



The Elder Street Herald

Involving Children in Decision Making

Children learn to see themselves as capable and competent when they are viewed this way by others. When we as child care professionals allow children to experiment, explore and make choices, children develop the confidence to take risks and to extend their investigations of the world.

What decisions are children able to make?

Children can make decisions about things such as:

- the experience or activity they would like to be involved in
- The materials and resources they would like to use
- Who they want to play with or whether they would like to play alone

Offering children genuine decision making op-

portunities—it is important to provide children with the opportunity to make choices in circumstances where their decisions will be able to be accepted. For example, it is not helpful to ask a child if they are ready to come inside for lunch if it is actually a requirement that they do so.

Environments that support children's decision making—supportive environments for children's decision making are set up in ways that allow children to make choices independently of adults, examples include:

- having equipment shelving at child height and encouraging children to choose the materials or activities they want to use

- Setting up play spaces with areas that allow children to choose between quiet and busier areas, indoor or outdoor play, as well as between large groups, small groups or solitary play
- Providing space where children can store and independently access their own belongings
- Having areas where children can store works in progress to return to over a period of time
- Ensuring that bathroom facilities are easily accessible to children and encourage them to develop independent personal hygiene skills.

www.nccac.gov.au

Inside this issue:

Involving Children In Decision Making	1
Latest Staffing News	2
Staffing 2010	2
2010 Enrolments Disco Fun	3
Elder St coming events	4
School Prep Port Folio feedback Fees	5

- Tahlia has began a traineeship to complete her Diploma in Children's Services. We wish her all the best in her studies and know she will have a great time implementing all her newly learnt skills with the children.
- Happy 21st to Lauren for the 15th of September and also Happy 21st to Tahlia who turns 21 on the 19th of October!!



Olivia & Alli made great dress up decisions!



Leroy chooses to use the basket for the dinosaurs creatively



Abigail makes use of the open shelving for her play

Latest Staffing News

In our last newsletter when we detailed all the staff holidays for the remainder of the year, we advised that Sheree from the Joey Toddler Room would be off for 8 weeks on an overseas trip. In early September Sheree decided she needed a bigger adventure and let us know that she would not be coming back after her trip. All the Joey parents were informed as soon as we knew and we gave Sheree a lovely send off. That opened up a position for a trainee which we were happy to offer to Lauren Murphy, who was at the time our regular relief worker. Lauren has begun her Certificate III in Children's Services and is working hard with Shelly and Tahlia in the Joeys room learning the ropes. I am sure most parents would have met her by now. She is doing a great job and the children are already all her new best friends.

We also need to let you know that Shelly has stepped up into the role of Team Leader in the Joeys room for the remainder of this year. Shelly will be finished her Diploma of Children's Services in November this year and is enjoying the challenge of running the room and programming for the children's development and learning.

Our 4 Team Leaders have 2 hours per week of programming time, where they are away from the children to work on their Developmental Port Folios. During this time we have relief staff who cover their absence in the room. On Tuesday we have Natalie Laimanovski cover in the Nursery and Preschool room and on Thursday we have Michelle Mackay cover in the Joeys and Preschool room. We also quite often have Deb Heins come in to cover for staff absences. So these are our main relief workers who are not only great child care professionals, but also really lovely ladies :)

STAFFING 2010

We have a few changes to our staffing for 2010 to also share with our families. These are as follows:

NURSERY POSSUMS:

April : (M,T,Th,F)

Lauren : (M,T,W, F)

Melissa : (W)

Tahlia: (Th)

TODDLER JOEYS:

Kate : (M,T,Th,F)

Shelly: (T,W,Th, F)

Tahlia (M,W)

PRESCHOOL WALLABIES:

Kim : (M,T,W) - EC Teacher

Karen: (M,T,W,Th)

Donna: (Th, F) EC Teacher

Tahlia (F)

After 5 years of operation as Elder Street with very few staff changes, most of our staff have had experiences working in all 3 age groups. To remain professionally refreshed and up to date on the development of all stages of early childhood, we value being able to allow staff to move around in their career.

You may notice the absence of Georgia's name in our staffing list for next year? Georgia has decided to be a lady of luxury and enjoy staying at home with her little boy for a while. She has let us know that she will help us out with relief work when any of our Early Childhood Teachers are on leave. Donna McRae, who covered Georgia's maternity leave will be taking over the role in the Wallabies and we are looking forward to

having her back with the team. We will miss our Georgia, but think Jakob will be lucky to have lots of fun at home with his mum!

I will remain working in the office from Tuesday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm and on the floor on Wednesdays or whenever staff are away.

