



September Newsletter ~ Airport

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Attached is a poem called **The Hundred Languages of Children** by Loris Malaguzzi. It refers to the many, many different ways that children learn. We believe that the metaphor 'children miss out on 99 ways to learn', is referring to the way educators look at learning and how we must provide many materials, experiences, resources, and opportunities in 100 (& more) different ways or "languages"

For example, We ask ourselves:

How we can offer many different ways to make a spider web? What resources might we provide? Are we catering for the different learning styles of every child? Are we giving every child a choice?

Our new program

Our educators are really sinking their teeth into our new program using the Early Years Learning Framework! You will notice a few changes in our program and we hope to give all of our families the opportunity to become more involved in our learning experiences.

Kathy and Lisa recently attended the Reggio Emilia Conference in Canberra and found many links between the Reggio Emilio philosophy and our existing program. The binding of the two has provided the back bone of our new program.

KEY THOUGHTS AND IDEAS:

- Learning has become a process of problem solving and deep level thinking, it is not just about the end product!
- We believe children are competent learners and researchers in their own right, we therefore ask the questions, but do not give the answers; instead we work alongside the children to explore and learn together.
- Children are not an "empty vessel" and we, as educators, are not "all knowing", the focus has turned from instructional teaching, to teaching children the strategies of finding out the answers using problem solving, research, resilience, perseverance and play.
- Children creatively construct knowledge and this makes their learning visible.
- We are exploring our relationships with community, culture and environment
- Learning has become very collaborative and we negotiate our ideas with our whole team (all educators and children), so that everybody's voice is heard!
- The room environments are so exciting that they have become our "third teacher".

DAY BOOK CHANGES:

You will notice that the day book has been looking a little different. For the past month, we have been training in how to give our child observations more depth. For this reason, the day book is no longer a 'scrap book' of events in your child's day, but a selection of two or three meaningful observations. You may also notice that your child's photo is not in the 'day book' everyday, however our educators have been making beautiful displays of the experiences your child is undertaking, showing the process of their achievements. Have a look at our displays!

Curriculum News—Honey Bee Room



Kirra decides to stack the tubes. She perseveres after they fall down!

Over the past few weeks we have been researching and discussing Heuristic Play and how it can benefit our children in our Honey Bees room. Heuristic Play describes the activity of babies and children as they play with and explore the 'objects' that are found in the real world.

Whilst plastic toys dominate the shelves of many shops, they often have only one or two purposes or functions. Rattles for example may look different but generally each one smells, tastes and feels the same. Using heuristic play with babies stimulates all the senses, creating a rich learning experience. It's through handling and exploring these objects that a baby develops contact with the outside world, and begins to make their own choices and decisions. This way of play provides them with rich mental stimulation which activates the growth of the brain and enhances their cognitive development.

We have asked ourselves the question: "How does the children's identities emerge as they build connections and relationships within the world around them?"

TO find out the answer, we have been taking a selection of meaningful observations of the children

exploring treasure baskets! The children have been very intrigued when exploring the objects in the baskets, and it has been very interesting recording what is happening! Please see our display on the wall showing the children's reactions to the treasure baskets!



Aiden, Sophie and Jake explore the lids of different shapes and sizes!

Naming bottles

In our August newsletter we placed a reminder about naming belongings. We have noticed that several children have been coming with unnamed belongings. We included a flyer from a parent of Little Bee who sells wonderful name tags. Anna's onlinestore—www.annaw.brightstarkids.com.au and phone number is 0411 555 515.

Or permanent markers work well too!

We have noticed that several BOTTLES are still un-named and for Health and Safety reasons, it is very important that all children's bottles are named. While we do our best to ensure children's belongings are not misplaced our job is much easier if things are named.



Sad Staff Farewells:

Over the past couple of months we have had several educators leave Little Bee to pursue other career paths. We sadly say goodbye to Janine, Ingrid, Carmen, Bernie and Cheryl. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors!

Educator Changes from September 5th, 2011:

You will notice that we have made a few minor changes to the educators working in our rooms!

- Cherish is heading to Queen Bees—3 days a week.
- Kate is going full time in Baby Bees
- Glenys will work part time our Honey Bee room
- Chloe will work part time in our Busy Bee room
- Susy first started at Little Bee as a trainee student, and will be working full time in our bumble bee room, while studying the Diploma of Children's Services.
- Simone is a student studying a Bachelor of Education Degree in Early Childhood Education and is finishing her third year. Simone will continue to undertake relief work at Little Bee while finishing her degree next year.

**Welcome to our New Educators:**

We'd like to give a huge hello to Laura, Hayley, Dannielle, Michel & Erin!

- Laura will be our fulltime room coordinator in the Busy Bee room. She is a qualified early childhood teacher in the UK and is moving permanently to Tassie on a spouse visa.
- Hayley, also from the UK, holds a UK National Diploma and is working full time in our Bumble Bee room for the next 6 months on a working holiday visa (maternity cover for Selene).
- Dannielle is working in Queen bees—2 days a week. She is currently studying a Bachelor of Education Degree in Early Childhood Education and has just finished her first year.
- Michel is currently studying the Diploma of Children's Services and she will be working in our Busy Bee room 3 days a week and as a relief educator across the Centre.
- Erin is a professional golfer and instructor. She is looking for a career change and will be undertaking some relief shifts at Little Bee.

Jane and Tobias



Congratulations Selene and Jane on the birth of your beautiful babies!

Selene and Sophie

**NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN:**

We'd like to give a very warm welcome to Tony! Tony is a qualified and very experienced chef! He is thoroughly enjoying working at Little Bee and will be making our new 5 week menu, for week beginning 5th September. Please take a copy from the front counter! Tony's son, Cody is in Queen Bees and he is very excited to help Dad plan some new menu's. Look out—we might even be getting homemade BURGERS! WOW!



Information for Families

A display of a current fact sheets from NCAC (National Childcare Accreditation Council) *Putting Children First*, Raising Children Network and other health care organisations have been placed on the parent notice board for September 2011.

The display for this month is:

'Programs in Childcare' by Angela Owens

The Poem attached is: 'The Hundred Languages of Children' by Loris Malaguzzi

Other readings can be found on the internet from: www.ncac.gov.au



Information for Review

We are currently reviewing the following policies:

- Equal Employment Opportunity—bullying and Harassment
- Evaluating our Philosophy
- Human Resources Policy

If you would like to have input into any of documents please take a copy from the 'Parent Information Table' in the foyer, or Kathy can email them to you.

Please compose any suggestions you would like to make and place them, either in the suggestions box (at reception) or via email to: littlebee-earlyyears@hotmail.com



Our morning meetings allow us to negotiate plans and experiences with the children!



Opportunities For Family Involvement

Committee meetings are held on a monthly basis. They are to review our policies, work on our Centre's Continuing Development Plan and continue to maintain the highest standard of, education and care possible.

Our next committee meeting is Tuesday 20th September, 2011.

All families are invited to join our Committee as your ideas and opinions are greatly valued and appreciated. If you cannot make this meeting, then you can still provide input by reading policies for review – please ask the centre staff for the policies folder for you to read. Kathy can also email these items to you.

Families are also welcome to participate daily in occupational health and safety checks and/or compliance reviews. Please see Kathy if you are interested.

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