

C&K Charleville Kindergarten

newsletter

Issue 3—May 2012



Better late than never!

Hello and welcome to a very late newsletter. Jane has no excuse, except very poor time management! Under our new licensing arrangement with the NQF (National Quality Framework) we have developed a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) - time management is at the top of your Nominated Supervisors (aka Jane's) areas for improvement! The QIP covers all areas of the NQF and is available for you to view at kindy. More info to follow in this newsletter.

A lot has happened since the last newsletter. Yamba the honey ant has wowed us all; we marched proud and tall at the ANZAC day parade and we have undergone more funding changes!

Yamba was a true hit with the children. Thankyou to all the parents who came along, and braved the performance, it was a wonderful morning. Our free Yamba CD has been playing non-stop - the catchy tunes tend to stick in your head "I'm Yamba, the honey ant, I love to sing and I love to dance! Dahh, Daahh!!!"

A special thanks to everyone who turned up for the ANZAC day march. Before the day, each child spent time making a poppy and talking about the war, soldiers, marching and why ANZAC day is important. With children of this age, it really is an individual thing as to how much they understand. Whilst making a Poppy for the soldier, some children talked about grandfathers and great uncles who fought, whilst others talked about the guns and whether or not the soldiers had a gun license. Our message to the children is that we were giving the soldiers the poppies to remember them and thank them for making Australia safe and free - we have no wars in Australia because they fought for us. Next year we will practice marching in rows of 3 or 4!

Term invoices are out this week. You will all notice that there is a significant discount. This is due to changes to our KFS (Kindergarten Funding Scheme). More information on the changes can be found in this newsletter.

Also included this month are some lunch box tips and healthy eating ideas, along with changes to our daily routines with winter approaching. You will also find some snippets on the educational program, including an explanation of why kindy children can now play with guns. There is an update on the NQF and our behaviour guidance policy.

Also you find our latest fundraising projects. Fundraising is so important to our centre. We have termite damage and lifting lino in the children's bathroom to fix. With our limited cash flow, fundraising is our only option.

This is another 4 day week in a long run of short weeks. Please enjoy your long weekends and make the most of the time with your family.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk to us, we are here to help you,
Kindest Regards,
Jane, Marissa, Melissa and Maureen.



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Where children come first

Proudly funded and supported by the
Queensland Government.

Kindy fees for Term 2 2012

Fee invoices have been placed in your communication pockets on the step.

THANKYOU FOR YOUR PROMPT PAYMENT

If you have any questions:

Please see Melissa

Phone: 4654 1843

or Email:

charlevillekindy@bigpond.com

You will notice there is a new discount applied to all fees. This is the "SEFIA 3-4 subsidy" of \$176.25 per term. Charleville has a socio-economic rating of 3. In previous funding models, only towns with a SEFIA 1 or 2 could access an extra subsidy. The late labour government realised that families in other low socio-

economic areas also find it tough to pay full kindy fees.

This subsidy is to support all families.

Children with a current health care card are also eligible for a \$473.75 per term subsidy.

When applied to our fees, this means **Health Care Card holders can access free or no-cost kindy.**

Both the HCC and SEFIA 3-4 subsidy are designed to make kindy education affordable for more families.

By 2014, the Queensland government must have 90% of preschool aged children in kindergarten. This is called 'Universal Access'. Charleville is about to face a dilemma—we only have 4 spaces left. Our full capacity is 36.

This year there were around 70

Prep children.

We are the only approved Kindergarten in town.

Do the Maths? Can you see the shortfall?

Charleville does not have universal access.

This is something we need to address. In our foreseeable future, we need to consider expansion and an extra classroom. However, financially this is not possible, without government support.

Our most powerful tool will be a waiting list of children wanting to access kindy. Names and dates of birth - Charleville children who have been denied quality preschool because of our limited space and lack of a second classroom.



*Yamba the Honey Ant Excursion
Friday, April 20*



The NQF and our QIP.

