



Kindy News

Term 3 Newsletter – September 2016

President's Report

An Extravaganza of family, friends and happy little faces

Over 250 parents, friends and kids joined us on Saturday 30 July for the Kindergarten's annual Entertainment Extravaganza – and what an Extravaganza it was. The Bureau of Meteorology must have felt sorry for the weather they imposed on our second term Open Day, and dished up one those glorious sunny winter's days that Brisbane is renowned for. Faces were painted, lambs were patted, and all manner of home prepared goodies were available for us to enjoy.

The event was very successful, and a huge thanks must go to the support provided by many families in our Kindergarten Community on the day in the form of the many volunteers who helped out on stalls, came early to set up and stayed after to clean up. Thank you to Cathy Horton, Sally Adamson and family, and Joanne Jelekainen for their organisation and assistance in the planning of the event.

Thanks must also be expressed to our generous sponsors, many of whom have become friends and members of our Kindy Community. To Michelle McLeod Real Estate, Dr Christian Rowan MP, 4069 Real Estate and Kenmore Village - we express our most sincere appreciation for your ongoing support of our Kindergarten and our kids.

The Kindergarten is also extremely grateful to the many local businesses who donated products and gift vouchers for the Local Business Raffle which was drawn on the day of the Entertainment Extravaganza.

This year, due to the generous support of so many local businesses, we had a huge

Key Dates

Public Holiday – Mon 3 Oct

First day of Term 4

Alison's, Lyndall's LM & Mini Kindy – Tue 4 Oct

Jane & Lyndall's LF group – Thurs 6 Oct
Playgroup – Wed 5 Oct

Last day of Term 4

Mini Kindy – Mon 5 Dec
Lyndall's LM & Alison's group – Tue 6 Dec
Lyndall's LF – Wed 7 Dec
Jane's group – Thurs 8 Dec
Playgroup – Wed 30 Nov

Gecko's Wildlife – 10 & 13 Oct

Kindy Pupil Free Day – Mon 17 Oct

Term 4 Fees Due – Fri 21 Oct

Reef Experience – 18 & 20 Oct

Ocean Life – 7 & 10 Nov

Family Christmas Night

Lyndall's LM & Alison's group – Tue 29 Nov,
6pm

Lyndall's LF & Jane's group – Thurs 1 Dec,
6pm

Term 4 Working Bee – Sat 3 Dec, 8:30-
11:30am

Magic Glen – 2 & 5 Dec





number of fantastic prizes on offer. Thanks to the support of such businesses as Peak Personalised Training, Brookfield Vet, Sarah Mackenzie Photography, One Wybelenna, Knock on Wood Toys, Jogs for Dogs, Monsoon Hair, Perfect Brow Design and Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary to name just a few, the business raffle this year was an extremely successful fundraising event.



Like so many of our events, there is a serious side however, and through your generous support over \$6000 has been raised to purchase resources to assist the staff in developing our children's inquisitive little minds. Look out for the updates to the garden's, software and construction kits including a big Farm Board which will all be available thanks to everyone who ate a sausage, bought a raffle ticket or danced along to the Fabulous Lemon Drops.

And how good are our staff.....As we reflect on the success of the Entertainment Extravaganza and thank our wonderful sponsors and volunteers it's also timely to say a huge thanks to all our Kindy staff. Working bees, fundraising events, Committee meetings – you name it and they are there. Their dedication, skill and professionalism is not only reflected in the development of our kindy kids, but also in their selfless contribution to the Kindy community. On behalf of all of us, many, many thanks.

A Kindy for all kids

As parents and staff we are all astutely aware of the wonderful contribution all kids can make to the world around them. The Kindy is very pleased to inform the community that we have recently been given council approval to make our facilities accessible to all kids, regardless of whether they run around on little legs, sticks, or wheels.

Philosophy and Code of Conduct

Alison and the staff have recently conducted a detailed review if the Kindy Philosophy and Code of Conduct. As a community Kindy, these important documents not only provide guidance to staff, but describe the mutual expectations of children, families and supporters.

Please take the time to read these important documents when you next visit kindy, you will find these on the back wall in the foyer.

Parent survey

Parents have recently been sent the link to a brief online survey. Please provide your feedback and suggestions to help with ongoing improvement of our Kindy.

The results will be collated to inform future improvements in the running of the kindy, and will be made available to all families and staff.





Chapel Hill State School Fete

Thanks Chapel Hill State School for giving us a free space to advertise at the annual Spring Fair. Many Kindy families no doubt joined the day of fun on 3 September, and yet again a team of dedicated professional staff were on hand to discuss all the wonderful things about our Kindy.

Kindergarten Program for 2017

Letters of offer have gone out to prospective families and we are pleased that places have been accepted steadily. We have a small number of places left for 2017 and filling these will maximise the amount of government funding available to us. Your experience with our Kindy will always be our best advertising – let people know what you think of our Kindy and what we can do to nurture their little persons educational journey.

Next Committee Meeting

Parents of children who will be attending Kindy in 2017 may like to consider a position on the parent committee? All parents are welcome to attend our next meeting on Tuesday 13th September, then 18th October at 7.30pm.

Congratulations to Ruth Bradbury, our Committee Secretary, on the birth of her little bundle of joy!

Simon Wardale
Committee President 2016

Mini Kindy Report

Our group now has ten children and all are settling in well and discovering new friendships and continuing to explore the Kindy environment.

The children have enjoyed the outdoor obstacle course. They have also discovered

the digging patch using the water pump to create rivers.

