

Scholastic Bookclub is due on the 28th Feb.
We use the LOOP system for payment (please see back page of order form). There are some great buys!

This Parent Newsletter will be divided into the seven areas of the National Quality Standards.

Quality Area 1—Educational Program and Practice

Welcome to our families

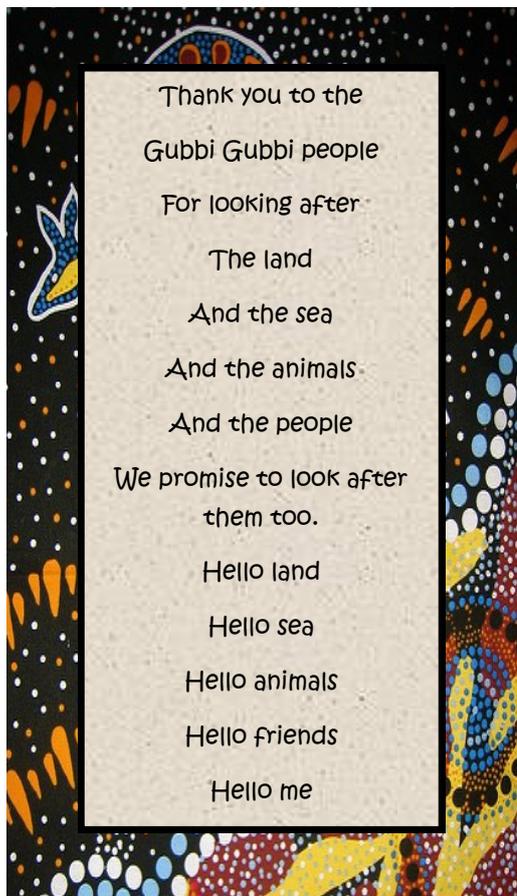
We would like to welcome you and your family to C&K Mooloolah Kindy and thank you for the opportunity to work with your child in their early years. We value the uniqueness of each child and understand that every child has their own strengths and interests.

Starting kindergarten (or school or a new job) can be exciting, scary or anxious. Children feeling unsettled at the beginning of the year is natural. It is important to communicate with us so we can make this time easier for you and your child. We are always available for an informal chat at drop-off and pick-up. For a more in-depth conversation, please make an appointment. We are also happy to speak to you on the phone or reply to email. We have attached some information about developing coping skills in children (taken from “The Early Years: Qld Gov’t”)

Some other important things:

- Please apply sunscreen to your child and sign the register next to the sign-in book
- Please remember to sign children in and out (National Regulation). You must write your **full name** and add your signature
- Please tell us if there are any changes to your contact information or the information for emergency contacts
- Our Kindy hours are strictly 8:30-2:40. We are NOT licensed to have children on the premises outside of these times. Please be at Kindy 5 minutes before closing time. Late fees are charged at a flat rate of \$20 for the first ten minutes or any part there of. For each minute after that, \$1.50 will be charged. Staff are busy before/after Kindy working on Storypark, attending meetings and professional development, completing admin work, cleaning etc.
- Our eating times are a great opportunity for children to learn about healthy eating. Please pack a healthy lunchbox and leave processed foods like roll ups, custard, sweet biscuits for home. In regards to healthy teeth, the children will learn to “Sip, Swish and Swallow” from their water bottles.
- Please ensure your child washes their hands on arrival and departure from Kindy. This is a great way to stop the transfer of germs and nut allergens.
- Please make sure your child’s belongings are clearly named to minimise the loss of items (especially small containers in lunch boxes, sheets and hats).
- Please make sure there are always a change of clothes in their Kindy bag.

We are learning a “Welcome to Country” to start our day. This is an acknowledgement to the traditional owners of the land (the Gubbi Gubbi people). Coming together to welcome each other is a lovely way to begin our day!
Children’s learning indicator: Show respect and appreciation of other ways of knowing, doing and cultural expression.



Our belief is that children are **competent** and **capable**. They will be completing many jobs for themselves at Kindy as they learn to be more independent. Please encourage them to put away their own lunch boxes and water bottles. We will be attaching bag tags (on the right) to children's bags in the coming weeks so that they can help get themselves ready for the Kindy day.

