

Welcome to Aspley East

WELCOME ALL NEW FAMILIES TO THE FIRST NEWSLETTER FOR 2014

Welcome all new and returning families to Aspley East Kindy for this exciting kindy year. The staff have been delighted to meet so many wonderful new children and families and are genuinely pleased with how well our new groups of children are settling in to their new kindy. The year before your child starts school is one of much growth, change and delightful development. Over the course of the kindy year, you will see your child blossom into an independent learner, who enjoys finding out about who they are as a person, a learner and a friend. We urge you to treasure this very special year and to enjoy spending time being a part of our wonderful kindergarten.

As a community organisation, Aspley East has been operating since 1966. The kindergarten has a strong presence in the community and we are very proud of our reputation for providing exceptional educational programs. On page two of this issue, you can read about the kindy's outstanding result in our assessment against the new National Quality Standards in late 2012. We are very proud of our result and hope to continue to work with families in 2014 to create an exceptional kindy experience for our children. Throughout the year there will be many ways that you can enrich your child's experience of kindy and contribute to leaving our kindergarten a little a bit better than when you started. This can be as simple as spending some time in the classroom reading to children, offering your work skills, expertise or hobbies, taking a formal role on the committee or helping out with the organisation of the centre (library) etc. The kindergarten curriculum has a very strong focus on the value of cooperation, collaboration and responsibility; your support and participation is just one way that you can help the children to see this value put into practice.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Settling in to kindy	2
Aspley East kindy culture	2
Housekeeping.....	3
Meet the staff.....	4
Curriculum information.....	5
News & AGM information	6
Service Survey	7

DATE CLAIMER

- **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

19th February 2013 7:15pm

(Meet and Greet and refreshments from 6:45pm)

- **FEES DUE**

Friday 14th February

- **LAST DAY OF TERM**

Wednesday 2nd April (M/T/W)

Friday 4th April (Th/Fr)

- **COMMUNITY DINNER**

Friday 4th April from 4:30pm @ Kidspace Chermshire (please bring a healthy plate to share)



SETTLING YOUR CHILD IN TO KINDY

Whilst we are now well and truly getting into the swing of things with our new groups of children, some children might still find it a little difficult to say goodbye or to face the prospect of being without parents or family for the kindy day.

If your child is experiencing any difficulty separating from you or settling during the day, please stay in touch with your child's teacher who will help you to develop a plan to settle your child in.

For some children, it can take a little while before they feel a sense of belonging in a new environment and for some people, new places can be distressing. One of our primary teaching and learning goals in the first term is to help each child to develop a sense of belong-

ing and identity in their new kindy class. Some things that parents can do to help this process along are:

- Talk about the kindy day at home, reassure your child that you will always return to collect them.
- Bring along a special photo of your family for your child to keep at kindy.
- Bring a special comfort item or soft toy to hold.
- Remember that it is normal for children to struggle with separation from time to time. You can reassure your child that you know that they will be O.K. and that the teachers are there to look after them and help them.

*“Coming together is a beginning, Keeping together is progress
Working together is success”
Henry Ford*

AT ASPLEY EAST...

WE DO PLEASE

WE DO THANK YOU

WE DO I'M SORRY

WE DO HUGS

WE DO LAUGHTER

WE DO RESPECT

WE DO MISTAKES

WE DO HAPPINESS

WE DO PEACE

WE DO GROWING

WE DO FRIENDSHIP

WE DO HELPING

WE DO CARING

WE DO KINDNESS

WE DO LEARNING

WE ARE FAMILY

2

KINDY CULTURE

When establishing new learning groups, one of our primary goals in the first term is to get to know ourselves, each other and the environment. We support children to develop positive relationships and a firm sense of identity by establishing clear expectations for how we interact with each other at kindy. Each class discusses and enacts these rules and rituals in their own special ways, but the kindergarten operates on the same basic expectations of each other:

We look after ourselves

We look after each other

We look after the environment

Please help your child to remember these expectations by talking about them at home. It is often interesting to ask children what they think that each one means to them. (If you have any interesting conversations, we would love to hear about them!)

The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, further outlines how children develop their sense of identity:

Children learn about themselves and construct their own identity within the context of their families and communities. This includes their relationships with people, places and things and the actions and responses of others. Identity is not fixed. It is shaped by experiences. When children have positive experiences they develop an understanding of themselves as significant and respected, and feel a sense of belonging. Relationships are the foundations for the construction of identity - 'who I am', 'how I belong' and 'what is my influence?'

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all” Aristotle





One of the marvellous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way that we couldn't as individuals . When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people.

