



In this Issue :

- News from the Rooms
- Christmas Party
- Flying Bookworm Visit
- Ride or Walk
- Winning Ways to Talk with Young Children
- Sunsmart clothing, hat and shoes
- Policy Updates
- Mandatory reporting of child abuse

**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 reminder that a copy 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.

News from the Rooms at Mountain View

Tiny Teddies Room

We are now seeing the tree blossoms and the sun shining after our cloudy and wet couple of months. During our inside learning time we have been able to have lots of sensory experiences pasting with different materials and using different tools to paint with eg: shaving cream, goop and also tasting it along the way! By allowing young children to have experiences like this it gives them a sense of being creative, open to new discoveries and to explore the world around them.



We have welcomed lots of new little friends into our room and many of them are still forming caring relationships to develop their confidence to learn in our tiny teddies room. Our older children have been having transition time in the Butterfly room, this has been a great way for them to learn appropriate behaviour and the skills they will need as they grow.

We have had some exciting days where we have connected to the outside world and being involved in the community eg: walking down to the supermarket to buy some sensory resources like shaving cream and corn flour. Along the way we had lots of discussions about what we saw and lots of people stopped to say hello.

We participated in "International mud day" and got back to nature by getting down and dirty in glorious mud by putting on our gumboots and coats. The children enjoyed jumping in the puddles and also got an opportunity to paint using mud.

We hope to get outside more now with the weather warming up, soaking up the sun and enjoying the environment. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to talk to either Melissa or Rangi.

Butterfly Room

Now that we are 3/4 through the year we have seen a lot of children move to the starlight room and have welcomed children from the Tiny teddies room. These children have adapted well to the routines of the room and also getting to know other peers.

Since the last newsletter we have celebrated "Mud Day" The children were able to explore the texture of the mud and stomp in muddy puddles and enjoy the squishy ooey gooey mud. The children were also able to paint with mud.

We also celebrated the culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, the children were provided with different activities through the week including painting on bark, using cotton buds and the colours of the Aboriginal flag to make boomerangs, and listening to music. This allowed the children to explore the diversity of culture, new understanding and celebrating different cultures.

We have had a lot of exposure to shapes and colours. The children have responded well to this and are scaffolding their recognition of different shapes and colours. This experience has allowed the children to apply thinking strategies and express wonder and interest in their environment.

The home corner is always a popular place with the children spending time cooking at the stove making cups of tea, preparing food and taking care of their babies. The

children will sit at the table in the home corner engaging in conversations building on their communication skills.

The children have been given lots of opportunities to select what they want to play with in the yard. This form of emergent curriculum encourages children to resource their own learning, helping to foster their sense of independence.



The sandpit is always a very



social place with the children. Digging in the sandpit helps to explore our understanding of mathematical concepts such as cause and effect. This play also encourages us to communicate and share with our friends.

With spring upon us now we will be exploring outside a lot more, looking at our environment with different colours around our yard. Please feel free to approach Leesa, Nicole or Leanne if

you have any concerns.

Starlight and Rainbow Rooms

This term has been quite busy with lots of activities and people from the community coming to visit. We have been doing some winter activities. Julie Sinnett bought in some snow, the children were able to play with it, touching and feeling the texture of the snow. This activity enabled the children to use their sense of touch to explore natural things in our environment. Lots of discussion about the snow and what it's like and who lives there. This led us to start a project of making an Igloo from milk cartons. Families jumped on board and helped to collect lots of cartons. Children helped to wash bottles decorate them and construct the igloo. There was a delay with the building of the igloo due to various glues and silicones not sticking, however we are back working on that and hope to have it completed very soon for the children to play in.

Outside we have explored our environment by jumping in puddles, watching some hail fall and spotting



beautiful rainbows. On mud day children had another chance to explore using their senses. Tamara bought in lots of sticky mud. Children went on a bear hunt walking through the parts



"Almost all creativity involves purposeful play."

Abraham Maslow,
American psychologist
1908-1970

Apricot Chicken

(serves 4)

Ingredients

Serves 4

1 brown onion
10 button mushroom
500g diced chicken
1 tbsp French onion soup
200g peas
1 lrg tin apricot nectar
2 carrots
1 tbsp chicken stock
1 tin chickpeas

Method

Fry onions in oil until soft.
Add mushroom, carrots.
Cook chicken in separate pot.
Add chicken stock.
Add apricot nectar and french onion soup mix to vegetable mix.
Add cooked chicken pieces to vegetable mix. Simmer 1 hour.
Add frozen peas and drained and rinsed chickpeas.
Cook for a further 10 minutes or until peas are cooked.

Serve with cous cous or rice.

of the story, the grass, river, the snow, storms and lots of mud. Then they got muddy in the sticky mud and after lunch had a mud dessert.

Children have been learning about Australian animals and where they live, through a range of texts to gain meaning. This included children making wombat masks, echidnas out of clay mud - using coloured match sticks for the spikes. We also made paper koalas, which children stuffed with recycled shredded paper and coloured, as well as, wombats out of paper plates and platypus out of stockings and shredded paper.



Children are learning to make connections between experiences, concepts and processes, while

expressing wonder and interest of the natural environment.