LONG SERVICE

Congratulations to our cook Catherine, who in June, clocked up 10 years service in our industry (5 with Blinky Bill's and 5 with us) Catherine does a fabulous job not only with the cooking and menu planning, but also helping out with the children also 😊

Thank you Cath!!!

2010 Enrolments

Confirmation of enrolments for 2010 are being sent out this week, beginning 12/10/09. The letter details which room your children will be in when we re-open on 11 January 2010. For those who have requested changes to enrolled days, I have tried my hardest to meet everyone's requests. Siblings on waiting lists for 2010 positions have also been notified and enrolment packages are on their way. Please complete these forms and provide other requirements as soon as possible.

As the confirmation letter states, families have until the 31st of October to drop days that they have requested for 2000. After the 31st of October families will be responsible for those enrolled days come 11 January and will need to

then give 2 weeks notice before reducing these enrolled days. The aim of this procedure is to enable the centre to open in January at full capacity and be in a position to provide the best quality care we possibly can.

FEES FOR 2010

Also detailed on the confirmation letter was the daily fee rate for 2010. Children aged 0-2 will be \$76.00 per day. Children when they turn 3 years and are not using nappies are \$71.00 per day. This applies from Monday 11 January 2010.

MOVING ROOMS

Very shortly, families whose children that are changing rooms in 2010 will receive some information about that room to read. The information sim-

ply gives parents an idea of the developmental goals that the staff will be working towards, the daily routines, what parents need to provide each day and any changes that may be applicable in the older age groups.

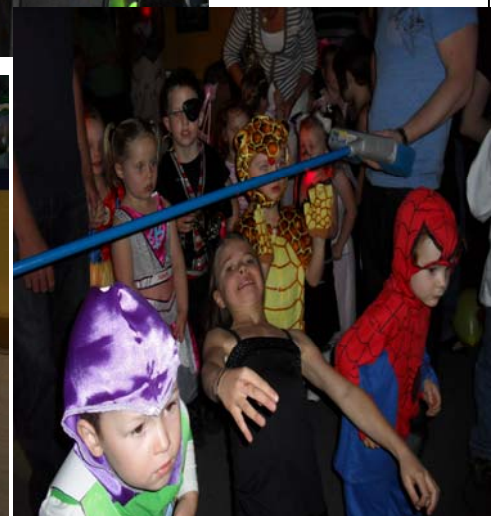
The children will be well prepared for the change and have already begun participating in some orientation time in their new rooms. The children and parents moving from the Joey's to the Wallaby room will probably notice the biggest changes as there are more children in the room, more responsibility and jobs for the children, but also lots, lots more activities and fun things to do!

If parents have any questions or concerns about their child changing rooms, please either speak to the staff from the room or myself.

Disco Fun!

Friday 2nd October was the night we had the return of the Elder Street Dress Up Disco. It was a fabulous night with great numbers showing up in all sorts of outfits. There was lots of dancing, chasing, games, balloon popping, eating and laughing. We have photos displayed in the foyer for all to have a look at. Below are a few highlights.

Thanks to all the parents for making the effort to come along at the end of a hard working week! Funny, how a night that ends at 8pm is for us parents now a BIG NIGHT OUT!!!



Elder Street coming events.....



November 2009

- ☺ **Wednesday 25th at 10.30**— We have the Star Dances coming to perform their show called "Mirii Yulugi. This show is a participatory performance that includes didgeridu, dance, artifacts, language, song and story telling. If your child does not attend that day and you would like them to attend, please come along and stay with them to watch the performance. The show cost \$7.50 per child.



November 2009

- ☺ **Friday 27th 4-6pm**—Elder Street's Christmas Celebration and 5th Birthday Party!!!
- ☺ This year the party will take place in Lambton park starting at 4pm. We will have a jumping castle, face painting, clowns, a visit and present from Santa and a sausage sizzle. We will even have a big special birthday cake for everyone to help blow out to wish Elder Street a very happy 5th Birthday. A note will be put in family pockets closer to the date



December 2009

- ☺ **Friday 11th** —Preschool Graduation Ceremony and Afternoon Tea
- ☺ This year we will be holding a separate special graduation for the children leaving us for school in 2010. We will send out personal invitations with all the details for families, but thought you may like to put this time and date in your work and home diary.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The centre's last day of operation will be Thursday 24th December 2009. As this is Christmas Eve, we ask that all **parents collect their child from the centre by 3.00pm.**

The staff need to clean and prepare for the new year and then a number of them travel that afternoon to reach family for Christmas Day

THANK YOU

New Stuff at Elder Street.....

The Preschool Wallabies will soon have a new kitchenette/storage area in their room. We have saved hard the money we receive for our trainees from the government and had the new cupboards and shelving designed to help make some more useable space in our preschool room. The kitchenette will be installed on Wednesday 21 October 2010.

