



MERINO COURT

Childcare Centre

AUGUST 2016

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Welcome to the August 2016 edition of Merino Court News.

First off Cal would like to apologise to all families for some delays in responding and dealing with issues for families lately. I have been trying to split myself in 3 for the last short while trying get through day to day tasks and be everywhere at once. So there has been times that parents has asked me questions, asked for info, clarification on issues etc. and it has taken me a long time to get back to many of you. In some instances I have forgotten to do so at all when I've been caught up in the busyness of the days here. So I am sorry for any inconvenience my delays have caused people. I will ask that if parents have any questions or requests...of course if you see me your welcome to speak to me in person...but just as a backup in case I forget (my grandma always used to tell me...Boy you have brain like sieve...lol), could parents please send a quick email so it is written down and recorded. So if you have requests for extra days, account queries etc. please just send a quick email after you have spoken to me, and we then have it on record so I can go back to it to help out and assist you all with things.

You will all have met Bek by now as she has been a staff member in the Possum's room for a few months now. This month, Bek officially took over as the main Room leader/Educator for the Schoolies in the afternoons and the kids are loving spending time with her (Cut to a very sad scene where Cal told the Schoolies he was in the Schoolies room for the afternoon and there was a chorus of "Awwwwwww where's Bek"...yeah thanks guys...missed you too). There was 1 Schoolie who screamed YAY in excitement though...I knew they were my favourite for a reason...I mean not that we have favourites...That wouldn't be right...Hmmm...Hey look at that cloud over there...phew...got out of that one fine
-Cal

National Quality Framework Summary- Quality Area 4 Staffing Arrangements

The Quality Area Staffing arrangements requires services to ensure they are meeting adequate staffing arrangements as required under the National Quality Framework.

This means the provision of qualified and experienced staff who are able to develop warm, respectful relationships with children, create safe and predictable environments and encourage children's active engagement in the learning program

Standard 4.1

Staffing arrangements enhance children's learning and development and ensure their safety and wellbeing.

Element 4.1.1

Educator-to-child ratios and qualification requirements are maintained at all times.

Standard 4.2

Educators, co-ordinators and staff members are respectful and ethical.

Element 4.2.1

Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships.

Element 4.2.2

Educators, co-ordinators and staff members work collaboratively and affirm, challenge, support and learn from each other to further develop their skills and to improve practice and relationships.

Element 4.2.3

Interactions convey mutual respect, equity and recognition of each other's strengths and skills.



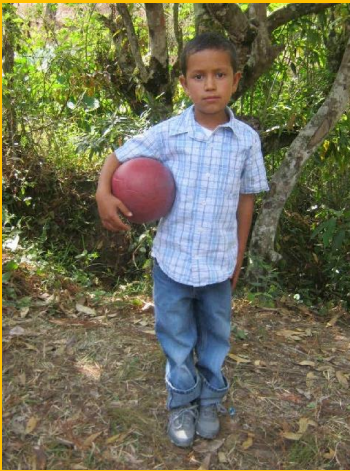
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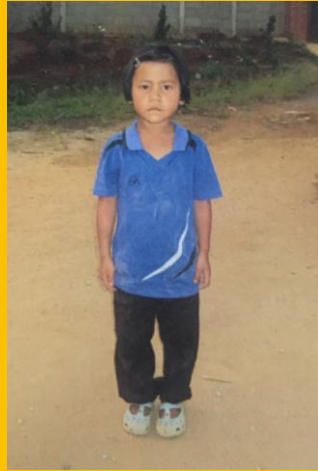


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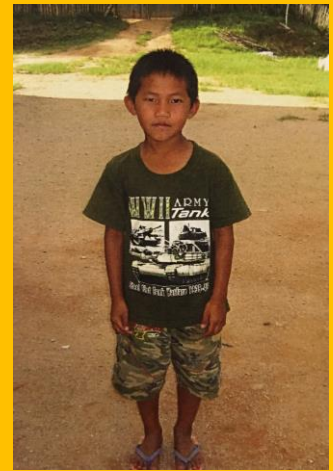
Meet...



