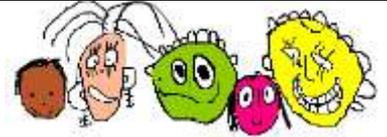


Hamilton Community Pre-School Newsletter



"Where discoveries, learning and fun connect."

Term 2 2018

Week 9

Hi everyone,

Term 2 has been a very busy time for all of us, we have had to organise our end of term disco (more about that later) and have quite a few visitors to the Pre-School.

OUR PROGRAMS

Jackie - Children's Wellbeing

Safety Programs

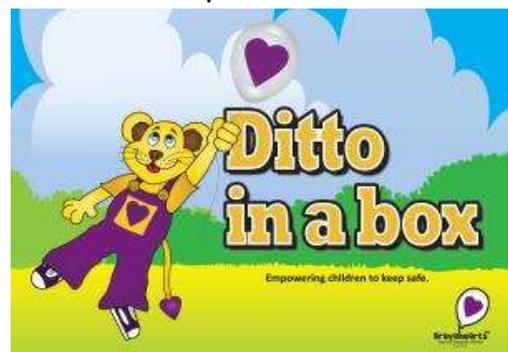
The children have been very busy at Pre-School with educators encouraging them to develop an understanding about being safe.

I have providing the children with the Ditto in a Box program and this what we have been teaching the children

Private Parts

The children learnt: -

- To identify the private parts on their body (i.e. mouth, chest, between their legs and the bottom)
- That their private parts belong to them, " No one is to touch - no one is to see"
- That no one should touch the private parts of their body with the exceptions being a doctor or safe adult
- That it's ok to say NO if they feel unsafe or unsure.



Secrets

This module enforces the message to "Run, run and tell someone". The children learnt: -

- There are some secrets that involve surprises and presents and are safe to keep to for a short amount of time
- If a secret is shared that creates an unsafe or unsure feeling, it is important to go and speak to a safe and trusted adult.
- To recognise examples of good and bad secrets by looking at scenarios

Who to Tell

This module focused on the children finding a safe person to talk to and enforced the message to "Nothing is so yucky that you can't tell someone about it". The children learnt: -

- To start to identify who they can talk to
- To continue to find a safe person to talk to and if an initial contact does not help, they should keep on trying. We looked at a "Helper Plan" which all the children have been given to complete at home. We encourage all families to assist your child to in completing this and bring it back to Pre-School.
- The Bravehearts DVD is available to borrow, so you can run through the program at home. Please see me (AKA Jackie) if you would like to have this opportunity.

Belle

CAMP PRESCHOOL

We wanted to have a camp fire outside, but unfortunately it rained today, so we decided to move camp preschool inside. All the trimmings except the "real fire"

The children all arrived with their camp chairs, sleeping bags and their mess kits. We had set the room up like a camp ground, tent and the fire ready to be lit.

But first we had to get cooking. Earlier that morning the educators cut up all the ingredients for our sausage stew. We placed it in a slow cooker as we wouldn't have the real fire to cook it on. We left some of the softer vegetables for some of the children to cut up and add later.





Next it was time to make damper. We mixed butter, flour, salt and water together to make our bread to go with the stew.

We then popped it in the oven to cook. The smells were amazing.

The children were then encouraged to set up their camp chairs and sleeping bags around the camp fire. We set up our safety provisions (our danger zone and our water bucket near the fire and we went through the safety rules around a fire.

These were our rules made from our risk assessment that Educators and children had come up with.

1. Stay in your place - if you need to leave the circle walk round the outside - not across the circle.
2. Make sure you know where the fire buckets are - they are for burns and to put the fire out.
3. Have your water with you at the camp fire in case you burn your mouth on hot food.
4. If the smoke is in your face put your hand up and wait until a grown up moves you
5. Have fun and join in!



We lit the fire and then put our sausage stew onto the flames to cook.



We then all had some hot chocolate and marshmallow and told 'scary stories' around the campfire.

All the children were able to tell us a scary story. I loved Ollie having a go as he repeated a story that I told, and I thought he did an amazing job.

We then did some singing, some new camp songs and some of our favourites

Then it was time to have our yummy stew. The children with their plate/bowls came up and got some rice and some sausage stew. (I did send the recipe with the RDJ Tuesday 5th June). Majority of the children really enjoyed the



stew and asked for seconds.

While fire pits aren't things you'd normally expect to find at Preschool, new Australian research suggests that perhaps they should be.