We have recently planted some new veggies into our garden bed in the playground. We should soon have some lovely snow peas, zucchini and a mystery veggie (as Mel can't remember what she bought!!) that should be very exciting. Our strawberries are growing well and we can't wait to harvest some lovely worm poo from our worm farm to help all the growing along!



SCHOOL PREPARATION PROGRAM

The children that are heading off to big school next year will begin their School Preparation Program in 2 weeks time. The program runs for 8 weeks and covers very practical areas such as practicing good listening skills, a big focus on self help skills, lots of fun with letters and numbers and generally having some good chats about what school has in store for them. We recently sent home some information on this program to parents of eligible children, please see preschool staff or myself if you did not receive one.

PORT FOLIO WEEK FEEDBACK

Another successful and productive port folio week was held in early September. It was lovely to see parents and grandparents popping in to have a good look through the children's collection of work lovingly prepared by our teachers. Also lovely to see that parents who couldn't make it during that week are now taking any opportunity to have a look through when they have some spare time whilst at the centre. We even had disco dancing parents flicking through their children's folders—now that is multi tasking!!

By far the most common feedback we received (other than that parents loved the folders!) was that parents would like to have some templates sent home for them to add pages to their child's folder. This was once a practice that I did with each newsletter, but to be honest, I have just forgotten this year—so my sincerest apologies. Check out the last page of this newsletter and you will see a great template thought up by the staff. I do have copies of all the templates we have created over the last 2 years, ie, Our Family Holiday, My Bedtime Routine etc, if anyone would like one, please just ask send me an email and I will gladly send one off to you — elderstreet@optusnet.com.au

PAYMENT OF FEES

Just another reminder to all families about the payment of fees. Contrary to what most people might think, child care centres run on a very tight budget. The money that comes in every week has to cover a large number of bills including wages, rent, insurances, food to just name a few.

We try our hardest to provide the best service that we possibly can and will continue to do so, however if we do not receive regular fee payments we struggle to meet all our overheads and therefore provide the services that we want to. When fees fall into arrears by more than 2 weeks it makes our budget even tighter. If there are quite a number of families that are behind by 2 weeks it becomes even harder again. Please make paying your fees on a regular basis a priority. Thank you.



OHS Reminders

- * Sun protection includes clothing. Please send children wearing a full sleeve— NO CAP SLEEVES OR SINGLET TOPS PLEASE
- * Childrens footwear need to include a back strap—NO THONGS PLEASE
- * Please do not send ANY TOYS or bits to school with your child including small objects such as money, keys, etc—thanks

**Elder Street Early
Childhood Centre**

136 Elder Street
Lambton NSW 2299

02 49539300
02 49539782
elderstreet@optusnet.com.
au

**Building Partnerships
with Families**

We're on the web
www.elderstreetechc.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

October

Tiernan turned 2
Cameron turned 3
Xavier turned 3
Bronte turned 3
Jonte turned 3

November

Esther turns 2
Olivia P turns 3
Huxley turns 4
Charlotte turns 5
Nicolas S turns 5

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GUYS!!!

**New Arrivals -
Congratulations!!**

**The stork has been well and truly busy lately with the Elder
street families....**

A big welcome to baby *Chloe* !Congratulations to Donna
& Andrew on the arrival of a little sister for Lara
(Possums)

Congratulations to Fiona and Murray on the arrival of
beautiful baby girl *Sophie*. Will (Joeys) is a very proud
big brother indeed!

Well done to Rosanna and Julio on the safe arrival of
bubby number 3—the Fuentes house is going to be very
busy with a little sister *Amelia* for Angelina (Joeys)
and Ruben (Possums)

Jonte (Joeys) guessed right when he said mum was hav-
ing a brother! Welcome to little *Cooper* and well done to
mum and dad *Keryn* and *Jason* and big sister *Sophie*

Finally, a big congratulations to Renate and Nick on
the arrival of baby *Jarrold* a little brother to *Tyler*
(Possums)

Congratulations to everyone!!

Last minute.....

School Photos—these will
be happening, just in the
process of organizing a
date with the photographer,
will get a note and informa-
tion out as soon as I can

Door bell woes— with
great trepidation I bravely
say that the doorbell has
been working well for about
2 weeks now (it will proba-
bly start playing up again
now that I have mentioned
it!), but my apologies for all

the problems we have been
having. I am seeking fur-
ther information on the best
course of action, but I think
the next time it causes such
trouble we will have to dig
deep to purchase a new
system—thanks for your
patience and in the mean-
time remember—just keep
pressing that button!!