

Welcome to Aspley East

WELCOME ALL NEW FAMILIES TO THE FIRST NEWSLETTER FOR 2016

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. In 2012 the kindergarten was assessed against the new National Quality Standard and achieved a rating of 'Exceeding' the quality standard. You can read about the standards on the notice board at the front of the centre. We are very proud of our result and hope to continue to work with families in 2016 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. 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. On page two you can read some more about the values that the kindergarten works towards.

Wishing you all the best for a fantastic start to the kindy year and I look forward to getting to know everyone as the year progresses.

Marie White—Centre Director



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DATE CLAIMER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

17th February 2015 7:00pm

(Meet and Greet and refreshments from 6:00pm)

FEES DUE

Friday 22nd April

LAST DAY OF TERM

Wednesday 22nd March (M-W)

Thursday 24th March (Th-Fr)



SETTLING YOUR CHILD IN TO KINDY

While 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

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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. No insulated lunch bags in the fridge please.
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. Remember to check your emails daily for updates to the kindy website.

For those who attended the orientation BBQ 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.

When packing your child's lunch please consider their independence with food containers and packaging. With 22 children and only 2 teachers, it is difficult for the teachers to be opening containers or lids for many children at once. This can make for a dilemma in trying to get everyone settled and eating! 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.

Please arrive at least **5 minutes** before centre closing time to allow for any necessary conversation with the staff and to allow for the centre to be closed on time.

While we understand and can accommodate for the occasional late pick up due to unforeseen circumstances, regular late pick ups will not be tolerated. Staff are allocated time in the morning and afternoon to clean up the centre, attend meetings and professional training and prepare the learning programs for the next day. Late collection of children takes away from this important time as well as impacting personally on staff as they are delayed in being able to leave work for the day. We appreciate your understanding and support in being prompt to collect your child each day.

Carpark

Please note as per the signage that the carpark out the front of the kindergarten is strictly for STAFF and those with disabilities only. In order to maintain a safe kindergarten, 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

GROUP 2—THURS-FRI

DEBBIE QUIG

TEACHER

GROUP 1—MON-WED

SUE PEARSON

ASSISTANT

GROUP 1—MON-WED

EMILY CLARK

TEACHER

GROUPS 3 & 4—MON—FRI

PETA BAHRE

ASSISTANT

GROUP 3—MON-WED

NICOLE HOMEWOOD

ASSISTANT

GROUP 2—THURS-FRI

CHERIE DUX

ASSISTANT

ALL GROUPS—MON-FRI

KAMAY EADES

ASSISTANT

GROUP 4—THURS-FRI

HELEN HUMPHRIES

ADMINISTRATION

MON/TUES/THURS/FRI

THE STAFF

At Aspley East we have two groups that operate within the centre each day. 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. This space in the newsletter will be a place to find out about all of the staff at the kindy as well as staying in touch with any updates regarding the staff.

With this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to let all families know that Emily Clark (Teacher of Groups 3 & 4) will be taking leave for terms 3 & 4 of this year. Emily has been offered an exciting opportunity to spend

some time in Europe with her husband who is based there for work. Recruitment for a replacement teacher will begin in the next few months. Rest assured that there will be a thorough hand over period before Emily leaves, in order to ensure that the children feel familiar and comfortable with their new teacher. Kamay and Peta will remain as the assistants in the classroom for the duration of 2016.

If you have any questions or concerns about this please do not hesitate to speak with Marie or Emily.

RESOURCES

As a community run, not for profit service, Aspley East Kindergarten relies on the generous efforts of families to keep our centre looking beautiful. At the beginning of the year we ask families to think about ways in which you might contribute to the richness of our centre. There is no one way for this to happen. For some it might be spending time in the classrooms, offering special skills (cooking, sewing, carpentry etc.) and for others it might be offering professional skills (carpentry, tiling, paper donations etc.). 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. Both frameworks strongly espouse the value in a play based education for children based in warm and responsive relationships with adults and other children. 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 benchmark 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 was an excellent result for the kindergarten and the teaching staff. Services are scheduled to be assessed by the regulatory body every 3 years. Therefore the kindy is likely to be assessed again in 2016.

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.

The centre newsletter along with other important centre communication will be posted to the kindy website. In order to stay up to date, please ensure that you subscribe to the website to receive email updates.

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.

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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 fundraising notice.

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.

50th Anniversary Update

Planning is now well under way for our Family Fun Day on Saturday 14th May 2016. As a part of the day there will be some market stalls set up in the kindy car park. The market stalls will be selling handmade local goods. We would like to offer kindy families the opportunity to submit an expression of interest. There will be a small cost of \$30 per stall. If you have handmade goods that you would like to sell at one of our stalls please contact the event organiser Lee Andrews on 0419 745 983.

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?

Is there anything that 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?