HOUSE KEEPING

When you drop off your child, it is helpful for their independence if you get your child into the habit of unpacking their own bag and putting their belongings away. Please remember these things each morning:

1. Sign in
2. Morning tea goes on the table, lunch goes in the fridge
3. Take shoes off and place in the basket located under the sign in desk
4. Put on a hat and sunscreen if playing outside first
5. Make contact with the teachers and say goodbye to your child
6. Check the black file box on the lockers for any messages or fee invoices

For those who attended the information evening last year, you will remember that the staff described our approach to nutrition at kindy. Whilst we understand that children at this age can be fussy, it is very important that food sent for the kindy day is as healthy as possible. The kindy day is very active and busy and children require highly nutritious foods to keep them going and prevent fluctuations in energy levels. If you need some suggestions for foods that you could send for your child, please chat with the teachers, we have many resources that might be helpful. When at kindy children will usually try things that they might refuse at home, especially with teacher encouragement and when their peers are eating similar foods. As a rule of thumb please avoid sending: sweet biscuits, chips, lollies, chocolate and other high fat, salt or sugar items.

We have also noticed that many children are struggling to manage their lunch boxes and food packages at lunch time. With 22 children and only 2 teachers, this can make for a dilemma in trying to get everyone settled and eating! Please consider this issue when

choosing a lunch box and selecting items for your child to eat. If selecting packaged items, consider a lunch box where the packages can be tipped into smaller sections or open the packet slightly before placing in the box (This is a good opportunity to think about the environment and try to select items that utilise less plastic packaging).



QUICK REMINDERS

Centre Hours—

Mon-Wed 8:45—2:45pm

Thurs-Fri 8:15—3:45pm

Please take note of these times and ensure that all people picking up or dropping off your child are also aware.

Whilst we understand and can accommodate for the occasional late pick up due to unforeseen circumstances, regular late pick ups will not be tolerated. Staff utilise times in the morning and afternoon to clean up the centre and prepare the learning programs for the next day. Therefore staff are not available to care for children outside these hours. The staff appreciate your support in being prompt for drop off and pick up times.

As you would be aware, we have two groups operating everyday at Aspley East. With 44 parents dropping off and picking up children at the same time, in the same location it is often quite hectic. To make the drop off and pick up times as smooth and pleasant as possible, please try to walk directly through your own child's unit and avoid walking through the other unit if you can avoid it.

Please note as per the signage that the carpark out the front of the kindergarten is strictly for STAFF and those with disabilities only. Please refrain from parking here at any time.

The car park for the shopping centre has a generous amount of parking available.

ASPLEY EAST STAFF

MARIE WHITE

DIRECTOR/TEACHER

UNIT 1—THURS/FRI

DEBBIE QUIG

TEACHER

UNIT 1—MON/TUES/ALT WED

SUE PEARSON

ASSISTANT

UNIT 1—MON/TUES/ALT WED

EMILY CLARK

TEACHER

UNIT 2—MON—FRI

PETA BAHRE

ASSISTANT

UNIT 2—MON/TUES/ALT WED

NICOLE HOMEWOOD

ASSISTANT

UNIT 1—THURS/FRI

CHERIE DUX

ASSISTANT

UNIT 2—MON-WED UNIT 1 TH/FRI

JENNY KNIGHT

ASSISTANT

UNIT 2—THURS/FRI

HELEN HUMPHRIES

ADMINISTRATION

MON/TUES/THURS/FRI

MEET THE STAFF

At Aspley East we have two groups that operate within the centre each day. Each group is staffed with a qualified Early Childhood teacher and an assistant. The centre also employs additional staff to support the teachers and children as necessary. The team at Aspley East are a group of passionate and dedicated professionals who have a broad range of experiences and years in the early childhood industry. The kindy has a

strong relationships based model of operation where the staff have collaborative working relationships with children, families and each other. When you get the chance, feel free to make yourself familiar with the staff outside your child's group. We also encourage the children to get to know the kindy as a whole. Keep your eyes peeled for the first social gathering in which you will have further opportunities to meet other families.

In the news....

The importance of reading to children has received some attention in the news media of late. A recent [article](#) in 'The Mercury' highlights why reading at home is so important. At kindy we read to the children every day as a group. This group reading has a special quality that is quite different from home reading as children get to experience a story whilst in the company of others and often engage in discussion afterwards. Whilst we know how important whole group reading is for children's literacy development, kindy reading is a supplement to home reading and can never replace the intimacy and bonding that occurs when parents read to their children. So don't forget your bedtime stories, they build memories that last a lifetime!

RESOURCES

A big thank you goes out to those families who have already contributed resources to the centre. A special thanks goes to Tom Irvine (Unit 2-Mon-Wed parent) who donated a HUGE amount of paper to the kindy last week. As a not for profit organisation, these donations make a huge difference to us here at kindy and free up funds to purchase more resources for the children to use.



The staff take great pride in the presentation of the centre and enjoy spending time finding beautiful resources to enrich the children's experiences. We appreciate any precious items that you might have at home or come across in your travels. Things that we are on the hunt for at the moment are: woven/wicker baskets of all sizes, lovely veggie or herb plants for our gardens (non-toxic), natural materials for art work (pieces of fabrics, leather, leaves, sticks, stones, lovely branches, sticks or pieces of wood).