We celebrated NAIDOC week with the



children being able to do a variety of activities such as bark paintings, hand print paintings, Indigenous cooking. We

also went on an adventure to the big tree. The big tree was a significant place for the aboriginals, as it used to be a meeting place. We also had a visit from Jandamarra's mum and brothers. They started by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land. Then they talked to the children about aboriginal culture, and the boys showed the children how to play



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 didgeridoo. We also learnt that only the boys play the didgeridoo not the girls. Children are using language and representations from play, music and art to share and project meaning about diversity of culture and community. They are also engaging in learning relationships and are extending their interests with enthusiasm about the world in which they live.

In August, we took up the Cool Australia Enviro week Challenge (minimizing our energy use), which saw children and staff without lights and using candles instead.



Also turning off the heaters, in which children were asked to

bring along a blanket or sleeping bag to keep warm while having their afternoon naps. For the last two days

of the challenge we cooked our lunch outside in the open fire. Thursday we cooked baked potatoes with baked beans, and banana boats with chocolate and marshmallows. Then on Friday we cooked polenta and spezzatino (beef stew) on the open fire and propane gas burner. The children then washed their own dishes instead of them being put in the dish washer. They also had a go at washing their own bed sheets by hand to teach them not only about saving energy but also to learn how people washed in the olden days without electricity. Broadening their understanding in the world in which they live children learnt and explored ways to reduce energy use and show care for the natural environment, further developing them as sustainable stewards of the future.



On the 28th August we had Bronte come to visit with her reptiles. Children showed great interest in the various reptiles on display. The



children and staff learnt some interesting facts about the reptiles, and



got the opportunity to touch and hold some of the reptiles, which included a 3mt python, crocodile, and lace

monitor. This experience encouraged children to cooperate and be responsible with each other in a big group



setting, as well as, explore relationships with other living things while connecting with the natural world.

Footy colours day was on 5th September, with some children and educators wearing their favorite footy team colours and donating money to children's cancer. We kicked the footy's around then the whole centre had a yummy lunch of party pies, sausage rolls and cocktail Frankfurt's, followed by icy poles. Children are building on their social experiences when we all get together during the day.

We are all now looking forward to the nicer

spring weather and being able to spend more time outside.

Educators Julie, Tamara and Julie and Marg



Sun Smart Clothing, Hats And Shoes



It's that time of the year again. From September 1st 2013 until April 30th 2014 our Sun Smart policy has kicked in for yet another summer.

Please remember that all children must wear clothing that covers their shoulders i.e. no singlet's or dresses with straps. Children must also wear a hat for outside play. Children are very active at the centre and need comfortable sturdy shoes. Thongs, crocks and highheeled shoes are not appropriate. Sunscreen will be applied at least 20 minutes before going outside. If your service does NOT supply a hat, one must be supplied by the child/ children's parent/guardian.

It must remain at the service, be clearly labeled with your child's name and must adhere to the following criteria:

- hat should shade your face, head, ears and neck
- a broad brimmed style hat should have a brim of at least 7.5 cm
- a bucket style hat should have a deep crown, angled brim of at least 6 cm and sit low on the head
- legionnaire style hats should have a flap that covers the neck and overlaps at the sides of the front peak
- Use a brim attachment or legionnaire cover if wearing a hardhat or helmet.

(As recommended by Sun Smart Victoria)

Please be aware that if your child does not have a hat they will NOT be allowed outside.
Thanks for your understanding and cooperation

The Flying Bookworm Theatre Company

Motivate reading through theatre

Are coming to Mountain View Children's Centre as part of Children's Week's activities on **Wednesday 23rd October at 2.30pm.** Featuring....

- > Bear Hunt
- > The Three Billy Goats Gruff
- > The Three Little Pigs

This is a 45 minute performance for the children. Alpine Family Day Care children are also invited to this event.



CHRISTMAS PARTY at MOUNTAIN VIEW

Join us Wednesday 4th December 6-8pm at Mountain View Children's Centre for our Christmas party. A sausage sizzle will be provided with parents to bring a salad to share.

Join in the fun with a jumping castle, face painting and a visit from Santa. We hope to see you there!



Ride or Walk Week

Lead by example | An ACS inspired event

7-11 October

Re-think the way your family travels. Most days we rush about getting our family from A to B. Try re-thinking the way you travel, for your family's health and for the environment.

Ride or walk with your child and enjoy breakfast together at the Centre on Wed 9 October 8.15-9.15am yummy pancakes & fruit will be served.

Spot prizes for best staff and family effort.

Changing behaviour....one step at a time.



Winning Ways to Talk with Young Children

Talking with children involves the exchange of words, ideas and feelings. Communication is what we say and how we say it. We communicate with looks (scowls and smiles), with actions (slaps and hugs), with silence (warm or cold), as well as with words (kind and unkind).

Adults usually do not have any difficulty communicating with children when it simply involves giving directions (how to use scissors) or explaining things (why cars are dangerous). But they sometimes have difficulty communicating when feelings are involved—either the child's or their own.

Good communication leads to

- warm relationships,
- cooperation, and
- feelings of worth.

- kids who "turn off" adults,
- conflicts and bickering, and
- feelings of worthlessness.

Poor communication leads to