



S.O.C.C.S. Monthly Newsletter October 2013



A word from Mandy – Co-Director

Mirna had written a lovely piece about when she was leaving SOCCS and having her second baby however I have had to amend her work because as you are all aware, Mirna had her second baby on Sunday the 13th October 2013. She named her little girl “Adriana”. Everybody is doing so well and she will come and visit the centre as soon as she can. Mirna didn’t get any time off before having her baby as the plan was for her to leave work on Friday 25th October but her baby girl just couldn’t wait to enter the world! She is sad to be leaving but I am sure we will see her face around as her first daughter Eva will continue to come to SOCCS whilst she is on maternity leave.

Mirna will be taking 12 months maternity leave and therefore plans to return in November 2014 (approximately). Mirna and I would like to congratulate Rachel Shanley (from the Nursery) on being the successful applicant in taking on the part-time maternity leave position. We have faith in Rachel and know that she will do a great job whilst Mirna is away. I will continue to work on Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays whilst Rachel will work Thursdays & Fridays as the Director (and the other days in the 0-2’s). Rachel will commence this new role in week commencing 18th November 2013, when Natalie returns to the Nursery from her honeymoon. In the meantime I will work Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Friday I will be working school hours as SOCCS is such a busy place and we decided we needed someone in the office on a Friday.

Thank you to all our families.

Mandy Goff.

Children's Finger Nails

Can all parents please ensure that their child's finger nails are always cut on their days at SOCCS? Long and sharp nails cause harm to other children when scratched by a child and at times can leave a mark on them for a while. Keeping nails short will help prevent them from causing harm.

Woolworths Earn & Learn Program

We would like to thank all the parents that rewarded SOCCS with the Earn & Learn stickers when shopping at Woolworths. We would like to let you know that with the points we earned we purchased resources for the children including paint, paint brushes, collage materials, outdoor balls and puzzles.

The Children's Christmas Party

The children's Christmas party will be on **Friday 6th December 2013**. A letter will be sent out to families, closer to this date, informing them of the event.

Lost Property

There is a basket in the main foyer that has children's lost property. Please have a look in it if you have lost an item of clothing that belongs to your child.

From the Parent Committee

We would like to inform you that Rachel Dillon has stepped down from her role as President. Jules Boyter (who has William in the 3-5's & Toby in the 0-2's) who was the secretary has been appointed as the new President. Eliza Amparo (who has Mia in the 3-5's and Joshua is the 0-2's) who was a committee member is now the Secretary. Congratulations to both!

Christmas Closure

The centre will close on Friday, 20th December 2013 and we will re-open on Tuesday 7th January 2014.

The preschool will re-open on Tuesday 28th January 2014. If you would like to book your child in from Tuesday 7th January please see office staff in December to organise this. This is only offered to the children that are re-enrolling for 2014. For the children that are going to school in 2014 other arrangements need to be made.

Congratulations to Natalie (from the nursery)

Congratulations to Natalie who got married to Here on 12th October 2013. We wish them all the best of luck in their future together. Natalie will be away for 5 weeks on her honeymoon! She will be back to work at SOCCS on 18th November 2013.

Facebook



SOCCS has a page on Facebook. Please make sure you like us to stay updated on upcoming events at the centre. The page is called "Strathfield One Stop Child Care Service"

Attached to this newsletter

Please find attached:

Absence of Child Policy



Joey's NEWS.

September and October have been busy months in the Joeys room. Staff and children alike have been immersed in many wonderful, rich, fun learning experiences as we draw closer to the end of the year. Here are a few of the highlights from the last few months:

The Joeys class have been expressing a very strong group interest in features of the natural environment. This has been evident during outdoor play and in our nature focus corner inside. Children have regularly explored water, sand, leaves, bark, stones and sticks in hands-on experiences that are both planned and spontaneous. This play has been rich in excitement, wonder and discovery. According to the EYLF, "Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating. This is evident when they make predictions and generalisations about their daily activities, aspects of the natural world and environments, using patterns they generate or identify and communicate these using mathematical language and symbols" (DEEWR, 2009).

Our class have also been learning about our responsibilities in relation to the natural environment. We have learnt about plants and what they need to grow. If you drop by during outdoor play you may see children collecting watering cans and asking for water to water the plants in our garden. By incorporating these natural resources into their play the children have also been working towards the EYLF learning outcome 2d "children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment" (DEEWR, 2009).

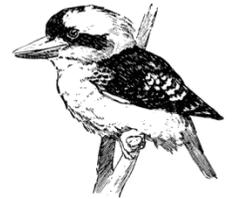
Summer is fast approaching and as such we need to be extra vigilant when it comes to sun protection. Please remember to place sunscreen on your child each morning and to dress your child in "sun safe" clothing that covers their shoulders, backs, stomachs, arms and legs. During warm days we will sometimes play with water so please pack spare summer clothes in your child's bag. Please also remember to pack a hat for your child each day that is either broad-brimmed or legionnaire style.

As we get close to the end of the year many of the Joeys are making the transition from 'baby' to 'toddler'. Please keep us informed of changes in your child's routine such as beginning toilet training or moving to a big bed at home so that we can accommodate this at S.O.C.C.S too. Many of the Joeys will be moving on to the next classroom in January. As such, we will soon be transitioning those children from cots to beds for their day sleeps at S.O.C.C.S to make the change of classroom less daunting.

Finally: As you may be aware we have some big changes occurring in our classroom. Natalie will be away for five weeks as she celebrates her wedding and honeymoon. When Natalie returns Rachel will be stepping out of the classroom on Thursdays and Fridays to take on the position of Co-Director for the duration of Mirna's maternity leave. We are very happy to be welcoming Julie into our room on Thursdays and Fridays during this time. Julie will also be replacing Natalie's leave. We aim to make these changes as smooth as possible. If you have any queries or concerns please speak to one of us!

