children

The ability and desire to exchange ideas and feelings with others is one of the foundations for learning and growing. Listening, talking and responding to children from birth with gestures and words builds positive parents/caregiver relationships with young children.

When you are reading with your child, ask them the following questions about the book:

- Who were the characters? What were they like? Where / when did the story take place?
- What happened in the story? What was the problem?
- What is the character's plan in response to the problem?
- How does the story end? How was the problem solved?
- How do the characters feel at the end of the story? What feelings have changed?

We continued to provide the weekly Music and Movement sessions on different days during term 3. The children enjoyed being introduced to Mr Jingle Jangle and being involved in the numerous activities and songs. During term 3 we also studied the Olympics and had our own Olympic Games. We had a Footy Day on Thursday 27th September. The children dressed in their favorite team colours and we walked over to Pioneer Park to be involved in some ball games, use the playground and have a sausage sizzle for lunch. It was a great day.



Louisa Vale, Imogen mother, made us an ocean scene as part of biodiversity. We then made our own mural, whereby children helped to paint it and draw and paint various sea creatures to go onto it. We also added a sand area. Children built a border and carried sand to the area. We then added items that we see at and in the ocean. Books about the ocean and how we can look after the ocean were read. The children have gained a better understanding of how human activity impacts on the environment by being involved in this experience.

Recently we have focused on Road Safety and life cycles. As part of Road Safety the Monday children made a car for their teddies with seat belts and then they brought their teddies in for a Teddy Bear's Picnic on Monday 15th October. The children put their teddies in their cars and drove them around the road we made on the bike track.



We have discussed with all children safe places to play, how to cross a road safely, traffic lights and the correct side to get into a car.

On Thursday 18th October Heather Munro from The Kids Music Company came to our centre to sing and dance with us and told us some stories. The children have been singing many of The Kids Music Company songs throughout the year but Heather taught us some new songs to perform.

Lyndhurst Christmas Party - Wednesday 12th December 6.00-8.00pm at Lyndhurst, BYO picnic dinner. There will be pony rides, a visit from Santa and balloons! Come and say farewell to Lyndhurst...after 23 years. There will be an opportunity to purchase a paver for the new Alpine View Children's Centre.

**CLOSING DATES for 2012 Friday 21st December.**

## Alpine Early Years Conference | Reading for Life 18-19 October 2012

The inaugural Alpine Early Years Conference was a huge success, with over 120 delegates participating, including all ACS staff and educators across the Hume region. This was the first time all ACS staff have come together for a professional development day under the theme of literacy. Educators were inspired by the words of wisdom from key notes speakers author Lee Fox and teacher and education consultant Jo Lange. Break-out sessions included; The power of music; Collaborating with families to support children's learning; Strategies and games to support children at risk and Oral language supporting early literacy. We are sure our Educators will share their knowledge, new dance moves and songs with your children.



Plus.....over 70 parents attended the PARENTING EVENT on Thursday 18th October at the Myrtleford Performing Arts Centre. Here is a comment from one of our parents:

"I just wanted to say how fabulous the talks were last week. I really enjoyed both speakers, and got lots out of it. So thanks and well done for bringing these two inspiring women to the North East. I am going to see if I can find a book of Jo Lange's at the library. If not, I might just have to buy a copy (assuming she has one!)"



## NEW ACCOUNTING / ADMIN SYSTEM - HUBWORKS!

In our recent parent surveys some families expressed concern with our statements, account information and administration. We have taken this on board and changed our administration and accounting system to HUBWORKS. What this means to you:

### ONLINE ENROLMENTS

NO MORE time consuming filling out of enrolment forms by hand.

Online enrolments, enabling you the Parents to update your child's enrolment at any time ensuring we have all the relevant important Information we need for your child's care.

HUBWORKS allows you to:

- Access and view your account online
- New easy to read and understand statements
- On line waitlist for new or extra bookings
- BPAY coming soon
- Your own personal secure login username and password
- Update enrolment details

Over the next two weeks we will be emailing you your personal login user name and password information. We will keep you posted to when BPAY will be available, for now continue to pay by your usual method. Statements will continue to be emailed or put in pockets for the next couple of weeks; once you have your log in details you can then view them via your personal portal. Parents can only access their own information-nobody else's so your information is kept strictly confidential.