

# FAMILY DAY CARE NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

## A WORD FROM TONI

This will be our last newsletter for 2009 and it will be the last newsletter that I edit. I will be retiring from Family Day Care, after 26 years, on 11 December 2009. Our new Coordinator is Janice Francis and she will start on 4 January 2010.

I find it hard to imagine my life without FDC and have spent much of the past few months remembering children, families and colleagues over a long period of time.

I believe Family Day Care is wonderful for families and children. It has been a privilege to be part of this service and I thank you all for trusting us with your wonderful children.

I commend our team to you; they are dedicated and committed, staff and Carers alike and will continue to care for your children in that way.

Wishing you all the best for the future.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE.**



Toni Scott

## COMPLIANCE VISIT

On 30 September 2 officers from DEEWR Compliance Team arrived at our office for an unannounced visit. They asked for time sheets covering a 6 week period and checked them to make sure they were filled in correctly and signed where they should be signed.

## WEBSITE FOR PARENTS

<http://www.chw.edu.au/parents/factsheets/>

This website has factsheets on lots of health matters relating to children. It is a good one to bookmark.

## A REQUEST FOR HELP

1.) NSW Office of Fair Trading, NSW Severe Burn Injury Service and The Children's Hospital at Westmead have created a quick survey for parents and carers to check the effectiveness of a recent campaign on treadmill safety and burn injuries to young children. The survey only takes a few minutes to complete and will give us valuable information about parents' perceptions of child safety at home. The survey can be found at [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au)

## DO YOUR CHILDREN KNOW WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY?

All children will have practiced a fire drill in Family Day Care, but do they know what to do at home?

It is a really good idea to practice at home as well. Some tips for a successful evacuation with children:

- Have a "meeting place" that is away from the house, but safe (not next to a road or pool etc).
- Decide on a signal, it can be a whistle, the smoke detector alarm, or just calling out "fire" or "meeting place"
- Have an emergency kit ready with phone numbers of family and friends. (often a mobile phone has all this)
- Teach children to "drop and roll" if their clothes catch fire.
- Play games like "get down low and go, go, go." Crawl towards the door.

- If you have important papers or valuables, have them ready in an easy to carry bag but don't risk your life to get them.

#### SOME OTHER THINGS:

- Teach children how to phone 000 for emergencies but make sure they know what sort of emergency! (Some children have phoned for personal things like "my brother is being mean to me".)

## END OF YEAR

The end of the year is coming! There are lots of things to tell you about.

1. Toy and book catalogue orders usually arrive late November. They will be distributed as soon as possible.
2. Sue Lewis is currently working on holiday arrangements for alternate care. If your carer is having time off and you need another carer please be sure to complete that section of the form and get it back ASAP. If you need another form please contact the office.
3. Children's parties will be held between 23 November and 11 December. Carers will attend with their children according to the Playsession roster. Parents are welcome to attend with their children.

**If your child does not attend on Playsession day and you would like to come to the Christmas party with your carer, please phone the office to arrange an extra gift for your child.**

4. If your child has **food allergies** and is attending the party please discuss this with your carer and Julie at the office. It is important to ensure a safe party for children with allergies.
5. **SERVICE CLOSURE:**  
The last day for care this year is Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and the first day for care next year is Monday 4 January 2010. The office and all Carers will be closed.

# Happy New Year

## CHILDREN'S WEEK COMMUNITY GATHERING - 23 OCTOBER

This community gathering in Ryde was to help local families and children connect with each other and learn about Aboriginal history and culture.

It was open to the whole community and there was a range of fun activities for families and children.

There was also be information about services and initiatives in the local area and representatives from the Aboriginal Child and Youth Family Strategy, State Land Council, NSW Police (Aboriginal Unit), a local men's group, some local schools and the City of Ryde, as well as Aboriginal elders and community development workers.

Friday playgroup went along with 8 extra staff.

Everyone had a great time. One of the firemen was very adept at face painting and produced some very intricate butterflies. The children climbed on and in the fire engine and then watched as they left to answer a call out.