They have enjoyed home corner play, dressing up and engaging in dramatic play. We have read several stories about chicken life cycles and we were able to view the baby chickens and nurse them during the hatching program.



Teachers' Report

Term 3 was another eventful term at our Kindy. We are encouraging the children to develop more independence and emotional resilience. We also have included more planning and discussion times to encourage them to have greater input and responsibility for their learning. At the same time, we are also expecting them to choose and participate in a wider variety of activities rather than just their favourite ones. In order to achieve this the children require self-motivation, initiative and self-control, which are important skills they will need to develop and use throughout their school years and beyond.

Another important skill that we have been working on is problem solving. Please read the following article about teaching problem-solving skills to our young children:



The Problem-Solving Process

For children, the problem-solving process is greatly simplified, of course. It can be broken down into five straightforward steps, such as:

1. Uh oh! There's a problem!
2. Let's stay calm.
3. What can we do?
4. Lets try!
5. Did that work?

If the answer is no, go back to step 3.

While every process is some version of these steps, problem-solving will look different for a child at each level of development. When children are about eight months old, they start looking for reactions to their movements, learning cause and effect. When they reach one year of age, babies can make simple choices — like which toy to play with — and can imitate the adults around them in order to solve problems. Once toddlers are two years old, they can use their memory to solve problems that they have successfully tackled in the past or that they have seen others solve.

From here, the human capacity to problem-solve continues to develop up until a person reaches 25 years old. And as these problem-solving skills develop, the child (or adolescent) will be better able to resolve social conflict, work out tough math problems, manage her own life with less adult intervention, and become more confident.

Problem-Solving at Home

Here's what you can do to encourage those budding executive functioning skills in your child:

Step back.

Its hard not to intervene — we all want to help struggling kids! In fact, a little frustration (though not too much) can be good motivation for working something out. And the only way

to build independence and confidence is to give your child a chance on her own.

Keep it open-ended.

When you are brainstorming solutions to a potential problem, avoid yes-or-no questions. Instead, ask "What do you think about that?" or "What could happen if we did this?"

Try to keep your activities open-ended as well. For example, give your child materials to build, but don't tell her what she should be building.

Make it real.

Kids of all ages learn best when the lesson is meaningful to them. When your child struggles to close a container, use it as an opportunity to problem-solve a little. If your child has trouble sharing with friends, role-play a situation in which two friends have the same difficulty and allow your child to help them work it out.

Trouble-Shooting

Problem-solving isn't composed entirely of victorious moments. There are going to be some rough patches as you find that productive level of frustration that makes minds grow.

Explore alternatives to language.

Verbalizing a problem can sometimes be more frustrating for young children whose language skills are less well-developed. Take time to calm your child down, and help her find alternative ways to explain what she's trying to say. For example, have her draw a picture of what she's having difficulty with.

Alternatively, choose a hands-on task, such as a puzzle or a building project, and ask your child to narrate what is happening. Encourage her to contribute to the story of solving the puzzle.





Step in strategically.

Read cues, and as you see frustration build, learn to step in before it really escalates. Some frustration is okay — if you never had any problems, you wouldn't learn how to solve them! But escalated frustration can lead to aggression, tantrums, or poor self-esteem, making a child a less independent problem-solver in the future. Knowing that she can count on a little support from you, though, is comforting and instills confidence that — one way or another — a problem can be solved.

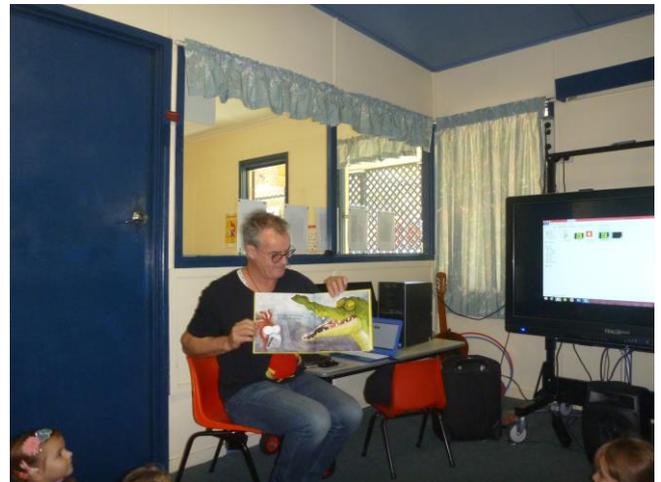


Guide them toward a solution.

Offer enough support. If your child seems stuck, don't rush in to fix it. Empathize (Wow, that seems tricky!) and offer some choices, as in, do you think moving the bookcase would work, or should we try to reach under?

Your child will still have to think about the options and choose one, learning that she has some control over the situation.

Teaching kids how to solve problems from a young age leads to the development of essential skills like critical thinking and grit. And, of course, understanding that it's fine to experiment and stumble as you find your way are all part of the learning process.



Source:

<https://www.noodle.com/articles/teaching-problem-solving-skills-to-your-young-kids>

Some of the highlights from this terms program included: Circular Rhythms, the Go Sports Program and Chris Collins's Author visit.





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Term 3 Funny



Simple At Home Activities

In order for your child to build on their fine motor skills, try these fun activities over the holidays.



Packing a lunch box:

1. Carefully prepare beautifully ornate sandwiches and healthy food options
2. Pack gently into box
3. Lose your mind looking for a lid
4. Choose a new box
5. See point 2
6. Pack in school bag
7. After school remove from bag
8. Feed dog beautifully ornate "dinosaur" shaped sandwiches
9. Feed dog half eaten cheese
10. Replace all fruit items ready for packing tomorrow.