We have a QIP, which is available for everyone to view. Our QIP is basically a review of all the quality areas and standards in the NQF (National Quality Framework). We have identified areas we can improve on and outlined the ways we hope to achieve this. This critical reflection and improvement is vital to the continual growth and development of your kindy. We are a community based centre, managed by you the parents. Our management and

operations are open and honest and readily visible to you. The QIP document will be available for you to view from the administration area. A copy has been placed on top of the filing cabinet. It is a fluid and continually expanding document. As we review and act upon each area we have identified for improvement, we will update the QIP. There are 7 Quality Areas identified in the NQF. These cover the educational program; Care and health of

children; Relationships with children, families and community; Management of the centre and so forth. We will be assessed at some time this year and given a Rating. Our QIP will be an essential tool in this process. For more information or to view our QIP - please talk to Jane.

Visit the Education Queensland website and follow to link to the Office for Early Childhood for even more information.

Fundraising—How can you help?

**As you are aware,
FUNDRAISING IS VITAL TO
OUR ECONOMIC SURVIVAL.**

Everyone needs to help.

On the surface we look like a healthy and happy kindy. Take a look behind the scenes, and you will find a dedicated parent committee who are fighting to keep our centre operational.

We have had several years of low enrolments. Combine this with a building in need of major injections of cash and Education Queensland Funding which has moved from the beginning of the term to the end of the term.....we are struggling!

With our ever increasing enrolments, there will be a flow on effect of more funding -

BUT we will not see this until the end of the term - mid June! Til then, we have BAS, Council Rates, Electricity and staff wages to contend with.

This is where fundraising helps. Currently, we do not fundraise to buy more toys or make the garden pretty—we fundraise to survive!

Race Day Catering

Show Day

Saturday, May 19

Potential funding approx \$2,000

Thankyou to everyone who has volunteered to help in the canteen. Help during the day is where we need your support. We only have two shifts to fill - please see the list on the sign in book if you can help. Securing the race-day catering events is a major coo for us.

If we can focus our fundraising into the race days, we have the potential to raise over \$6,000 per year. That is around 4 pie drives, 3 sausage sizzles and 8 raffles we will not have to do!

Flight to Brisbane Raffle

Drawn - Show Day races

Saturday, May 19

Potential funding approx \$500

This is a bonus fundraiser for us. David and Taueva Bamford have donated 2 free return flights to Brisbane with SkyTrans.

Tickets are \$2.00 each. A raffle book has been placed in everyone's pockets. Please try and sell your tickets at work and in the community. Extra books are available from the admin area. We will use the show and race day to sell as many tickets as possible.

The lunch box dilemma!

*Every morning, there is a
struggle at kindy -
Where will my lunch box
fit in the fridge?*

**Our major problem is
LACK OF SPACE!!!!!!**

We have the largest fridge we can possibly fit into the limited kitchen space we have!
Whilst building a bigger kindy is most logical solution, it is not however the most practical!

Creative solutions must be found. We have a few short term solutions:

LUNCH BOXES instead of COOLER BAGS. Plastic boxes can be fitted and packed easier. Cooler bags actually need to be unzipped on one side to allow cold air to flow in whilst stored in the fridge! This is C&K food handling policy - a copy is on the pin-up board near the kitchen.

DONATION OF A BAR FRIDGE. We have a gap, next to the fridge of 50cm X 80cm - where we could install a small bar fridge. Does anyone have an unused or spare little fridge we could use? It may only fit a few lunch boxes in it, but it will help! Please talk to the staff if you can assist.

Your support and patience with this unexpected crisis with increased enrolments is greatly appreciated.



ANZAC Day march 2012

Jumpers and Socks at Kindy.

The colder weather is here. With the change in season, there are a few amendments to our daily routines.

- Children are encouraged to wear shoes and socks Whilst outside - and socks on whilst inside.
- Jumpers are encouraged until the sun warms up. When taken off outside, they will be placed in your communication pocket.

Please name all jumpers and jackets!

- Water play outside is discouraged until the thermometer raises above 25oC - we go by the chicken in the garden!
- Children are still encouraged to drink lots of water during the day.
- During the winter months we play inside first, then outside after morning tea. Children and staff decide upon this each morning.
- SunSmart policies are still followed in winter—hats

- for outside play and sunscreen is re-applied if playing outside after 10am.
- Hats still need to be SunSmart - *hoods and beanies are not Sun Safe*, Sunhats need to be worn all year round.
- PUSH YOUR SLEEVES UP is added to our hand washing routine - sleeves up, wash hands, make bubbles and wash away the germs!

