



The Elder Street Herald

Emergent Curriculum Port Folios

Our progress with our new programming is coming along very well and the teachers have been working very hard compiling the children's individual port folios.

Every child at the centre has their own port folio and these are kept on the shelves between the Possum and Wallaby room (see photo).

Parents are welcome to look through **their** child's folder whenever they like. The children will be very proud to show you what they have been doing with their time at the centre (please encourage gentle hands when looking through the folders with the children, we like to explain to the children how precious their work is). We are now at the stage where we need some very important input from

families to add to your child's port folio. This input will come in the form of an "All about me" sheet. We will be sending these home very shortly and ask that parents answer the questions and try to tell us of anything special about your child (there is always so many things!).

The sheet is similar format to the Child Information questionnaire that parents are used to completing, but a more individualized and child centred approach. The idea is to create a snapshot of your child's life and give a true reflection of them as their own little person. There is even a space for a photo of your child for you to add.

We will send the sheets home in plastic sleeves and ask that you kindly return them the next week in the

sleeve. Families can be as creative as they like with these "all about me" sheets and we encourage input into the portfolios from home as often as you like. Some ideas may be to create a page similar to the ones we do about a special event at home, a trip etc. We will even include stencils in each newsletter for parents to use. If families wish to discuss their child's portfolio at any time, please call to make an appointment with your child's teacher, otherwise enjoy contributing and having a look every now and then.



Our Portfolio storage area for parents to browse

Welcome to new friends....

NEW TRAINEE

We are very pleased to officially announce that Tahlia Christie has been successful in attaining a traineeship at Elder Street to complete her Certificate III in Children's Services. Tahlia was the successful applicant out of some 70 phone interviews, 35 face to face interviews and 4 trial train-

ees. So a big congratulations and best of luck to Tahlia - we know she will be a fantastic addition to our team.

Welcome also to Olivia and Vaughan, 2 new friends for the Wallaby room!!



Introducing Tahlia - our new trainee. She's looking forward to saying hi!

Inside this issue:

Emergent Curriculum Port Folios	1
Welcome to new staff and friends	1
Equipment Levy purchases	2
Illness Policy Exclusion Information	2
CCMS Partnership with Parents q'naire	3
Family Events 2008	4
Births Birthdays	4

Special points of interest:

- For parents picking up after 5.30pm—please remember to allow yourself an extra 10 minutes at the end of the day if you wish to look through port folios, chat or look around—the staff really look forward to heading home to their families too—thanks!
- Kim graduates with her Bachelor of Teaching (early childhood) from the University of New England on Friday 11 April—well done Kim!!

Equipment Levy 2008—where your dollars went...

Thank you to all the families who have so promptly paid this years equipment levy. Without this levy it would be very difficult to supply new equipment and resources for the children. We are committed to spending the money wisely and keeping families informed on where the dollars go. Late last year we went ahead and purchased 6 new tables and over 20 new chairs for the Pre-school Wallaby room. The children have been enjoying these for quite some time now. We also have had a



Katelyn & Hugh—Angus enjoying much needed new tables and chairs

sandpit storage seat constructed which is at the back of the sandpit. The staff and children have really enjoyed the convenience of



Some of our Wallaby friends enjoying our new storage seat

trees which are growing in pots either side of the seat. We are having another try at growing trees in our grassed area. We have replaced the weeping mulberrys with two standard Liquid Ambers. They are not looking so good at the moment, but we have been advised not to panic and hope its just the change of season!! Fingers crossed for us!

We still have some more money left to allocate and the staff are enjoying the

the storage and also a nice place to rest and have a chat while playing together. We have also purchased lemon and mandarin

task of looking through and choosing from the equipment resource books for further equipment and toys that we can add to our list of educational and fun stuff!! We will let you know what else arrives in the near future.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

To the Mitchell family for donating a great tool bench and tools and a lovely Pooh Bear Poster, also to the....

Goldrick family for their donation of some lovely musical baby toys for our nursery.

Illness Policy Exclusion Information

Preventing Illness - Infections are common in children and often lead to illness. At home children are reasonably well protected from diseases as they do not have contact with many people, especially large numbers of children. Spending time in child care or other facilities exposes children to each other and therefore provides an opportunity for diseases to be spread. It is not possible to prevent the spread of all infection and illness within child care, however a lot of illnesses from infectious diseases can be prevented. (Staying Healthy in Child Care;4th ed.;NHMRC;2005)

This can be done by three simple yet effective methods. They are:

1. Handwashing;
2. Exclusion of sick children
3. Immunisation

We have numerous policies within the centre to support these methods. We thought it may be timely to outline the most common illness exclusion rules for

everyone, especially with the horrible "sickie" weather approaching

- Children with temperature readings over 38°C need to go home
- Children who vomit at the centre need to go home, children who vomit at home should remain at home until 24 hours after the last episode
- Children with 2 bouts of loose bowel movements (diarrhoea) will be sent home and should not return until 24 hours after last episode
- Children who are on antibiotics should not attend the centre until 24 hours after the first dosage of the medication
- Children with unusual and unexplained spots or rashes covering vast areas of body need to go home.

