



The Elder Street Herald

Welcome to Elder Street - lots of new friends and new experiences!

Amazingly we are already into week 6 of our 2008 year and have many new lovely families to welcome.

Welcome to....

Possums: Tiernan, Tyler, Charlotte, Oscar, Anthony, Gabrielle, Elliot, Riley, William, Oliver, Jake and Elise

Joey's: James, Elissa, and Olivia

Wallabies: Hugh-Angus and Ella

All new families will receive a Settling in Questionnaire on week 8 of enrolment. This is an opportunity to give us feedback on how you and your child are feeling about your early days at the centre.

As a staff, we have been very pleased with how the

new routines and relationships are forming. We have very few tears (that includes parents too!) and lots and lots of smiles!



William having a go at some finger painting - do I like it or not, mmmmm?



James is very busy building in the Joeys room



Elise enjoying her first day and her brand new hat!!



Charlotte says "Hey everyone, I'm having a great time!"

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Special points of interest:

- Fri 28 March—Bob Turner is back with his Wildlife Show @ 9.30am
- Alison our latest fantastic casual will be working each Tuesday while the team leaders do their programming...
- To help stop the spread of germs please remember that siblings who come into the centre at drop off and pick up times also **need to wash their hands before they can play with the toys in the morning or afternoons...**

Settling in at Elder Street—transitions to a new environment for children and parents

Here are a few tips for any families who may be now or in the future facing a little bit of a relapse with the settling in process. This tends to happen sometimes when the toys and excitement of a new place to play wear off and the morning tears or comments like "I

don't want to go to school" start surfacing. For children under 3 years, it may be a little while before the tears totally disappear, but there are some ideas for getting into a routine if you are having problems and just don't know what to do. Here is a sample routine

that may help your morning transition when preparing to say goodbye for the day

- on the way to the centre talk about the fun things that may happen that day
- Use the carer's names in your con-

Settling in at Elder Street—transitions to a new environment Continued from page 1

versations in a positive way ie, "we can tell Kate about the funny book we read last night"

- when you come into to the centre greet the staff and encourage your child to do the same.
- Either carry or lead your child to their locker and involve them in the morning jobs of putting bed bags in baskets, bottles in fridge and then lead them to a carer
- If cares are busy (which is often the case during morning drop off) stay with your child and point out some interesting things in the room or play-ground. When available a carer will approach you for your morning welcome.
- **This is the crucial part!** If you plan to stay for a while, please let us know and we will come back to you when you indi-

cate you are ready. When this time arrives we suggest that you have a phrase to use each day ie "okay bye darling, mum/dad will see you this afternoon, have a wonderful day, I love you" and **leave without hesitation.**

- **Your child will more than likely cry—this is very normal.** It is not advisable at this stage to take your child back or decide to stay longer as this will only prolong the agony for both you and your child and make it more difficult for your child to settle once you do leave. After you have left the carers will begin to involve them in the days ac-



Oliver & Jake enjoying the play dough — lovely happy boys..

tivities and they will settle.

This is all normal separation anxiety behaviour, especially for children between the ages of 9 months and 3 years, with its peak occurring between 12 and 20 months. Of course all children are different and some never look back from day one.

At the other end of the spectrum some children will continue to be sad until they begin school. These award winning performances are more likely to be just for your benefit and the tears miraculously disappear when you walk out the front door.

As we tell all families on enrolment and throughout your time at the centre, please feel free to ring and check on how your little one is going as many times as you would like throughout the day.

Fee Policy Information

Child care fees can be one of the major weekly costs for most families. They are also the lifeline for a children's service to remain operational. With this in mind it is very important that a fee policy exist which helps establish an important framework for families and services. Our fee policy is available for parents to read either on our website (www.elderstreetchc.com) or in the Parent Library Policy Manual (located in the foyer). The basic content and most important points of this policy are as outlined below:

* Fees can be paid by direct deposit into our centre account. By cheque made out to Elder Street Early Childhood Centre or by cash and placed in

the fee box located in the sign in desk in our foyer.

* Fees should be no more than 2 weeks in arrears at any time. Continued failure to pay fees within a set timeframe can jeopardise enrolment at the centre

* Fees paid by cash or cheque need to be paid by 10.00am Friday morning,

* Fees paid by direct deposit need to be set up to come out by Wednesday night at the latest. This then allows the fees to reach us before the end of the week. Due to the 2 day delay it takes from most banks other than the Greater Building Society, we often do not receive fees until the following week.

* Fees are billed each Monday morning for the week ahead. Which ever way you choose to pay your fees, be it weekly, fortnightly or monthly, we ask that you are not in a position where you are paying for the week, fortnight or month just past.

We appreciate your assistance with this matter and would like to remind all families that they are always welcome to speak to myself or Kim at any stage to discuss your account situation.