What to bring to Kindy:



We have begun learning Italian through an app called ELLA (Early Learning Languages Australia). It is a fun and easy digital language program for preschool children. The program is an Australian Government initiative aimed at encouraging students to study language.

At the moment, the children are learning greetings, I like/I don't like... and basic vocabulary. As well as using the app, we are trying to incorporate the vocabulary in general conversations and transitions. We are conscious of "screen time" in our early childhood setting and we are practising the following:

- ⇒ We believe that this is a learning opportunity and try to have an educator sitting alongside the children to re-inforce the concepts.
- ⇒ We believe that children learn with others and encourage small groups of children around the iPads.
- ⇒ We believe that a 10 minute block of screen time is sufficient and we use a timer to monitor this. We also use a checklist so we know who has had a turn.

If you require further information or would like to see the app in action, please see educators.

Storypark

We are using "Storypark" to share children's learning with families. Now that you have accepted the invitation, you can now invite other members of the family too including FIFO, family who lives interstate/overseas etc

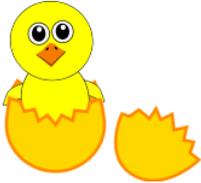
Educators will stories using text, photos, video and send them home through the Storypark site. Parents can view these stories and leave feedback (very helpful to us). Some things we want families to know...

- Only you can see your child's stories unless it is a group story and other children are tagged.
- The stories will be about your individual child and there will also be stories with small groups or the whole class.
- We value the comments you write on the story because it helps us to know your child better.
- Families can create stories and add photos for the children to share at group time (see pic of Anna)
- We welcome any feedback about this new way of communicating with you!



Chicken Lifecycle

On Monday 4th March, an incubator will arrive at Kindy with fertilised eggs inside. The children will be able to hear the baby chicks inside and observe the hatching process. We will use books and clips on the interactive whiteboard to show the changes to the chicken embryo and their lifecycle. We will continue to observe the growing chicks over the following two



weeks, We will talk about respect for living things and teach the children to be gentle with the chicks.

There were some great learning opportunities for the children!

Children's Learning Statement

Children discover, connect with and act responsibly in the natural and build environment
Learning indicators include observing, investigating and commenting on changes in the natural world.

Library Borrowing

Last week, the children borrowed from the Kindy library. There is a great selection of fiction and non-fiction books to borrow. We ask that children have a library bag to protect the book and we ask that families look after the books while they are at home. The door for the Parent Room will be open before and after Kindy and we ask that parents supervise their children while borrowing. We have attached some information about reading with young children. My children (older now!) thought of bedtime stories as their favourite time of the evening and have continued to be readers.

Birthday Celebrations

We love birthday celebrations at Kindy. Families may provide a birthday cake, cupcakes, birthday watermelon or ice blocks. We have 22 children.

Early Literacy skills...

- ⇒ We have printed out cards with the children's names in Qld beginner's font (see pic below). We are using these at transition times for the children to learn how to recognise their names. We also have another set on the verandah so the children can use their name card to write their name on their artwork.
- ⇒ Starting next week, the children will be able to "sign in" when arriving at Kindy. Their name will be dotted Qld beginner's font so they can trace over their name. They will need parent help to know where to begin each letter and whether to move the pen clockwise or anti-clockwise. Although children find it easier to write in upper case letters, we want them to learn to write correctly in lower case.
- ⇒ There will be a chart next to the gate for the children to read each morning with their parent. It is a great way for children to learn that print contains a message. It would be ideal if you could point to the words as you read it. You will be amazed at how quickly the children will begin to predict names, sounds and words. On the chart we will have a card where we want the children to "touch and count"



Why do we play games at Kindy?

Children's learning indicators include

- Demonstrating enjoyment with familiar & trusted others
- Being able to take turns, reciprocate, laugh together, listen to others ideas and sustain play
- Showing concern, consideration and empathy for others
- Children use mathematical knowledge, concepts and language in their play



Quality Area 2—Children’s Health and Safety



Our daily obstacle course has a different challenge/modification each day to “offer physical challenge and support children’s appropriate risk-taking”.