Schoolies Sponsor
Friend-
Norlan Nahin Bautista
from Honduras



Possum's Sponsor
Friend-
Suwimol Japue from
Thailand



Goanna's Sponsor
Friend-
Yutthana Jayor from
Thailand

Sponsoring children gives them safe places to play, the chance to see a doctor when they're sick, and the opportunity for an education. It gives them a brighter future so they can live free from poverty.

Not only are we helping Norlan, Suwimol and Yutthana...we are helping our Merino kids to develop compassion and care, whilst educating them on the countries our sponsor kids come from, and hopefully allowing our Merino children to gain confidence and self-esteem from helping those in need.

Each room (age group) at Merino Court has their own sponsor friend. We will be sending letters to them, drawing pictures for them and learning all about the countries they come from.



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GOANNA'S GOSSIP

I think some of our Goannas are going to be doctors (Yay) as recently we have been looking at the skeleton, after they all decided to draw their bones on their hands and arms (thankfully in chalk) and started asking lots of questions on the human body (only about the hearts and lungs thankfully).

This led to some great breathing activities, using balloons to show how the lungs inflate/deflate which in turn led to some calming breathing exercises. That led to some yoga which everyone enjoyed and will become a regular activity for us all now to help us calm down and get ready for rest time.

We have been focusing on our colours, one at a time to help our younger Goannas. July was yellow and red and now we have moved on to orange (yellow and red mixed). We are finding this helps the younger children to remember their colours better-not so confusing. We encourage lots of colour hunt games to make it fun and lots of painting activities as they enjoy their craft. At the moment we are enjoying lots of games (linked to the Olympics) which means we are talking lots about all the different countries that are involved.

We are also working on numbers and the older Goannas are getting quite competitive when it comes to a chance of winning a jellybean or a cardboard medal. Glad they are easily pleased!

-Tammy and Sue

POSSUMS

Hi everyone. We welcomed Aadineer into the Possum's room this month. We also had a VERY exciting visit with Ayten and her baby Mirach. This led on to some experiences with the children learning about babies and looking after their baby dolls, including feeding and bathing them.

As a group, we painted a world globe. We have taken photos to all of the children to add to our world painting. We also have flags that represent all of the cultural backgrounds of all the Possums which are displayed on our window. We will extend on this learning and learn about the different cultural practices.

We have been working on our colours-especially RED. Some of our older Possums have been working on colour recognition and some can name ALL of their colours which we are very proud of.

With the Rio Olympics starting, we have done some Olympic craft- Green and Gold Australian team colours flags. We have also been racing and doing jumping games into the sandpit.

Our favourite book this month is "Mmmmm Turtle Soup", which the Possums enjoy and are showing them Aboriginal culture. We also have been singing Aboriginal cultural songs each morning.

Other activities we have been enjoying are dancing and singing (Rock-A-Bye your Bear, Heads and Shoulders). We have been talking about our families, learning about peacocks.

-Lindsey, Karen, Bek, Mel, Jane



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#SCHOOLIES

Wow what a month in the new decked out #schoolies room. We have been very busy working together as a group to give our room a fresh new look.

During the school holidays we were all super busy joining in with things like: Pj party movie day, bowling, going out to the movies to see 'Finding Dory' and 'BFG', going out to coffee club and having hot chocolates and babycinos. We also got to go to join in the fun at BLAST-Lifestreams holiday program (Nellie's other centre she manages in Como) where we did: USA day and got to ride pony's- Australia's got talent: where Darcy- Rebecca- and Alicia.S did an amazing dance, Jack did some amazing basketball shooting while dancing, while Alicia.E- Kai- Shravani and Raphael all enjoyed playing with the hula hoops and balls.

We all had an amazing school holiday and are looking forward to the September ones.

This month we are still busy adding to our silly photo wall, we will also join in with the Olympics craze and do some more exciting craft for our room!

Please come in and check out our room and our silly photo wall!

Thanks Bek and the #schoolies

BIRTHDAYS



Sanskruti	2 nd	4 years old
Andy	10 th	2 years old
Jayce	21 st	1 year old



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Reminder

If families have changed any contact details recently please let us know so we can update our records



We had our photos taken recently by Michelle from Whippersnappers.

Some great shots were taken and we hope you all like them?

Michelle will come back again in late November/early December, for anyone who would like some more photos taken ready from Xmas presents or she can make extra copies of photos she took recently.

