

# FAMILY DAY CARE NEWSLETTER

**cca**  
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AID  
FEBRUARY 2009

## WELCOME

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to all our new families and new Carers. We hope that your time with CCA Family Day Care will be a happy and successful one.

## KIDS AND TRAFFIC

There are some really good songs for children on the website [www.kidsandtraffic.mq.edu.au](http://www.kidsandtraffic.mq.edu.au). It is a way to help your children develop safety awareness at an early age. You can download words and music.



## BOOK REVIEW

The most common problems we encounter seem to revolve around children's behaviour. We have just added a new book to our reference library titled "Have a New Kid by Friday, How to Change your Child's Attitude, Behaviour and Character in 5 Days" by Dr Kevin Leman. It is full of practical, easy to understand strategies and a no holds barred look at real life situations that families can face. If you are interested in borrowing it (4 week loan) please let your Carer know.

## OFFICE HOURS

Office hours have changed. The new hours will be 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., Monday to Friday. There is an answering machine after hours and Carers have an emergency contact number that they can call.

We apologise to anyone who has been trying to contact us without success this year. We have had problems with phone lines and the answering machine stopped working and we didn't realise immediately! We have a new answering machine and Telstra has repaired the lines.

## ACCREDITATION!!

We are delighted to inform you that our accreditation was renewed WITH EXCELLENT RESULTS AGAIN following the validation visit in October.



Congratulations to the Carers who so wonderfully represented their colleagues and to all the other Carers for the great work they do. The excellent result is well deserved by all.

One of the great things about the whole process is that it helps us identify areas we can improve. We will make some changes to the Carers' Risk Assessment checklist to include the placement of appliances and we will also review the way records are stored at Carers' homes to ensure better confidentiality.

One of the areas that was marked "not occurring" for two Carers was 2.1, "A place is provided for children to store and access personal belongings". Carers are required to ensure that children can go to their bags and have access to their belongings at any time. This raises issues about safety. It is very important that if there is anything dangerous, like medication, in the bags, it be handed to the Carer when you arrive. One excellent suggestion was a bag within the bag. One bag for the children's belongings and one for all the things we don't want them to touch, just lift it out and it can be put out of reach. It was concerns for safety that led to those Carers having the bags out of reach.

If anyone would like more information about the final report please contact Toni at the office.

## VACANCIES

Many parents worry about being able to find child care when they need it. If you know someone who is

looking for child care please let them know that we have vacancies in most areas at the moment.

## SCHOOL READINESS

Each year we have a program for children who will be starting school next year. One of our Early Childhood teachers, Karen McMaster, is responsible for the program. She provides materials for the Carers to use with the children as well as running a special session for the children during Playsession. These are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to reach the highest number of children.

We also hold information sessions for parents and Carers later in the year so that you can assist your children prepare for the big transition ahead.

There is a book that comes highly recommended:

***“Your child's first year at school: A book for parents”*** was written by the **Australian Primary Principals Association and Early Childhood Australia** to make the first year of school a good experience for everyone.

**“Children only get one chance at a successful first year at school”**

Principals, teachers and parents were overwhelmingly positive about the value of the book.

You can find out more by downloading the information: [http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/pdf/first\\_year/your\\_childs\\_first\\_year\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/pdf/first_year/your_childs_first_year_flyer.pdf)



## RESEARCH FINDINGS

The importance of attachment and early emotional experiences on children's development and later learning ability has been the subject of research in recent times.

The best outcomes for children come from a constant caregiver and opportunities to develop a relationship with that person. Family Day Care offers the best opportunity for that to happen - a small group with the same person caring for them every day, from start to finish.



## PLAYSESSIONS

Playsessions are run during school terms. They give children a chance to socialise in a larger group, try some new activities and get to know some other Carers and the staff.

For Carers it is an opportunity to learn from each other and to observe the children in a different setting.



Each term there is some kind of special event. In term one we celebrate Chinese New Year and Easter, in term two and term three we arrange excursions and in term four we celebrate Divali and Christmas. We often include other festivals as well. We would love to hear from families about special festivals from their own cultures and how to celebrate them so that we can expand our program.

The Playsession fee of \$5 per term is used to assist with transport and activity costs, subsidise the cost of excursions and to cover the cost of any parties and the children's Christmas gifts.

## TRAINING 09

The following Carer training dates have been arranged for 2009.

Any parents who are interested are welcome to attend. Please phone to book a place. All are 7pm to 9 pm unless another time is shown.

24 & 25 Feb – Toy Making

24 & 25 March - Emergent Curriculum

28 & 29 Apr – Exploring Science & Maths in a Child's world

16 May – Child Protection 9am – 1pm

26 & 27 May - Importance of Playing Outside

23 & 24 June – Multi-literacy for Children

21 & 22 July – Positive Behaviour Guidance

19 Aug – School Readiness presented by a great kindergarten teacher

25 & 26 Aug – QA Health & Hygiene

2 Aug - School Readiness, Speech, Sight and skills.

12 Sept – Anaphylaxis 9am, 12pm & 2.30pm

22 & 23 Sept – QA Children's Experiences

27 & 28 Oct – QA Physical Environment

17 & 18 Nov – QA Interactions