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

As a C&K service, Aspley East Kindy utilises the Building Waterfalls curriculum to guide our decision making and program planning. We also utilise the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia. As a quick and brief introduction, here are some of the principles that influence our programs:

The Early Years Learning Framework describes childhood as a time of *belonging, being* and *becoming*.

- **Belonging** is the basis for living a fulfilling life. Children feel they *belong* because of the relationships they have with their family, community, culture and place.
- **Being** is about living here and now. Childhood is a special time in life and children need time to just 'be'—time to play, try new things and have fun.
- **Becoming** is about the learning and development that young children experience. Children start to form their sense of identity from an early age, which shapes the type of adult they will become.

Click here to find out more: <http://deewr.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework>

When children play, they are showing what they have learned and what they are trying to understand. This is why play is one of the foundations of the early years learning framework.

NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK

The National Quality Standard (NQS) sets a new national bench mark for the quality of children's education and care services. It also gives services and families a better understanding of a quality service. This enables families to make informed decisions about the services providing education and care to their child. The NQS is a key aspect of the National Quality Framework.

The National Quality Standard was informed by research about best practice and the way in which high quality education and care contributes to positive outcomes for children. It comprises quality areas, standards and elements. The seven quality areas in the National Quality Standard are:

1. Educational program and practice
2. Children's health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Leadership and service management.

The National Quality Standard is linked to national learning frameworks that recognise children learn from birth and outline practices to support and promote children's learning. For us at Aspley East this is called: *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia* ('Early Years Learning Framework').

Early childhood services are assessed and rated against the above quality standards. 2012 was the first year in which services in Australia began to be assessed and rated against the NQS. Aspley East Kindergarten was assessed in late 2012 and subsequently received a rating of '**Exceeding the National Quality Standard**'. This is one of the highest possible ratings and was an excellent result for the kindergarten and the teaching staff.

You can find further information about our rating and the kindy's quality improvement process in the parent area, at the entrance to the kindy.

ASPLEY EAST KINDY HISTORY

Aspley East Kindy has been operating since 1966 and has a rich history with many stories to be told. In order to secure the memories and stories of this special place, one of our 2012 committee members Kaylene Wilson has generously been archiving some of the historical photos.

We have some Kodachrome slides that need to be scanned using a special scanner. If anyone owns one of these and who can help in this task, please talk to Marie.

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KINDERGARTEN

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COMMUNICATION FILES

Please remember to check your family communication file. Your communication file is located within the black file boxes that are kept on the top of the lockers where your child's bag is kept. It is important that you check this file every day as important notices from the office and from the teachers are placed in here.

At the moment there are fee invoices for term 1, book club catalogues and a notice regarding the centre policy relating to late collection of children from kindy.

This communication file is the method through which you will receive paper communication. Important reminders about kindy events and other community happenings will be placed at the sign in desk. Soon at the sign in desk you will notice a "community jobs" folder. In this folder you will find information about ways in which you can be involved in the day-to-day life and jobs involved in keeping our kindy running. Working bee information will go in here along with a roster of daily, weekly or monthly tasks that you can help out with in the case that you cannot make it to working bees or if you just want to be more involved.

Kindy Portal

During the orientation process, most of you would have heard about our online system of documentation for the kindy program called "Kindy Portal". If you have signed a permission form, each teacher will have sent you an invitation to complete the registration process to begin accessing kindy portal via the email address that you have provided to the centre. Please note that some Hotmail addresses send emails from Kindy Portal to the junk folder so if you have not yet received an email from kindy portal, please check this folder.

If you have not received an email yet (and you returned a permission form), please let your child's teacher know.

If you would like to nominate an alternative email address to receive Kindy Portal alerts, please provide this to your child's teacher.

Keep your eyes peeled for an invitation to the Aspley East Kindergarten AGM being held in February. On the night there will be an opportunity to meet and get to know other parents before the AGM commences @ 7:30pm. Hope to see you there :)

The centre newsletter along with other important centre communication is often sent via email. Please ensure that you provide us with any changes to your email addresses as we will distribute information based on the emails listed in your child's enrolment pack.

WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR ORIENTATION AND ENROLMENT EXPERIENCE AT ASPLEY EAST. PLEASE HELP US TO REFLECT UPON OUR PRACTICE AND MAKE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FUTURE.

**FIND ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER, A FORMAT FOR YOU TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE ORIENTATION PROCESS. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ADD MORE OR TO SUBMIT SOME FEEDBACK ELECTRONICALLY TO:
mwhite@aspleyeastkindy.com.au**

COMPLETED SURVEYS CAN BE RETURNED TO MARIE IN THE OFFICE.

What did you like about the orientation process at Aspley East Kindy?

What else would have made the experience better for your family?

Did you receive enough information? What other information would have been helpful for you?

What has your child enjoyed most about the orientation and beginning of their kindy experience?