Love Rachel, Natalie, Sophia and Thanh.

News from the Kookaburras



Let's start with a warm welcome to our new team member Gina who is a Diploma trained educator. She is originally from Korea and has been working in Early Childhood for almost 10 years. She is friendly and has a warm heart for the children. Please feel free to talk with her when you come and drop your child/children at the centre. She is happy to talk with you.

Goals for the Kookaburra's children.

At the moment our children are really enjoying dramatic play. They are interested in dress-ups, hair dressing and cooking. We've been setting up sketch make-up at the drawing area have a hair dressing corner set up and have done many real cooking class in group time with the children. The children enjoyed making fresh fruit ice cream (DEEWR, 2009, Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world). The children are learning about each fruit, touching them, smelling the different smells and exploring the textures and sizes. Also they have opportunities to cut the fruit using plastic knives, using a blender to blend the fruits to make ice cream. These experiences scaffold children's hand-eye coordination and develop their fine motor skills. Furthermore they transferred real cooking to pretend cooking when they were playing outside. (Outcome 4.3 Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another). We are planning to continue working on these interests as well as familiarising children's social and physical environment in the coming weeks. Children confidently explore and engage with social and physical environment through relationships and play. These play episodes enable children to make connections between prior experiences and new learning. (DEEWR, 2009).

Staff:

As we mention above, we have a new staff Gina who work Monday-Friday (8:30-3:30). Once again, please feel free to talk with her. Sue is back on 11th October from her 3 weeks of annual leave. We hope that she had a nice holiday.

Please feel free to provide suggestions and feedback regarding your child's learning and development in all areas. This helps us to understand the children more and connect home life experiences with our centre.

Reminder:

As the weather getting hotter;

Please apply sunscreen on your child when you arrive at centre.

Please ensure that the children wear short sleeves and short pants.

Please bring some extra clothes for your child due to we'll have more chance to play the water play.

Please label all your child's belongings! Sometimes children mix up their items of clothing and this can create unsolvable puzzles for us! If we can't determine which piece of clothing belongs to whom, these items are placed in the lost property basket in the foyer. Please check this basket sometimes-just in case!!

Until next time, keep smiling!

Sue, Mimi and Gina



News from the Koalas

Hi Everyone,

We in the Koalas' room have been busy as usual exploring the indoor and outdoor areas of S.O.C.C.S. The Koalas' are continuing to gain many skills through our program. This is evident throughout our daily journal, individual observations, slide-shows and the dynamic interactions that happen among the children and the others.

Our curriculum outcomes from the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia:

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity.

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world.

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing.

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners.

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators.

REMINDERS:

- Please encourage your pre-schooler to pack his/her bag every day, perhaps after dinner would be a good idea. Doing this consistently may enable your child to develop responsibility and confidence in their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Good idea to have a check list as a reminder. See example below:

- HAT
- APPROPRIATE CLOTHING FOR THE WEATHER (weather has been quite unpredictable lately).
- APPROPRIATE FOOT-WEAR FOR RUNNING, CLIMBING, JUMPING AND SO ON
- DRINK BOTTLE WITH FRESH WATER (BOTTLES NEED TO BE TAKEN HOME AND WASHED WELL EVERYDAY).

Note: if your child's bottle was left behind the previous day then please make sure that it is washed well and filled with new water in the morning.

- EXTRA UNDER-WEAR AND CLOTHES INCASE OF ACCIDENTS
 - ONE ITEM FOR "SHOW AND TELL" (this is optional as it depends on your child whether she/he would like to do 'show and tell' on that day).
- During morning arrival if you find the educators and the children outdoors then please make sure your child puts 'on' sun-screen and a hat before coming out.

REMEMBER TO TAKE DEEP BREATHS 'IN' & 'OUT' (EXHALE & INHALE). The Koalas practise this almost every day during meditation. Children are encouraged to contemplate how we are connected to nature and everything around us (people, animals, insects, plants, land, water, how our actions can impact others and our planet and so on). We learn and remember to shine our "inner-light", so to speak.

Time to say bye for now,

Keep safe and well (remember! we care at S.O.C.C.S),

Shivi, Fi and Geetha

News from the Wombats (Pre-School)



Welcome back in last term of our preschool. Children are enjoying the experiences provided by the educators following their interests and are originating games from their own ideas. As Vygotsky (1978, p.88) argues, 'human learning presupposes a specific social nature and process by which children grow into the intellectual life of those around them.'

We started our special school readiness program last term and are going to build on it according to the needs of individual child and the requirements of the school. You are most welcome to add anything you would like us to add in our program. We would love to have more feedback from the parents regarding the Kindergarten Orientation. Encourage children to read any print available in the environment like road signs, advertisement on the board, pamphlets, books etc. Most research has indicated that children gain alphabetic awareness through everyday experiences in the home and early childhood setting, such as talking, finding words while waking in the shops, storybook reading, singing songs and nursery rhymes, and playing language games.

Thanks to all the parents and grandparents who took part in our programming and organised different experiences like parties and cooking with the children. We do appreciate your effort and it is very important and valuable experiences for the children. As we are living in this multicultural society, sharing our thoughts and culture will strengthen our relationship which is the key to succeed in our life.

Reminders:

- Please put some spare clothes for your child as weather is changing.
- Label your child's belonging
- Please feel free to provide parent's input to help us programme for your child
- Please provide hats and water bottles as the weather is getting hotter.

Regards

Toni, Sushila, Bel , Kazal, Maureen and Ambiga