



Thursday 31st
January



Fortnightly Newsletter. Vol. 14

Important Dates

Chinese New Year

5th
Feb

Staff professional
development day

16th
Feb

Date night

28th
Feb

Administrative News...

- Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child upon arrival. We will reapply during the day as necessary.
- Date night is coming up again! On Thursday 28th February we can look after your little ones until 8pm so that you can have a shop or a special dinner. Please get in touch with RSVPs as soon as possible. If you aren't sure how it all works, please email us and we can explain the details to you.

Lunar New Year



Happy Lunar New Year! Anna and I (and our families) had a wonderful day out in Chinatown on Sunday. It was filled with Paddy's Market bargains, Yum Cha, Lion Dances, Bubble Teas, Crackers, Red Envelopes and the famous hot cream puffs. For any families looking for an exciting and interesting day out, we highly recommend travelling in next weekend. We found taking advantage of the free parking around Roseville Bay Tram Stop and getting the tram in was the most effective way in. Plenty of parking, the tram cost about a dollar (and was fun for the kids), and you are delivered right into the heart of the action.



From the Directors

Anna Tran
Chloe Chant

~For all of our families who celebrate the new lunar year, we hope the next couple of weeks are filled with food and joy, and that the year of the pig brings prosperity to your families and loved ones.~

Hiba...

We are so pleased to welcome Hiba to our team next week. We have been eagerly awaiting Hiba's return to Australia so that she can join our team! Anna and I have worked with Hiba previously, and have always been thoroughly impressed by her knowledge of child development, her warmth and sense of fun.

Hiba has two children of her own who have started school in Kellyville. Hiba will work 3 days a week for a few weeks while her children settle into their new school, and will then increase to 4-5 days later in the term. Welcome to the team Hiba! I know you will be well loved by the children, educators and families.

About our Educators...

Chloe's Mum is here! Looking forward to lots of date nights with hubby and lots of cups of tea with Mum.

Miss Amy is off to India for a family wedding in a couple of weeks, please send plenty of pics!

Miss Jess W has made the big decision to enroll in university! We wish you all the best as you juggle work and study. We are very proud of you!

Miss Jessi H and Cooper celebrated their 3 year 'adoption' anniversary yesterday. Congratulations to you both on making this beautiful little family.

In the Rooms...

We would like to share some of the projects our educators are working on each week. We are so proud of the interest-based, emergent curriculum approach our educators create.

In case you are unaware, each month our educators formulate a curriculum plan based on the interests of the child, and covering the areas of:

- Creative Arts,
- Literacy,
- Gross Motor Skills,
- Fine Motor Skills/Sensory,
- Literacy,
- Construction/Problem Solving,
- Maths/Numeracy,
- Science,
- Drama/Music and
- The World Around Us (Diversity and Sustainability)

Over the coming weeks, we are focusing on:

Nursery:

In the nursery we are establishing our sense of belonging. We all come from different families with different values and customs. It's important for us to get to know our new children and families as we start this learning journey together.

Toddler:

Let's get moving! Our children are so fascinated by trains and cars, so for the next few weeks we will be using the transportation theme to develop our creative, mathematical, cognitive and problem skills.

Preschool 1:

For this wonderfully messy, enthusiastic group we will be continuing to use sensory based activities to hone our fine and gross motor skills, along with our understanding of the scientific process.

Preschool 2:

Our study of the author Julia Donaldson is helping us to understand sequence and narrative. We are also honing our recall memory skills and creative expression as we draw our interpretations of particular scenes from these wonderful stories.

Storytime with children supports the development of relationships and cognitive skills through 'sustained shared thinking' and 'proximal processes'. We hope there might be a little 'book nook' somewhere in your home! 😊

The Importance of Storytime By Lynn Dean

"Once upon a time there was a princess named Amy. She lived at the beach near Bob..." I listened as my youngest carefully "read" a story to her baby doll. Although the words did not match the text, I knew that I had instilled a great love of reading in my child. Indeed, she was emulating one of our favorite activities—storytime.

A love for reading and books is one of the most precious gifts parents can give their children. While knowing how to read is essential for day-to-day survival, loving to read opens new worlds for children. By reading, children can visit people in different lands, fight fire-breathing dragons to save a royal princess, or learn how to build the perfect windmill. The possibilities are endless. Even so, fostering a love of reading requires a bit of work on our part as parents.

Read, Read, Read

Storytime plays an important role in introducing children to the magic of books. Although it is never too late to start, we should begin reading books to our children when they are very small, even before they can walk and talk. As babies, children enjoy books with bright pictures and simple text. Board books that babies can manipulate themselves (and chew on) are good choices, too. Also good are books that are lyrical, such as Dr. Seuss books (my favorite is *Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?*) and nursery rhymes. While babies cannot understand the intricacies of the language, they do enjoy the rhythm of the words. This early introduction to reading develops a child's love of books and fosters a close, loving relationship between parent and child.

As children grow older, our choices of books should reflect a child's interests. My two-year-old nephew, for example, adores trains and enjoys listening to adults read books about "choo choos." Older children also like to be involved in the story being read. Asking questions such as: "Where is the squirrel hiding?"; "Show me the orange ball."; and "What do you think Tommy will do will next?" encourage interaction.

The Importance of Storytime Cont...

Here's a Book, There's a Book

Experts agree that the prevalence of books in the home fosters a desire to read in children. The more books and other reading materials that are available, the more children will value reading. As a result, include books (fiction and non-fiction), newspapers, magazines, books on tape (especially good for younger "readers"), and other reading materials in the home. When creating a library remember that books don't have to be new to be entertaining. Hand-me-downs from friends and books purchased at thrift stores and garage sales work just as well as new books.

Everywhere's a Book Nook

When encouraging children to read, remember to provide a comfortable place for reading. All that is required is a cuddly spot furnished with pillows, blankets, good lighting, and a variety of reading materials. For storage, I have found that large plastic dishpans make excellent "book buckets." They hold books of all sizes and are portable from one reading spot to another.

The Storehouse of Knowledge

No matter how hard we try, we can't stock all the books our children need or will want to read in a home library, although technological advances may cause me to rethink this statement in the next decade. For now, libraries are the storehouses of knowledge. There, books on every subject can be caressed and read. Want to know the difference between a reptile and an amphibian? The answer is in the library. In addition to loaning books, many libraries also set aside times for storytelling. Children enjoy seeing a book brought to life with puppets and other fanciful props.

Drop Everything and Read

Nothing is as important as fostering children's interest in reading. That is why Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) time is important for both parents and children. DEAR time serves not only as a relaxation activity, but it also gives families who are "too busy to read" a time to refocus and get lost in a tale or two. Remember, the more our children see us read, the more they will want to read, too.

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