



## September Newsletter ~ South Arm

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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 - ROADS

Over the past month the children have demonstrated a strong interest in roads, so began exploring them.



During our morning meeting the children have been asked a series of questions about roads. The educators have noticed that the children's answers are becoming clearer.

We have asked 'what does a road look like?' To our surprise we have received very detailed and creative answers.

**Archer:** "They are wide and fat, they are black and white. The white lines tell you where to go," .

**Eden:** "They look grey and they look soft and hard"

**Jimmy:** "Rocks and black stuff"

Through open ended questioning, we are able to provide a variety of experiences. We have explored a 'road sensory tub' where the children went out into the car park and collected pieces and materials of the road.

Using our collection of road resources, we made collages and gave our outdoor chalk road some texture. The children rode their bike over and across the stones and dirt they collected.

"Very bumpy road now!" announced Eva. "Like a real one," commented Riley, moving his bike across the stones.



We have used our feet to paint our foot prints on a road, designed roads using our fine motor and manipulation skills using black and white play dough, drew charcoal drawings of roads, painted roads, built roads, role played being road workers. "Better slow down mate, it's bumpy," said Matilda, alerting all the road users.

Only recently have we begun to look at what travels on a road, at the moment the children have an ongoing creation underway, as they are making cars using a variety of new and used recyclable materials and decorating them. You will have to wait patiently to see the end products on display.



## 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.

Jess is going on a well deserved holiday for two weeks!

*We'd like to give a very warm welcome to Rachael who will be working fulltime to cover Jess' Holidays!*

You will see Rachael at the Centre for the next few weeks. Kerrie will be our 'person in charge' during this time, any queries please see Kerrie!

A very exciting wooden fort has been built in our playground. The children seem most impressed and highly excited about it. As it was erected, the children noticed that it had a rather strange smell. "Pewee, what is that smell?" asked Alysa. Alysa and Molly went in search to find where the smell was coming from. "It's the wood!" said Molly! Indeed the wood made our Centre smell of pine.

When the big digger came to dig out the grassed area, the children watched from behind the glass door. Sunny and Molly took a video recording of what they could see happening. The children waited in anticipation for the fort to be ready to climb. The Lovely 'Digger man' as described by the children let us have an up-close look at his digger. Khodie got to have a seat inside. Eden and Khodie were most interested in the funny wheels the digger had. "It doesn't have round ones, it has track ones," described Eden.



**Our New Fort**  
Check out our fantastic new play fort—the children love it!



### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 Jess 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](mailto: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. Jess 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 Jess if you are interested.

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