Healthy Lunch Box Ideas

We encourage healthy lunch box choices at kindy. During meal times, the children and staff discuss good and bad foods. We talk about foods with too much sugar, too much fat and too much salt. We also talk about everyday foods which are healthy, and sometimes food which are a special treat.

We encourage you to think about your lunch box choices

and consider some healthy alternatives.

- POPPERS - why not try 'No added Sugar' or milk alternatives.
- MUSLIE BARS - they are held together with sugar—why not try home made slices with fruit, grains and nuts.
- The rice bubbles in LCM bars are not healthy, because they are covered

- in unhealthy sugar!
 - CHOCOLATE BISCUITS and CAKE are a special treats - a sometimes food. Try muffins, pikelets or crackers and cheese.
 - CHIPS will be sent home try popcorn, rice crackers or fruit and nut mix.
- DON'T FORGET FRUIT.**

Attached to this newsletter you will find an information sheet on good food choices.

Guns at Kindy - What, Why and How?

For years we have had a 'NO GUN' policy at kindy. However, our curriculum encourages us to be responsive to the children and reflect upon our practices.

After watching some boys trying to hide gun play behind the cubby house, Jane took the brave step to talk to the children and negotiate the play and use of guns.

The group grew in size as discussion was held about how dangerous guns were and why they scare people. We talked about who uses guns and what they use them for. This provided us with the biggest motivation to continue. Charleville is a place where people have guns. There are roo shooters and graziers, police officers and a recreational shooting culture. Children have seen their parents use guns. They know about gun cupboards and

locking up bullets.

Over the following weeks, a remarkable learning journey developed. We decided that gun play could happen at kindy, but just like with real guns there has to be rules and consequences if you break the rules. Our first rule was NEVER shoot at people. This also includes cars, trucks, planes and trains (because there are people in them!) But, if we couldn't shoot at people, what could we shoot at? There are kangaroos in the paddock, however the kangaroos are protected in town. So, Jane painted some targets on the tyres (sneakily including some shape learning into the gun play!) Next, we needed a cupboard to lock our guns up in. Our first cupboard was made from blocks, but became frustrating when it kept falling down. A small group

ventured to the back shed to find a permanent solution. The cupboard is now a part of our classroom and a natural extension to the environment.

Once the rules had been established, the children relished the gun play and were brilliant at making sure it was safe. Jane introduced the idea of a gun licence. Children who want to play guns, now have to carry their licence. If they break the rules, they lose their licence and cannot play with guns.

It was a big leap for staff to let go of traditional notions of guns at kindy, but has been well worth the effort. Instead of gun play being underground and hidden from the teachers, it is now negotiated and a natural part of our day.

Interestingly the amount of gun play has actually reduced!

Kindy date planner

Show Day Holiday

Friday May 18

Under 8's Day

Wednesday May 23

Excursion—session A

Pupil Free Days for Kindy Teacher

Friday May 25 & Monday May 28

(Jane only—Kindy as normal—relief teacher Gabe Tomlinson)

C&K Brisbane Conference Saturday May 26 & Sunday May 27

(Jane to attend)

Kindy Meeting

6.30pm *NEW TIME*

Wednesday June 6

Queen's Birthday Holiday

Monday June 19



Kindy uniform shop

Kindy Jumpers

\$15 each

Sizes 4, 5 & 6
Bottle Green, Navy and
Princess Pink



NEW

Kindy Hats

One size fits all

\$15.00

*Green, Navy, Red,
Yellow and Pink.*

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Little Miss Showgirl Competition is seeking young female contestants aged between 3 to 5 years to enter the 2012 competition. The Little Miss Showgirl competition is a highlight of the Charleville Show, and will be held at 10.30 am on Friday, 18th May at the Theo Gilshenan Shearing Stands.

