



# Mountain View children's centre



Summer Parent Newsletter 2014

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## Dates for the diary:

Christmas closure dates

Tuesday 23rd December  
Last Day Centre is open

Monday 5th January  
Centre Reopens



## News from the Rooms

### Tiny Teddy Room

Puppets have been an interest in the tiny teddies room a lot of language, humor, sharing and feeling connected are being developed. We had a visit from Sonia at the library who shared stories and puppets which included mother goose, hungry caterpillar and Barney owl.



Tiny Teddies now have hooks to hang up our hats this gives us independence and a sense of belonging and teaching to be sun smart. A big thanks to Ivan our maintenance man.



Cooking has been an interest and we have spent time making play dough, lots of flour was used on the table as well as the floor, children gained sensory experience, learning to take turns and mathematical concepts. We have extended this activity by using our play dough in our daily activities.

As children are learning their self- help skills during meal times small knives have been introduced for cutting up soft foods it has been great to see the children developing new skills.



We would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and look forward to seeing you all in 2015.





# Butterfly Room

We have been having mat time before morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Singing songs using puppets and reading stories while the children wait their turn to wash their hands. The children are learning to listen and are responding to stories and rhymes.

Learning about the life cycle of a sunflower, then planting sunflower seeds in pots and watching them grow. Children are showing interest in their environment.

Orange day, showing our support for the Vic SES volunteers. Doing lots of pasting and colouring with orange resources. Teaching children colour awareness.

Having the gate open between the two yards children are enjoying the interactions with the older children and for some, their older siblings. Children are building on their own social experiences.



# Starlight Room



## Role playing

Develop knowledgeable and confident identities these include cooking in sand pit, home corner, dress ups

## Excursions

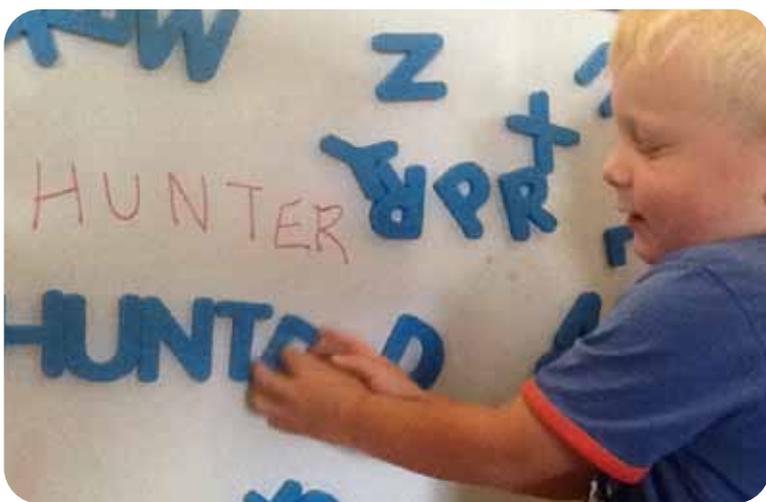
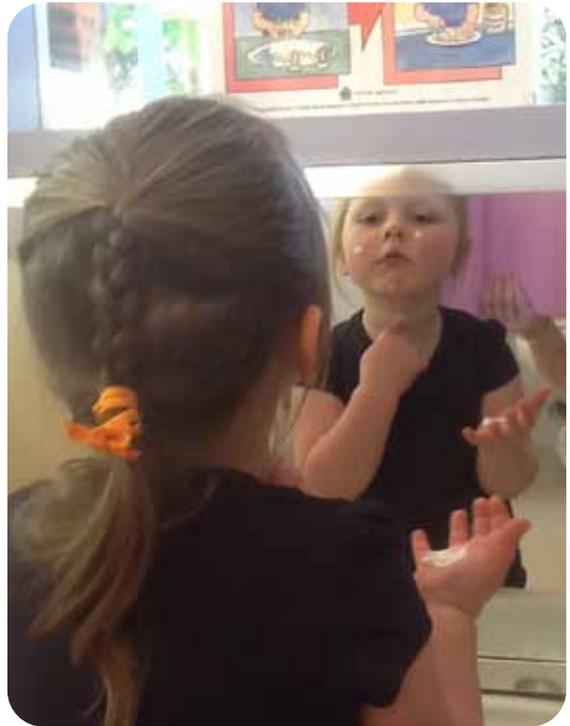
To develop awareness what is on offer in our community, we have been to the park, Bakery, library and supermarket.

## Letter Recognition

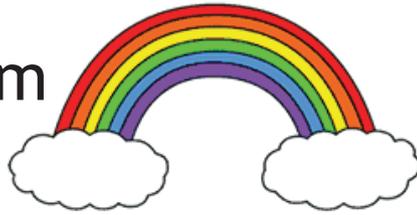
Developing a range of skills such as problem solving, enquiry and investigating. Books, puzzles, posters and magnetic shapes

## Building on self-help skills

Increasing responsibility in their own Wellbeing. Applying sunscreen, serving lunch, dressing themselves.



# Rainbow Room



Look at all the different ways we have been using loose parts in our learning environment over the last few months. Anything from old slides to tyres to pine cones have seen the theory of loose parts put into practice in the Rainbow Room.

Loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials.

Why do we use loose parts at child care - because they; can be used in anyway children choose, can be adapted and manipulated in many ways, encourage creativity and imagination, develop more skill and competence than most modern plastic toys, can be used in many different ways, can be used in combination with other materials to support imagination, and encourage open ended learning.



