

# FAMILY DAY CARE NEWSLETTER

**cca**  
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AID  
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## END OF YEAR FORMS

It is really important that everyone returns their forms! A few parents have said that because their child was leaving care they didn't think forms mattered. We understand that life is very busy at this time of the year and also that there seems to be so much paperwork that we all have to do, but we do need them so that we know where there will be vacancies and the exact date that it will start. A lot of new families and also families with another child are asking about next year already and we would like to be able to let them know if there is a vacancy for their child. THANKS

## IMMUNISATION REMINDER

In the last newsletter we reminded you about 4 year old immunisations. Since then we have had 2 cases of whooping cough in a Family Day Care service. Whooping Cough (Pertussis) is a notifiable disease and we were required to provide the Health Dept with the immunisation status of all the children who had been in contact at Playsession. To our dismay we found that 6 out of 40 children did not have immunisation records on file, or they were incomplete.

The end of year forms are out now and when you return them please include a copy of your child's most recent immunisation record. It is really important for us to know a child's immunisation status if there are any serious illnesses in any Carer's group.

A fact sheet on Whooping Cough has been distributed to all Carers, please ask your Carer to see

if you want more information. Alternatively you can access it on the health department's website: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/pertussis.html>

## PLAYSESSION

There was great excitement at Playsession last week; we had a bubble machine that blows enormous bubbles. The children really loved it!



## A GREAT BOOK TITLE

This book has not been reviewed by us, but has come recommended, and the title is wonderful-

**"To a Child Love is spelled T-I-M-E".**

The blurb that comes with it says *"Best-selling authors Mac Anderson and Lance Wubbels offer inspirational insights on what parenting is all about. It's a little book with a powerful message. It will make you rethink life's priorities."*

If you have read a helpful book and would like to share the information with others please let us know and we will publish it in the newsletter.

## CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Children's Christmas parties start at Playsession in the last week in November and continue for 3 weeks. There are a few things about the parties we would like to draw to your attention:



- If your child has any special food requirements please discuss with your Carer and if there is a serious food allergy please phone the office as well (9874 0066).
- If you would like to come to your child's Christmas party you would be **very** welcome.
- If you have another child who will be attending please contact the office to arrange a gift (see below).
- If your child does not usually attend care on Playsession day and you would like to bring your child to the party with your Carer, please phone the office to arrange a gift.
- There is a \$2 per child cost for the gift for children who do not normally attend Playsession.



## HOLIDAY REMINDER

This year the last day of care will be Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2008. The service will re-open on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2009. No Carers will be working and the office is not open for support or enquiries. If you need an alternative carer for the first week in January and have not been informed by 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 - PLEASE PHONE! (9874 0066). After the 24<sup>th</sup> December there will be no one available to help you.

## A TIME FOR GOODBYES

It is always exciting and sad at the end of the year to see so many of our children moving on to the next stage in their life. Many are starting school and we wish them and their families all the best.

We have seen great steps forward in children attending our school readiness (pre-school) program. The program is run by Karen McMaster who is a qualified early childhood teacher. The children have developed a good understanding of working in a group, telling news, concentrating on a formal learning task and especially the social skills required to be part of a kindergarten class. If you would like to talk to Karen about your child's progress please email her to arrange a time: [karen.mcmaster@ccas.org.au](mailto:karen.mcmaster@ccas.org.au)

A few families have been with our service for a very long time, with several children and often the same Carer. It will seem strange to see the last one leave!

To everyone we would like to say thank you for letting us share in the lives of your children. It really is a privilege to be able to work with children and we hope we have helped to make a difference for yours.

Looking back we can truly say this has been a HUGE year! We amalgamated West Ryde and Eastwood and then merged with Telopea! That added 20 Carers, 160 children and 4 staff. At about the same time CCMS started and a completely different set of procedures came with that. The child care tax benefit became a quarterly rebate adding another level of reporting and of course we had our QA validation visit. Altogether it has been very successful (with a few bumps along the way), however I think we will all heave a big sigh at the end of the year! Thanks everyone for your patience and cooperation during our various transitions.

We hope you have had a great year and look forward to seeing the all children who are continuing in 2009.

Have a great summer break. We wish you a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