Contestants are required to walk down a catwalk at the Shearing Stands. Upon their return to the main stage, the compere will interview the Little Miss Showgirl before the gathered show patrons. All contestants are to be at the Theo Gilshenan Shearing stands at 10 am. Nomination forms are now available from Wilkinson's Jewellers and need to be returned to Wilkinson's Jewellers with a \$10.00 nomination fee by Tuesday 15th May at 12 noon. Nominations that do not have the \$10.00 fee will not be accepted. The first 20 fully paid nominations will be accepted, and Little Miss Showgirl places are capped at 20 entrants.

Further information in regard to Little Miss Showgirl is available from the steward, Karen Tully (karen@mulgasolutions.com.au), www.charlevilleshow.com or the Show Office (07 46542290).



Guiding Children's Behaviour

Behaviour management is one part of daily kindy life. We use a guidance approach, which encourages children to learn from their mistakes and interactions with others. The principles of guiding children's behaviour is to encourage children to internalise their control mechanisms, instead of relying upon adults or peers to manage or discipline them. The approach challenges adults to take a new view on how to help children control behaviour. It recognises that children can and do have emotional outbursts and lose control. This loss of control can result in undesirable behaviours—such as kicking, hitting, saying nasty things, etc.

Instead of punishing the REACTION,

the guidance approach encouraged us to look at the problem!

What CAUSED the reaction?

The first step is to calm down—we can not solve problems when we are still angry, upset or not in control.

This is where TIME AWAY is used.

Time away is NOT a punishment—it is a time control our emotions. Some children will need adult help to calm down, others will be capable of self-calming.

Once all parties are ready to talk, *we discuss the situation and find a solution to the problem.* At first, adults guide this process—however as children become more confident they learn the complex social skills required to get on well with others in ALL situations.

The guidance approach empowers children to realise they are the masters of their own behaviour and the choices they make as individuals.

No doubt you would have heard the common kindy phrases 'GOOD CHOICES' & 'SAFE CHOICES' and their opposites!

This is linked to a healthy self-esteem.

One way to really encourage a positive self-image for children is to move the source of praise. Children with a confident and competent outlook on life can

internalise praise. They feel good about themselves because of what they think and feel. They do not rely on others to tell them they are 'good boy' or 'painted a pretty picture' they can reflect and realise this for themselves.

We encourage children to internalise praise by using ACKNOWLEDGING language.

One example is instead of 'You're such a GOOD girl' for someone putting on their own shoes, we use language that celebrates their achievement—such as 'congratulation', 'I can see that are proud' and 'Did you know you could do that?'

The guidance process is complex and there are many facets to the approach. All staff are currently undergoing some re-fresher training on the subject, and we will share information with you in some fact sheets. The first will be out soon and highlights the differences between traditional discipline and the guidance approach. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to talk to Jane.

Becoming sustainable

One area highlighted in our QIP for improvement was our sustainability and how environmentally friendly we are. Over the past few weeks, the staff have been reflecting upon current practices and have begun to change routines and procedures.

CHEMICAL FREE CLEANING

We have changed our cleaning practices. In the past we have used disinfectant products to clean the centre at the end of each day. We are now trialing some chemical free alternatives. This included using environmentally friendly cleaning products and lots of hot soapy water. A list of the new routines can be found in the children's bathroom and the kitchen.

GARDENING

We have always been keen gardeners, with varying degrees of success. We have a set of vegetable boxes ready for us to try and grow our own food. **We do however need soil, manure and mulch. If you can help, please talk to staff or pop in one weekend and fill our boxes.** Any advice on good vegetables to grow would also be greatly appreciated.

SEPERATING RUBBISH

With no recycling centre handy, we needed to get creative with how we could introduce the concept of recycling rubbish with the children. Our lunch boxes are filled with opportunities to recycle

and reuse items. We now have 3 bins at each meal time. One is for fruit scraps which we compost. The next is for items we can wash and reuse for craft- yoghurt containers, cheese & cracker packets, sultana boxes, etc. The final bin is for the things we can't recycle - plastic wrap, poppers, bread scraps, plastic packets, etc

These are just a few things we are trying. This learning journey will be a long term one. Other ideas we have include a worm farm and making our own paper!

