



News Update

29th June 2016

As we approach the second half of 2016 we find that everything seems to speed up and go faster and before we know it Christmas is here. For those who are wondering there is only 25 more weekends until Christmas Eve. This year has flown by and we are in the middle of vacation care and having a blast with some fun and exciting activities and events. We had a great time with Johnny the Jester who mesmerised us with some great magic tricks and allowed the children to hold or pat his snake and rabbit. This was a highlight of the day. Emoji's were everywhere through the school on Emoji Day when the children did an emoji scavenger hunt. The children had to guess the movie name with clues made out of emoji's. Mexican Tacos' are always a big hit with the children and for the parents we sneak in carrots and zucchini into our mince and those fussy vegetable eaters don't even know. Seconds even thirds are asked for. We are also lucky to have Henny Penny Hatching again for the 2 weeks of the holidays. Don't forget each day you come to check if any more chickens



have hatched and how big they are getting. For those with chickens at home and are looking for more to join their coup please register your interest for the free chickens which can be collected on the last day of the holidays. If you ever have any



questions about the service or questions regarding your children please don't hesitate in speaking with any of our educators or pop into the office as the door is always open. If you are ever wondering what the children get up to when here at the service we display posters around the rooms as well as our Albany Antics board which displays snapshots, photo displays, learning stories and our weekly program for

you to look at and see the fun that is had each day. There is also a 'Week that was Book', that the children complete each Friday to show what's been happening during the week. This is found on the table next to our Hermit Crabs 'Pinchy and Petal'.

Reading Centre Free Workshop:

The Department of Education and Training (DET) have recently established a Reading Centre at Woolloongabba. They are holding a free workshop which will be presented by a Speech Language Pathologist and a Reading Coach for parents and educators of children aged between 0-5 years. If you have an interest in this area please see the attached flyer with information regarding this workshop.

Child Safety and Social Media

We recently held a child protection training workshop for the educators of the service. This is an annual training event that we partake in to keep abreast of regulations and new trends and information to help us protect the children in our care to our best abilities. Child safety is very different to what it was 10 years ago and the use of social media and the internet is one of the biggest and fastest growing areas where children's safety can be put at risk. Many parents are not aware of what children are accessing on the internet or who may be accessing their children. Below is a link 'Who's Chatting to your Kids' which is published by Queensland Police that outlines how we can put strategies in place to help protect our children whilst using the internet and social media. I urge all parents to take the time to read this article as it has some very important tips and facts.

<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/personalsafety/children/childprotection/>

Booking and Cancellation Requirements:

We ask that bookings and cancellations are done in writing. Taking requests over the phone at times don't get passed on or lost as there is no paper trail to check if required. This assists us in complying with staff / child ratios.

All cancellations must be received in writing by the bookings and cancellation book at the service or via email.

Please remember to cancel by the below times to avoid charges to your account. If your child is going to be absent please notify the service as soon as possible. Fees will not be incurred if notice is given:

- By 6 pm the previous afternoon for following day **Before School Care**
- By 9 am same day for **Afternoon School Care**

If your child will be absent from Before School care please call the service to notify of their absence on that morning of care.

Accounts:

Accounts **must** be kept up to date. Accounts are sent out for the current week of care on Mondays. As we receive bookings or cancellations your accounts will be amended on a daily basis. Please ensure that regular payments are made to ensure that accounts do not go into arrears past the current week of care. Payments for accounts can be made by direct deposit into our account or by eftpos at the office. Don't forget to reference when making a direct deposit by using the account name on the top of your statements.

Lost Property:

Over vacation care our lost property container tends to fill up fast and overflow within a couple of days. If your child attends vacation care please check this bucket daily to ensure all belongings go home. As children don't wear their uniforms their clothes don't get labelled and we find it very difficult to find owners. As children attend different day's items get lost and we can't return them to its owner. Please help us to keep items to a minimum.

School Calendar:

I have attached a copy of the calendar for your reference which shows public holidays, holidays and student free days.

Children's Personal Belongings:

At times children like to bring items from home to school to show their friends or play with at lunch. We do not encourage this practice as other children do at times play with these items which can lead to items being broken or lost. Please discourage your children from bringing in items from home. We will not accept responsibility for items brought from home that go missing or get broken.

Breakfast Routine:

A reminder that breakfast is only served at the service between 6.30am and 7.45am. If your child arrives after 7.45am we will be unable to provide breakfast to them. If you anticipate arriving after this time we ask that children have breakfast at home before they come to care.

Extra-Curricular Activity Permission Forms:

If your child attends an event/activity that are held on the school grounds out of school hours on a day they are booked for care you will need to complete an extra-curricular permission form. These are available on our website or at the service.