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"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.

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.

News from the Rooms

TINY TEDDIES (0-18 MTHS)

Welcome back to a new year at the centre and a warm welcome to all new children and their families. Staff members have all moved to new rooms, and we have two staff members go on leave, so relieving staff have had to step in and take their place.

Children are beginning to settle and are starting to develop a sense of belonging and comfort in their environment. They are also forming relationships of trust with educators and fellow children in the room. Lots of milestones are being met such as developing their independence to stand on their own and taking their first steps. Lots of new words are being used. The children are becoming more independent, learning to wash their hands and face and feeding themselves which is all a part of taking care of their own wellbeing.

Through play children have the opportunity to become confident and involved learners. They develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and a sense of agency which allows them to create a strong sense of identity. Also through playing of percussion musical instruments the children are experimenting with a variety of sounds, this helping them with their social and emotional wellbeing and extending their auditory and verbal skills. The children are especially enjoying books at the moment, which offers moments of solitude and extends on their communication skills. This also helps to build on a foundation for literacy.

Stackable shape containers and posting bucket has been very popular encouraging fine motor development, hand and eye co-ordination and problem solving skills.



The Tiny Teddies along with the Butterfly room went for a walk to the library. Debbie the librarian read a story to the children, then let them explore books and other objects in the library. This was a great way to be involved within the community.

BUTTERFLY ROOM

What a great start to the year! We have all been very busy learning through play, and have welcomed some new faces, as well as some old friends.

Outdoor play has been a huge hit for the children in the Butterfly Room! The children have loved



exploring the sandpit and have really engaged with the water play- especially on a hot summer's day. Sensory activities like these are a fantastic way for us to learn about mathematical concepts such as volume, capacity and cause and effect. When we "cook" in the sandpit, we are practising the things we see every day, showing that we are making connections with the big world around us.



We have also had lots of exposure to books, songs and rhymes. Some children even had the opportunity to visit the library. When we listen to stories and songs, we learn about language and improve our verbal communication skills. We also learn about the way books are put together.

As we have settled back into our routine, Educators have been working to foster children's independence and self help skills. Children are encouraged to take charge of their own wellbeing when they feed themselves, wash their faces and hands, put on their shoes and begin to toilet train. We have also enjoyed lots of fresh fruit and water- yum yum!!



In the Butterfly room, we have been very busy creating beautiful masterpieces using paint, shaving cream, pencils, chalk, glue and even stickers. When it is not

on display, our art work will be in a big box ready to be taken home. Please take the time to look through and collect your child's art work- they love to see it on display at home.

Our home corner has been very popular with the children. When children role play, they develop the skills they need to interact with one another with empathy, care and respect.

Our new group learning journal is one of the ways we are documenting your child as they learn and grow. Please take the time to look inside and see the wonderful things your child has been doing throughout the day. We would also love to hear any thoughts you have to share with us- feel free to have a chat with Leesa on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday or Emma on Thursday or Friday. We

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

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.

believe that working together with families is the best way to provide children with the care and support they need for ongoing learning.

Thank you,

Leesa & Emma

STARLIGHT ROOM

Welcome back to the Starlight room to all our parents and children. The children have settled in well they were all excited to see their friends after the break.

The children have been exploring the world using their sensory capabilities while playing in the sand pit feeling the texture of the sand, playing with the tan bark using it in our coffee shop as cups of tea and coffee. They have also been playing in the box with semolina flour and couscous, where we have added a variety of objects for them to explore with.

The children are exploring different aspects of their identity through role play, in our home corner, brushing the mannequin's hair and putting the dolls to bed. They are also learning to communicate with each other through their role play.

A few weeks ago we planted an indoor garden the children enjoyed the experience of being able to help to plant the plants and learning how to look after them. With the garden children are beginning to demonstrate knowledge and respect for our natural and constructed environment, by watering the plants during the day as we leave the water bottle beside the garden.

In the sandpit the children have been doing lots of cooking making cakes, pancakes, pasta dishes. We planned a cooking activity for the children so we made some pancakes for morning tea. They were able to cut up their own strawberries and spread jam and cream onto their pancakes. The children enjoyed being a part of a group and working together to produce our pancakes.



Children have been learning each other's names while playing "Bee Bee Bumble Bee". They are developing confident and knowledgeable self identities

and continuing to build on their language skills. Children are learning turn taking and sharing enjoyable interactions when playing "Doggie Doggie who's got the bone". While playing "What's the time Mr Wolf" is improving physical wellbeing as well as learning about time, numbers and distance.

We also joined the children from the rainbow room to make some cupcakes. This was an enjoyable activity and very yummy. Cooking helps to learn mathematical concepts such as volume, capacity, time and measurement.

RAINBOW ROOM

Marg and Julie would like to welcome all families to the rainbow room for 2013. This year started with lots of moving around as our centre was getting painted. How bright and fresh all the rooms look now. Many days were spent together and this created a great sense of community.

This year we have introduced a room learning Journal. It is placed above the sign in sheets and is valuable tool, recording our learning throughout the year. We have been learning about life cycles with the children finding many bugs, insects and creatures in our outside environment. Outside a cocoon was found. We placed this in a container and were surprised when a lot of baby pry mantis hatched a couple of weeks later.

Children have displayed care and appreciation for the natural environment by looking after our strawberries, planting imaginary gardens, helping water the starlight indoor garden and feeding the worms. We are learning that feeding the worms is a great way to turn our food scraps into organic matter for the garden. We will continue by learning to care for our environment by planting more vegetables and flowers once the weather cools.

Children have been building connections with the local community when they went on a local excursion. A small group of children walked down to Coles to buy our afternoon tea. On their excursion they met a policeman, bought some groceries, learnt about the elf books, visited Margs house and picked some vegies and fed her chooks. These community connections continue to develop with Debbie visiting from the local library once a month to read books and tell us stories.

The children have been learning mathematical concepts during the many experiences in the room. Cooking, making clocks, role play with money and counting games are helping children to learn about volume, capacity, time, measurement, turn taking, numbers and cooperation. Cooking has been a big interest. Children have contributed to making cupcakes, choc chip cookies and decorating biscuits. We are hoping to continue our cooking experiences throughout the year.

Children are gaining a strong sense of identity while they are making the room personalized. The children have made name tags for their lockers and decorated a small person to represent themselves on the birthday wall. They have shown pride in their creativity and love to point out their person to family.



Mountain View children's centre



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

Mountain 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: Thursday 18th April 2013

Time: 10am-11.30am

Where: Mountain View Children's Centre

Corner of Prince and Duke Streets, Myrtleford

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 Jenny or Paula 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.