The educators used intentional teaching to help children develop their own risk-assessment skills as they engaged in risky play. Here we explained what the dangers were and with the children were able to come up with ideas on how to keep us all safe. This happened over a two-week period and the children were very well prepared. Even though the risks were not as high as if we had had a real fire. The children showed that they have a strong sense of Wellbeing.

Life is full of risk. By providing children with opportunities to participate in risky and challenging play in a safe learning environment, we provide opportunity for the development of important life skill learning such as making choices, problem solving, measured risk taking, and navigating their way socially and emotionally in group situations. These skills will be important right through life - particularly in vulnerable stages such as their teenage years, so let's send them out prepared.

I really taking this journey with all the children on Tuesdays. They were so engaged and participated in all the "camp activities". Story telling was my favourite as they let their imaginations go and came up with some great stories.

Great work everyone on a great day and thank you parents for sending in all the extras that your child needed on the day. It was a great community spirit

Reil

The children will be learning about ear health, we received a resource kit from the Australian Government to promote this topic. You are able to access resources for parents and carers through

<http://www.careforkidsears.health.gov.au> .The reason for this is that middle ear infections are a significant problem in Australia. If left untreated it can lead to hearing loss which may limit a child's capacity to develop socially and emotionally. It is important that all of us, including children, know what to do if their ears are sore and for adults to recognise the importance of regular ear checks and following a health professionals advice about treatment.



The key health messages that the resources promote are: -

- The symptoms of a middle ear infection - can include a cold, runny ear, pain, fever, children pulling at their ears, diarrhoeas or vomiting and reduced hearing
- Sometimes middle ear infections show no symptoms
- Children should have their ears checked regularly by a health worker, nurse or doctor and follow their advice about treatments
- Prompt treatment can avoid permanent damage.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)



The children are now discovering the second app **Adventure** where the children will look at location and arrangement. They are loving this opportunity with them becoming familiar with prepositions.

The children have also been successfully counting to 12 and using beads to demonstrate their ability to comprehend mathematical concepts and symbols

The Sculptures

Unfortunately, I did not hear back from the gallery, so the children can take their sculptures home at the end of the term. I was so proud of the children as they created their piece



Pre-School Pets

Don't forget that the children can take the stick insects home over the weekends and during the holidays. They are low maintenance all they need is fresh gum leaves. I will provide an information sheet. We also have millions of babies if you would like a pet for your home.

I did mention that we were getting Australian native bees, but this won't be happening at the moment as they are \$600.00.

Being Safe with Dogs



The children were involved in this program which teaches the children what to do if a dog is aggressive, when you can and should not approach a dog and to recognise how a dog shows basic emotions.

The children also had the opportunity to approach 2 very funny husky dogs in the correct manner. All of the children had a go which was wonderful, it's a great program made available by the State Government.



Science on the Move

The children had the opportunity to explore and experiment with air pressure, optical illusions, magnets, water surface tension and movement with cogs but the most fun they had was when they tried to pull apart two large plungers. Many of the children were surprised that it was very hard to do.



Outdoor Equipment

I am delighted to inform you that the Pre-School has successfully obtained money from the State Government to purchase new outdoor equipment. So we will be sending the orders after the holidays.....we are so excited to see the children's faces with the pieces.

Connecting with our Families and Community

End of Term Disco

The children have been working very hard, making dream catchers with Josie, candles and coloured sand jars, cooking cakes with educators and painting their canvases.

I hope that everyone can attend and support the Pre-School, it should be a great afternoon.

There will a gold coin donation upon entry

The price of items will be: -

- ❖ \$5.00 items include: -
 - Candles
 - Sand jars
 - Jar Tombola
- ❖ Produce stall prices as marked
- ❖ Cake stall prices as marked
- ❖ Children's canvasses: \$5.00 or more (depending on your generosity)
- ❖ Playdough - 1 for \$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00
- ❖ Dream catchers - \$1.00
- ❖ Sausage on a bun - \$2.00



The disco will be starting at 11.00am and finishing at 2.00pm, it is on the 6th July 2018.

The Advertisement

I don't know if you are aware, but the advertisement is on the Greater website and it is amazing. The children did such a wonderful job, we are very proud of them. I would also like to thank the Greater for providing the Pre-School with some wonderful toys for the children to play with.

Eli spoke beautifully as he explained what happens with the program and the children did make up this song and they sang it all the way to the Bank. We had people popping their heads out of the shops to see what was going on.