## Seedlings - Education for Sustainability

Education for sustainability is about embedding learnings into our everyday practice from the simple things we routinely do, to the specialist visitors who come to the centre or people from the community who help us out.

Over the past few weeks we have:

- > picked strawberries from our garden
- > played with natural materials both inside and out
- > learnt about water and its importance with Dianne Doyle from NE water
- > put in loads of new plants with help from the sustainability group at St. Mary's Primary School

We have been busy learning to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.



## Recipe

We love being part of your child's birthday celebrations and enjoy sharing the excitement of the birthday cake. If you would like to bring a cake to celebrate your child's birthday, we ask that it does not contain any nut products, products that may contain traces of nuts, or has been packed on equipment that processes nut products. Please check all labels of cake mixes or lollies carefully. As part of the Food Safety requirements, we are required by law to record all food that is bought into the centre.

### Basic Vanilla Cake Recipe

- 2 cups SR flour
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- ½ cup milk

### Method

- Preheat oven to 180c.
- Mix all ingredients, adding the milk last.
- Pour mixture into a greased tin and cook for about 45 minutes



## Maternal Child Health

The Infant and Toddler mental health clinic is a partnership between your maternal child health (MCH) nurse and the North East Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (NECAMHS). Both services are interested in the early intervention of social and emotional difficulties in children aged 0-5 years of age. So that small children get a good mental health head start in life.

What is the clinic?

Over the course of a day the Infant Mental Health Coordinator from NECAMHS along with other professionals meets with families and the MCH Nurses. Four families visit over the day and the meetings last for 1 hour. Your child is not separated from you and the meetings all occur in the same room together.

Who are the professionals you will meet?

The clinic is run by the Infant Mental Health Coordinator from NECAMHS, your MCH Nurse and a child therapist who assists your child through play and to feel comfortable in the room.

Who attends the clinic?

Mothers, fathers, grandparents or carers are welcome to attend with the child you wish to talk about. We ask that only the main carers of the child attend. Other siblings are also welcome should it be difficult to arrange care for them.

What will be discussed?

You will have a chance to talk confidentially about your main concerns or questions about your child, as well as participate in some exploration of your child's developmental history.

What will my child be doing?

The child therapist will engage your child in some play activities in the room, whilst also making some observations of their development.

What happens at the end of the meeting?

All recommendations are written for you to take home, along with a package of information about children's social and emotional needs.

Need more information? Please contact the Alpine MCH Service for details on

0417 147 120.

## Family and Friends Group

We have a newly appointed group at Mountain View Children's centre, this has been named family, friends and staff. The group consist of staff members, Julie Sinnet, Paula Miotto, Jenny Rinaldo, Lea o' Donohue and Leesa Borsi and parent Diana Mancuso. We are looking for more parents to join to help us raise money for room resources and the outdoor play spaces.

The group meet once a term informally and is a great opportunity to meet new people, share ideas and raise money to purchase new resources.

Some of our latest fundraisers would not have been possible without the generous donations from local businesses. These include The Butter Factory, Myrtleford Bakehouse, Heiner's bakery, Roma Pizza and Woolworth's.

So far we have raised:

Butter Factory Fudge \$694

Toy catalogues \$217

Sausage sizzles held on two day \$883

Christmas Raffle \$1,275

These fundraisers would not be possible without the parents, staff and community so we thank you all for your continued support.



We would love to see some new faces next year on this committee. We are always after fresh ideas and enthusiastic helpers. Please come along to our first meeting next year which will be in February, or simply contact one of the team. This really is a fun and rewarding committee to be part of. Please let us know if you are keen to help out with anything at all or have any suggestions for great fundraising ideas.

## Educational leader -Julie Sinnett

### Intentional teaching

The EYLF defines intentional teaching as 'educators being deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful in their decisions and actions'.

Intentional teaching encourages children to be seen as active learners .Educators assist learning by guiding, challenging and extending knowledge. This learning can be seen daily at center through:

Learning environments that reflect children's interests

A range of culturally and developmentally appropriate experiences

Experiences that cater for a range of learning styles

Group and individual exploration of topics of interest

The Introduction of new knowledge and new experiences.

Learning environments that promote socialization, co-operation and interactions

Experiences which facilitate and promote communication, problem solving and negotiation.

Educators are responsive to children and throughout the day embrace the many teachable moments. Educators demonstrate, model, question, explain and problem solve with children to scaffold their learning.

## Friendly Reminder

### Explanation of Child Care Benefit (CCB)

CCB helps with the cost of childcare. It is important to understand that your CCB percentage reduces the cost of your fees and isn't a straight percentage of the total fee. So even if your CCB is 100%, you will still be required to pay a fee.

This is because government sets what is called an 'approved care rate' that is currently \$4.10 per hour, or \$205.00 per week (50 hours maximum per week). Your CCB percentage is then applied to the 'approved care rate' for each hour of the session your child attends. This amount is then subtracted from the fee charged by our service for your child's session.

We understand that this can be confusing so please chat to Paula or Izzy if you would like any further information.

## Family Christmas Party

The Christmas party on December 3rd was a great success.

Over 20 prizes were won by families from our Christmas raffle.

It was fantastic to see so many families join us, what a wonderful way to finish off the year. The staff at Mountain View wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