"Fees paid by direct deposit need to be set up to come out by Wednesday night at the latest. This allows the fees to reach us by the end of the week"

The Emergent Curriculum

In our June/July 2007 newsletter we introduced the new programming we would be initiating this year called The Emergent Curriculum. We slowly began implementing this into our daily program from October 07 via the use of Daily Journals and

The Emergent Curriculum continued....

also adding photos to the children's developmental information, along with the usual written observations. As we value your input and feedback, we would like to update you with some information on this new way of planning. The other task at hand is to ensure that as a community we agree on any changes and reflect this



An example of one of the Joeys Daily Jour-

is in our written Centre Philosophy (framed in our foyer). The staff as a group have reviewed this and in doing so included statements supporting the new information relevant to the curriculum. We would now ask that you take the time to read the information below and then read through our revised Centre Philosophy. The information below Making the Change to the Emergent Curriculum and What is the Emergent Curriculum is the same information that the staff

were given when they began their professional development journey towards understanding how it all works. We are hoping that the information about the Emergent Curriculum shared with you so far, will assist you in being able to make an informed judgment of how this change can best be reflected in our Centre Philosophy. If you have any comments you would like to make on the **Emergent Curriculum (below)** or the **Centre Philosophy (back of newsletter)**, please either come and talk to myself or Kim, or note down your input in the area provided on the Centre Philosophy page & return by Fri 28 March.

What is the Emergent Curriculum?

☺ Curriculum is what happens in the educational environment—not what is rationally planned to happen, but what actually takes place

☺ Children between the ages of 1 and 5 do not learn because they are taught. They learn as a result of their own doing..through actions, relationships, enquiries, opportunities and repetition.

How does it work?

☺ By teachers becoming research partners with children, seeking answers and questions. The centre is their laboratory, offering materials and tools to inspire each child.

☺ All we need to do is choose developmentally appropriate activities that are interesting, inviting, age and developmentally appropriate, open ended and process orientated. If particular activities are popular they can be repeated until the intense interest passes.

Important things to consider at all times for success..

☺ Our centre philosophy formed by our entire centre community—staff children and parents.

☺ To really understand and believe that each child is not an empty vessel waiting to be filled with knowledge by us as teachers, but in contrast is seen as a little person that has preparedness, potential, curiosity and interest in constructing their own learning and is overall very capable.

☺ To use our knowledge of how and what children learn and then be able to recognise moments when we can support children by asking questions, sharing a story, helping find the answer...

☺ We must allow children to develop deep concentration, and the ability to redirect themselves if they are bored or otherwise not interested in a certain activity. This is very important in the development of positive feelings about learning.

Making the change to the Emergent Curriculum...

2 main areas are used:

1. **Reflective Daily Journal** — most early childhood educators have used the term "programming in the boxes". By using a Daily Journal the emphasis is not on programming weekly anymore for the different learning areas as the diary style of programming encourages us to program on a daily basis using photo and written entries. These entries give the educator the opportunity to reflect on how the week went and how the children's interest and learning is progressing
2. **Documenting Children's Learning** — based on the daily journal entries the children's learning can be documented through project style displays or port folios. These are created using digital photos. The photos are displayed along with interpretations, recordings of what the children are saying and enquiries into how the children are learning. Other information that can be included are work samples with explanations, simple quotes said by the children when the photo was taken. Each child should have at least 1 portfolio entry per month. Our children's folders are kept in the area between the Possum and Wallaby room walkway and labelled. These are confidential records and should only be viewed by the parent/family of that child. Parents are welcome and encouraged to view these at any time. We will have an information evening mid year to have discussion or explanation regarding the portfolios also.

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► Building Partnerships
with Families

We're on the web
www.elderstreetechc.com

Equipment Levy 2008

We will be billing this very important levy to all accounts on Monday 18 February. This levy is used to provide new equipment each year for the children. This is to allievate the common practice used by many centres, of staff and parents participating in fundraising throughout the year.

The only fundraising we will be doing is if a certain one may be of interest and benefit to parents or staff ie, toy catalogues at Xmas time. We will be charging the appropriate levy (\$20 per day of attendance ie; 3 days = \$60) on the 18th Feb and request it be paid by 18th March. As payments are made, receipts will be issued. After 1 April 08 this levy will increase to \$25 per day (it has not had an increase in 4 years) this will cover increases in costs associated with equipment. Some of our new families have already paid the levy when enrolling, but check if you are unsure. Please feel free to call to discuss this topic with myself or Kim at any time and keep an eye out for new equipment, like the great new tables and chairs in the

Wallaby room!

THANKS!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

January—we start the year
off fine...

Xanthe turned 1

Charlie turned 2

Jessie turned 3

Madelyn turned 3

Hugh-Angus turned 3

February—won't you be my
Valentine?..

William turns 1

Leroy turned 3



Check out the Wallabies Birthday Hot
Air Balloon - you get a ride when its
your birthday month!

Abigail turns 3

Ellie turned 4

Final words.....

We will have lots more information to share over the next couple of months on a range of topics like Partnership with Parents surveys, Information nights set for later this year, Information and Feedback sheets for our new child port folios (have you seen all the folders with the children's names?...more soon!) Lots to do....see you all around
Team Elder Street