I have also been told that Matilda is on another the Greater ads, congrats Tilly

If you would like your child to be involved in the program, Joshua will be at the Pre-School on the 3 and 4/7/18 from 2.00 to 3.30pm. He will be able to set your child up with a passbook so your child can be a part of the program. You will need to bring in: -

- Your photo ID e.g. Drivers Licence, passport or proof of age card.
- Your child's Birth certificate and these will need to be the originals.

When you receive your child's book bring it into Pre-School so they can decorate it and start banking. Just remember to put money in it.

When your child arrives at Pre-School, the book will go into the Banking Buddies bag and then we will, walk up to do the banking.

Pending on the number banking will be the last week of the month.

The Committee

The committee met on the 25th June and the minutes will be displayed near the sign in book

Mother's Day Morning Tea

A big thank you to all the mum's and other special visitors that came to Pre-School for our belated celebration. This also coincided with big morning tea, with your help we raised \$154.00 which was

wonderful. The children helped make scones and iced the cupcakes, they loved every minute of it.





Survey

Please take the time to complete our third survey, this one relates specifically to Quality Area 3 - Physical Environment

Quality Improvement Plan

The Pre-School has to complete a Quality Improvement Plan, this document informs the Government of our successes and Key Improvements with progress notes all in relation to the National Quality Standards. It has been a very long and difficult process but thankfully it's finished and is available for you to look at. It can be found near the sign in book, please feel free to provide any ideas or suggestions that could be included in the document.

Birthday Wishes

Happy Birthday to all our Term 2 children:

May

Amelia
Andie
Leisha
Matteo

June

Charlie
Lucy

July

Cameron
LilyRose
Oscar
Sam M
Will
Zippy

Proposed Child Care Centre

I hope that you are aware that a 119-place child care centre has been proposed for the old Hamilton Bowling Club. We have had some developments with Councillor Carol Duncan requesting that the Development Application be reviewed. New plans have been submitted with some major changes and I am cranky as...

The initial plans had a community garden - now being replaced by a 7-space car park, with entry and exit driveways near the Samdon Street lights. They also had community rooms, but they have also been removed and now the rooms for the children and staff are much larger. The initial number of children it was

providing care for was 104 now 119. Also, the height of the fences has been increased. Think of the parking, street congestion and the safety of the children. The Pre-School objected to the first DA and we have followed through again but this time with more support from the community as some are angered that it is a public space being made available for a private service.

I have been in communiqué with the Ward 2 Councillors and other people within the Hamilton Community and have been asked to voice my concerns to the council in August.

If you would like to object to this application concentrate on:-

- Parking - think about approx 119 vehicles as well as 20+ for staff and not to mention service vehicles trying to find a park. Now add functions/events held by the Greek Orthodox church, or Pre-School, overflow from Beaumont Street, residence and park users
- Traffic congestion on Lindsay and Samdon Street (which is now a main link road between Tudor and Donald Street). Traffic light rotation only adds to the number of vehicles on Samdon. Samdon must have been recognised as a busy street as they have placed speed humps on it
- Children's safety crossing near a very busy intersection

I would love support in this matter as the Council is not very open in providing information. Your objection does not have to be wordy just state your concerns, Carol will forward them onto other councillor members.

It is Development Application

DA2017/00366 - Child Care Centre on the Site of the Former Bowling Club

You can send you objection to: -

- Cr Kath Elliott kelliott@ncc.nsw.gov.au
- Cr Carol Duncan cduncan@ncc.nsw.gov.au

I am really worried about the future of the Pre-School if it goes ahead and sadly this is not a concern to Council...stay tuned

Staff News

It saddens me to inform you that Bree has handed in her resignation and will be leaving us at the end of the Term. I would personally like to thank her for her dedication towards the Pre-School and her friendship with educators. Bree has

been with the Pre-School for 7 years. I would like to wish her all the best in the future and she will be sadly missed by all of us.

Kyrstal will be replacing her at the start of Term 3 working on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please make her feel welcome and be understanding as she is learning about Starcare etc.

General Info

Philosophy

Educators have reviewed the Pre-School philosophy and would love your feedback on it. Have a read, do you think it's a true reflection of the service (we would love your thoughts, ideas and opinions on it): -

At Hamilton Community Pre-School, we believe that each child is a unique individual and should be viewed, respected and treated as such. As the welfare, wellbeing and safety of each child is paramount, we strive to provide holistic support regarding the child's interests and strengths in a nurturing environment that fosters the child's development across all developmental domains.

The Pre-School aims to provide a friendly, relaxed, caring, fun, supportive and accepting environment for our children, families and the community. We pride ourselves on an open-door approach which is both welcoming and inviting to all.