We have a comprehensive Illness Exclusion Table for parents to read in the

centre policy manual in the foyer.

We need to adhere to suggested methods to stop the spread of infection as much as humanly possible and require parent support to achieve this.

For ongoing illness (ie, rashes, weepy eyes, loose bowel, unexplained vomiting) we require a doctor's certificate which addresses the specific condition and clears the child's symptoms from being a risk of infection. A certificate saying "is fit to attend child care" is insufficient if the symptoms are persisting.

If we work together to help stop the spread of infection, we will all be able to carry on with our activities and work commitments. If only some of us do the right thing, everyone is affected.

Thanks for your support to date and

lets hope this year our winter is a happy and healthy one!

"Infections can be spread by a person who shows no sign of illness. Hand washing is one of the most effective ways of preventing the spread of infection."

CCMS—Child Care Management System

A notice was sent home recently regarding the changes that are being made to the payment of child care benefit to children's services. On the back page of this information parents were requested to provide their date of birth (for the parent linked to FAO) and their child/rens dates of birth. This information will be used to marry our data to that of FaCSIA's data so child care benefit can continue to be provided on your behalf. Other than this the involvement of families is minimal and ef-

fect of changes are none — I on the other hand will soon be on a huge learning curve! (will be attending training on CCMS on 10/4/08)

Our change over date is Sunday 20 April 2008 and I have been advised by my software provider that fees for the week prior to the changeover date (14/4/08) cannot be billed until the end of that week (25/4/08). I would ask that families continue to pay fees as per normal and be aware the weeks mentioned you will not

receive a receipt until after that week. It may be a little confusing for a while but please bear with us as we transition through the changes. If you have any questions please call the office and speak to myself or Kim. Hopefully we will be able to help!

I am assured by the government and my software provider that this system will be user-friendly and beneficial to children's services—here's hoping!!!

PS: After our changeover date parents will be able to view their CCB accounts online via FaCSIA.

Partnership with Parents Questionnaire 2008



April (staff) & Emily (Jesse's mum) —an example of a partnership formed through Jesse when he began in the Nursery and who will head off to school next year.....

Each year we distribute the above document for parents to give us much needed feedback on the children's service that we provide. The questionnaire itself is reviewed each year by the staff, and then sent out with the newsletter. As explained in the introduction to the questionnaire, we use this feedback to form the next level of our ongoing Continuous Improvement Plan, for ongoing professional development purposes for staff, to develop topics for our Parent Information Evenings and to ensure that our service has input from our families.

Please find this document attached and **return it to us by 25 April 2008.**

We appreciate your time, efforts and thoughts.

Some Benefits of Partnerships

For the child:

- The experience of the special people in his or her life working together cooperatively, getting a long with each other. A feeling of security
- Consistent, sensitive, individualised care because of information shared
- Greater continuity between life at home and in care

For the parents:

- Greater confidence in their decision to use care and in their parenting skills
- Belonging to a community of people who care about their child
- The opportunity to contribute significantly to their child's experience even when they are absent
- Additional information about and a different perspective on their child

For the staff:

- Information about the child from the expert on their child
- Affirmation of the importance and support for their work
- The satisfaction of knowing that they may be making a lasting positive difference in the child and the family's life

Our partnerships are constantly evolving as the children grow and change. Some times are good, some challenging. We believe that open, constructive communication is the key to all involved feeling secure, informed and happy - as we say to the children, we all need to be good sharers!!!

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**Building Partnerships
with Families**

We're on the web
www.elderstreetechc.com

Family Event 2008

Each year since Elder Street opened we have hosted a Winter Disco with themes of "Wear your best", "Fancy dress" and "Bush Dance". The staff have been discussing ideas for other types of family social events and have suggested that we alternate years from Disco to something else. The down side of the disco is that as it is held in the evening in July it is quite cold and sometimes families can't attend due to illness, hence the attendance has dwindled a little over the years. We would like to know what the families of the centre would like. Could you please nominate your preference below and/or make a suggestion for an alternative family event.

Please rate the following in order of preference 1-3

- Continue with Disco in July every year
- Sunday BBQ picnic at Blackbutt Sept 08 / Disco in 09
- Different events each year

Ideas for other family events:

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Please return this slip to the centre ASAP

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

March

- Elliot turned 1
- Riley B turned 1
- Samara turned 2
- Breanna turned 2
- Chloe P turned 3
- Imogen turned 3
- Lachlan turned 4
- Robert turned 4
- Ella turned 4
- Riley turned 5
- Ryan turned 5



**Happy Birthday
guys!!**

**New Arrivals -
Congratulations!!!**

To Leah, Jason and Xavier (Possums)- A big welcome to beautiful little *Levi*, he is as lovely as his big brother!!

Welcome to lovely *Samuel* - He is *Sophie's* (*Joey's*) new baby brother and *Leigh & Andrew's* first son. Well done, he is just gorgeous!



**Big brother
Xavier**

**Big
sister
Sophie**



April

- Antony turns 2
- William turns 4
- Malika turned 4