Speech Screening

The kindy will be organising a speech therapist who will complete speech screenings for children for a small fee.

We will send home more information soon about this service.

We are seeing lunchboxes full of healthy foods. We are talking about food each day as we are eating with the children. Need some new ideas—some children are enjoying boiled eggs, corn on the cob, hummus and veggie sticks, sushi, baked beans, tinned tuna, dried fruit, quiche, rice paper rolls, cheese, cold meats, savoury muffins, protein balls (no nuts). I have attached a flyer called “Great lunches and snacks for hungry kids”.

Please remember to wash your hands/your child’s hands upon arrival at the Kindy to keep nut-products/germs away from the Kindy. We also recommend washing your hands/your child’s hands as you leave Kindy also.

Please remember **NO NUTS** for Kindy. We have a Kindy friend in 1A and 1B who have a severe anaphylactic reaction to nuts.

If your child has vomiting or diarrhoea, they must be excluded from Kindy/school for 24 hours after the last vomit or loose bowel motion. This will protect other children and educators from the virus. I have attached a “Time Out” poster from Qld Health which outlines common childhood illnesses and diseases. We thank you in advance for adhering to these exclusion periods.

We have had three snake sightings of a Yellow-Faced Whip Snake. We have been speaking with the children about snake safety; completing snake checks as part of our daily yard check; all educators have full first aid training and we have the snake-catcher on speed dial.

Brave is an online program designed by Griffith University, University of Southern Qld and Beyond Blue to help parents support children with anxiety and fears. There is a flyer on the noticeboard if you would like more information.

Quality Area 3—Physical Environment

Do we have any parents/grandparents who would be interested in helping us with a hydroponic garden at Kindy?

Quality Area 4—Staffing Arrangements

1A Educator hours

Kathryn Rawlins—8:00-3:30

Nicole Enright—8:00-3:30

Renee Hackney—9:00-2:00

1B Educator hours

Kathryn Rawlins—8:00-3:30

Nicole Enright—8:00-3:30

Belinda Blackwell—9:00-2:00

All educators and relief staff must have their First Aid training completed every three years and CPR and Asthma/Anaphylaxis Training every 12 months. Nicole, Renee, Belinda and myself just completed our CPR and asthma/anaphylaxis refresher.

Quality Area 5 — Relationships with Children



We have had a wonderful start to the year, getting to know children and their individual interests, strengths and needs. Our flexible program allows time for educators to engage with children and listen to their conversations and ideas. We aim for “responsive and meaningful interactions that build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included”.

Quality Area 6 — Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

You are invited to a Mooloolah Kindy
Family Dinner
to get to know other families and staff...

When: Tuesday 26th March 5:00—6:00 1A

Wednesday 27th March 5:00-6:00 1B

Where: At the Kindy in the yard

What to bring: drinks for your family
plate of food to share (see list next
to sign-in sheet). **NO NUTS PLEASE**

RSVP: On the sheet provided next to sign-in sheet
(closer to the date)

This will be a casual evening where we put the plates of food on the table and families help themselves. It is a great opportunity to get to know the other Kindy children and families you will be spending the year with. Please remember that the supervision of children will be the parent’s responsibility. We hope to see you there!

A community group are organising murals for the town and bridge. Interested people are wanted and should contact Simon Rawlins on 0412 756388.

A Community Advisory Group is a group of parents/grandparents who would like to help the kindy with fundraising and friendraising activities. Depending on the group of interested parents, we sometimes meet after Kindy in the afternoon or in the evening for dinner. We would like to have a first meeting to gauge interest and plan what we would like to achieve for this year. Please come along if you are interested. The first meeting will be Tuesday 5th March at 3:10 (to allow families to collect school-age children). We will have the meeting on the verandah so the children can play outside. Please RSVP by placing your name on the sheet next to the sign-in book.

Covering new books

We are looking for a helper to cover some books with contact. This is a job that can be taken home. The contact is provided. We regularly purchase books throughout the year that need to be covered. Please see Kathryn if you are the man/woman for the job!

We are having a **Kindy Reunion** for those children who were at Kindy in 2018. We will be meeting at Mooloolah Park at 3:15 on Thursday 7th March.