The Pre-school honours itself on recognising the expertise of families through educators valuing the importance of partnerships and open communication which results in sharing the decision making about the child's learning and wellbeing. This is based on the foundation of understanding and respecting each other's expectations, attitudes, beliefs, as well as ensuring that all values, ideas and options are considered.

These all contribute towards building on the strength of sharing the interests and knowledge about the uniqueness of the child and thus demonstrating that the preschool is committed to continual improvement.

Educator's values, dedication and commitment to the Pre-School are integral and inter-related convictions. These embrace and provide rich learning opportunities for the children, making families feel included in the service and recognising the importance of having a sense of community.

Educators convey a great commitment to the Pre-School to embrace and provide a strong educational program for the children. We utilise our strengths,

experiences and understanding of the children by providing challenging environments that will motivate them to discover, explore, invent, hypothesis and master skills. Educators support the children to go beyond their ability level, develop independence, resilience and interpersonal skills. This is achieved by offering creative, innovative, spontaneous, intentional, insightful and fun experiences.

With educators being progressive and proactive in their thoughts and beliefs in early childhood, each child's learning journey extends above and beyond their capabilities and abilities; this is addressed and reflected in each of the educator's personal teaching philosophy.

We build a profile of each child's journey while at Pre- School. All documentations are detailed and varied and tell exquisite stories about the child's involvement, development and progress. These are readily available for families to access and books are created for opportunities to reflect on past learning discoveries.

Independent of the qualification that educators hold, we are consistently developing and refining our professional practices, attending additional training to keep abreast with current trends within Early Childhood. All staff strictly abide by a specialised code of ethics and code of conduct to ensure that duty of care is honoured at all times.

Educators strive for continual improvement in all aspects of the Pre-School; this is achieved through the constant collaboration of ideas and beliefs, reflective practices, co-operation and implementation of innovative concepts

We understand the importance of hearing and acknowledging the children's voices, so they have a sense of belonging, responsibility and are co-contributors to the service.

Our play-based learning context supports scaffolding children's learning and development through quality interactions with peers, parents and carers in the overall attempt for the children to pave the way for exploratory understanding of themselves, the world around them and their place in it

The Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standards are embraced and embedded in the Pre-Schools Daily Reflective Journal and children's documentations/learning stories both encompass a holistic approach namely they recognise the children's interests, knowledge, strengths, their voice/ ideas and input.

At all times, educators and the Reflective Daily Journal respect the diversity of our community and cultures and we aim to provide an inclusive program. This encourages the children to value and respect others for their unique background, beliefs and ability.

The Pre-School believes in a sustainable future, by teaching the children to foster, respect and care for the environment. The aim is to encourage educators, children and families to discuss, reflect and take an active role in caring for the environment and contribute to a sustainable future.

Our respectful ties with the community have been a catalyst in evoking a sense of belonging in the children and a growing awareness of their place in society. Creating social capital through their own interactions and participations within their local community enables the children to be recognised, have value, to value and respect others for their unique background, beliefs and ability.

We believe that it is important to establish a professional culture of reflective practice, where ongoing professional development for educators is supported and encouraged, where community participation and involvement is valued and an environment where there are high expectations for the quality of the educational programme and a mutual respect between families and educators as we work together to ensure a positive start for the children.