\$5 from each photo package was used as a fundraiser and we raised some funds to donate to a charity-Red Cross "Good Start Breakfast Club", which provides breakfast for kids in remote communities that don't have any breakfast at home.



Jack B- "Robot Jack is going swimming. The water will break my systems"

Georgia- "The plane nearly crashed into the moon"

Ilah- "I live in Bali"

Mia- "My dad works in the dark place"

Levi- "There is potato inside this pea"

NQS-Assessment and Rating

Merino Court recently received a letter from the Education and Care Regulatory Unit, stating we will begin our assessment and rating period. This means that the Education and Care Regulatory Unit will evaluate Merino Court's services against the National Quality Standards and the National Regulations. This is designed to be a cooperative process with opportunities for Merino Court to discuss and provide evidence as to how we are meeting the National Quality Standards and enhancing outcomes for children.

During this period, Merino Court will provide a copy of our QIP (Quality Improvement Plan-our self-evaluation of how we feel like we need to improve) to the Education and Care Regulatory Unit.

Merino court will then be notified of an exact date in which an authorised officer will come out to observe and record the Quality of the services we offer. Although this time will be stressful for the staff, we are pretty confident in what we do here, so we are sure we will do fine with the whole process.

For more info visit - <http://www.acecqa.gov.au/assessment-and-ratings-process>



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5 minutes with...Tammy



What is your background and how long have you been at Merino?

I have been an educator on and off for 15 years. I officially became Qualified in December 2014. I started at Merino Court in November 2015 but my son Jack has been coming to Merino Court since early 2014.

Tell us about your family life

I am a mummy to a very cheeky 6 year old who I going on 16. Last year I married my partner Christian. We have 4 pet rats at home and Jack named them all-Splinter, Quiksilver, Jessica and Squirrel.

What do you enjoy most about working at Merino?

I love that it is a small centre which means you can form amazing relationships with all the children that attend. I also love the staff. Everyone is very friendly and you can have a good laugh with them.

When can parents talk to you if they need to about anything?

I work 4 days a week with Wednesday being my day off. You can come talk to me anytime you need to.

What's your best memory/funniest story from your time at Merino?

My best memory would have to be going for an excursion into the city with the Goannas. We had so much fun looking at the buildings, drinking babycinis and riding the escalators up and down.

What are your hobbies and what do you get up to in your spare time?

I love reading crime and thriller novels, watching tv shows, taking lots and lots of photos of my friends and family, going out for a coffee and chat, spending time with my son and nephews and listening to music (I have a favourite song for every mood)

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you lately?

I took my son Jack and my nephews to Scitech over the school holidays and as I was walking down the steps, I lost my balance and fell over Whoopsie



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POLICY UPDATE/REMINDER-

Dealing with Medications and Medical Conditions Policy

Whenever a child with severe allergies is enrolled at the service, or newly diagnosed as having a severe allergy, a communications plan will be developed to inform all relevant educators/staff of:

1. the child's name and room;
 2. the child's risk minimisation plan;
 3. where the child's Individual emergency action plan will be located;
 4. where the child's adrenaline auto-injector is located;
 5. which educators/staff will be responsible for administering the adrenaline auto-injector
- Enrolment forms list the potential allergens stored at the centre. Allergens are clearly labeled to avoid cross contamination.
 - It is required that the child with anaphylaxis will have an Australian Society for Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCI) Action Plan

Grievances and Complaints Management Policy

Dealing with complaints

- All complaints or grievances will be dealt with promptly and confidentially in a manner that: - values the opportunity to be heard; - promotes conflict resolution; - encourages the development of harmonious partnerships; - ensures that conflicts and grievances are mediated fairly; and - is transparent and equitable
- Complaints to the service can be made via contacting Cal Zwart or Jen Hamilton in person, email (merinocc@bigpond.com) or phone 94511111
- In order to assist families that wish to contact the regulatory authority the name address and phone number of the regulatory authority will be included in the Family Handbook and displayed in the foyer. Education and Care Regulatory Unit Ground Floor 111 Wellington St East Perth 6004 Ph. 6210 3333 Freecall 1800 199 383ecru@communities.wa.gov.au