



September Newsletter ~ Howrah

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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 backbone 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

Much has been happening at Little Bee, with all the wet weather we have had plenty of worms to explore, children were interested in what worms do and what they eat and especially liked digging in the dirt to find them.

All this interest in worms prompted us to make a worm farm for our worms to live in. The children helped to create this farm and we can add our food scraps to it, the worms are helping to make great soil that we can put on our garden to help our plants grow.

Children at Little Bee were a bit concerned that there was nothing growing in our garden so we have

talked about what we will plant and how we will look after and protect the things we grow in our garden. After much discussion, we have decided that we will plant flowers, which we have potted, herbs and some vegetables, we are very excited to watch them grow.

This week we are very busy making special presents for our very special Dads, with Father's Day almost here, we have talked about why our Dads are so special to us.

Jessica: "Because he goes for the same footy team as me"

Charlotte: "He takes me everywhere and buys me toys"

Ben: "He built a cubby house with me"

Madison: "Because he gives us money for the piggy bank"

Please keep track of all the new things we are interested in and are exploring at



Little Bee. Check out our Day book and displays on the walls!

Jeans for Genes Day

From Monday 1st – Friday 5th of August, children and educators at Little Bee wore their jeans for the day to raise money for the Children's Medical Research Institute.

It is a fantastic cause and we raised \$79.50, what a great effort, thank you.



Spring time

Spring time in Tassie, beautiful one minute, snowing the next. Please make sure your child has clothes for all the seasons. Warm jumpers and enclosed shoes are a necessity.



Our New staff member

We'd like to give a very warm welcome to Alesha!

Alesha will be working at Little Bee on Monday's and Tuesday's (she also works at our South Arm Centre). Alesha is very excited to be working at Little Bee Howrah and will introduce herself to our families



Sun Safety:

With the weather beginning to warm up and the sun finally coming out we will be spending more time in the sun. At Little Bee we ask that children wear hats and sunscreen from the 1st October.



Information for Families

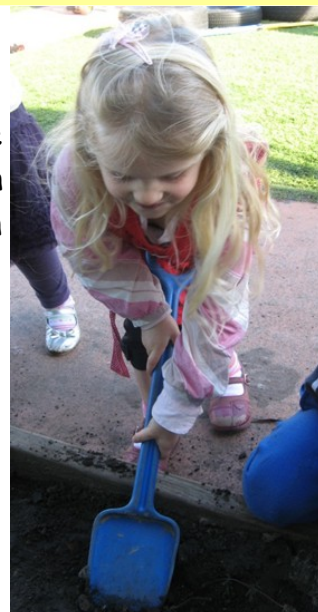
A display of a current fact sheets from NCAC (National Childcare Accreditation Council) - *Putting Children First*, Raising Children Network and other health care organisations have been placed on the parent notice board for September 2011.

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 Lil 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



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. Lil 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 Lil if you are interested.

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