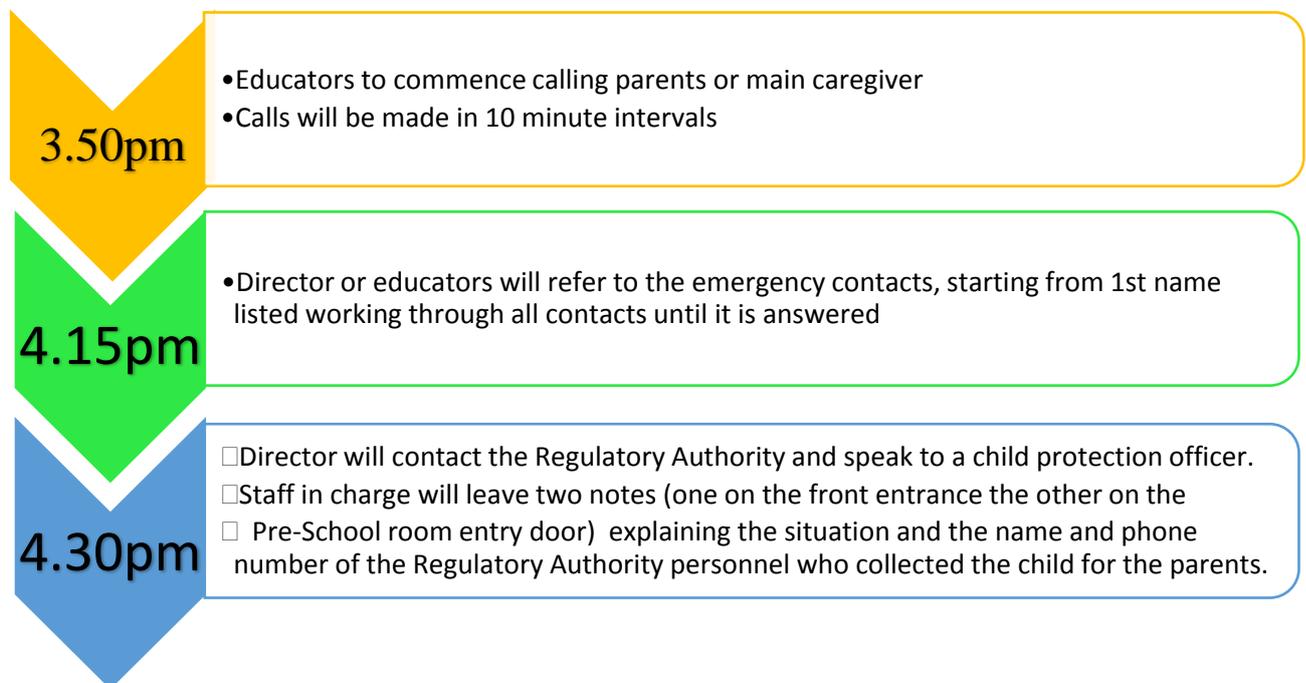
Policy –Late Collection of a child

On the rare occasion children can still be at Pre-School after 4.00am, as we are not licensed to care for children after 4 heavy charges are applied. We have also added a time line to this policy, so educators are aware of when to contact you and what to do after a certain time

Policy is: -

- Educators will commence contacting parents at 3.50pm if no one has arrived to collect the child
- If at 4:00pm, no one has picked up a child and educators have not heard from the child's parent or nominated caregiver, the educators will continue to contact the parent/s at ten (10) minute intervals
- If at 4.15 educators are unsuccessful in contacting parents, the Director or educators will refer to the emergency contacts nominated on the child's enrolment form, starting from 1st name listed working through all contacts.
- If by 4:30pm they have not been able to reach a nominated emergency contacts from the child's enrolment form, the director will contact the Regulatory Authority and speak to a child protection officer.

- Before leaving the building, staff in charge will leave two notes (one on the front entrance the other on the Pre-School room entry door) explaining the situation and the name and phone number of the Regulatory Authority personnel who collected the child for the parents.
- An initial late fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per child will be charged for any parent arriving after 4.00pm. In addition to this, an extra ten dollars (\$10.00) will be charged for each minute after 4.00pm. The next fee payment will then be expected to include this fee. It is payable in the next week with the child's fees. If educators are contacted and notified of a legitimate emergency before 4.00pm, an exception may be made at the discretion of the director.
- Educators will keep a record of late fees.



Don't Forget: -

- To sign your child in and out as it is a legal document.
- That we ask that the children don't bring toys to Pre-School, as they can get lost, broken and so forth we have lots of equipment. If a child turns up with a toy we will ask for it to be taken home. The exception is being if it is needed to comfort the child.
- To pack healthy foods, water bottle and spare clothes
- Please take the time to read the Pre-School e-mails, Storypark and empty your child's wall pockets
- The Pre-school is a peanut and egg free service as we have children enrolled that are anaphylaxis therefore it is imperative that **no**

peanut/nuts of any type, nut products and eggs be brought into the Pre-school.

- Please remember that if you have given your child medicine (e.g. cough mixture or paracetamol) in the morning then they are too unwell to come to Pre-School.

Dates to Remember

Date	Event
3 & 5/7	Joshua and Banking Buddies
8/7	Last day of Pre-School Pre-School Disco
9/7 - 20/7	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - PRE-SCHOOL CLOSED
23/7	Children return to Pre-School for Term 3 Henny Penny chickens
3/8	Fees Due
17/8	Fees Due
31/8	Fees Due
10/9 - 14/9	Pre-School photos
14/9	Fees Due
18/9	Reptile Show <i>(will provide more info as the date gets closer)</i>
28/9	Fees Due