



MERINO COURT

Childcare Centre

MARCH 2016

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Welcome to the March 2016 edition of Merino Court News.

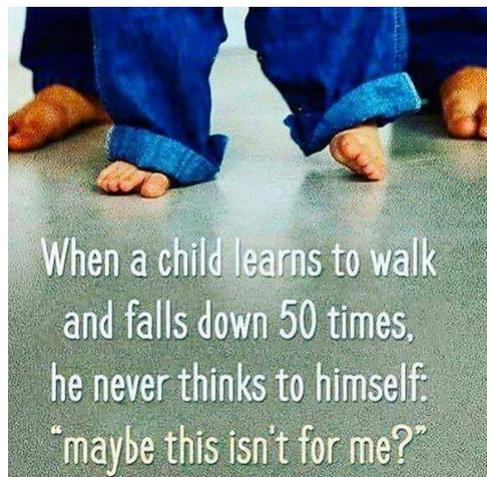
Ayten left us this month to prepare for her first foray into motherhood. She has always been such a caring educator here who the children are all drawn to, so we are sure she will cope with her own bubba perfectly. We will keep you updated with news of her baby when he arrives. As Ayten is now gone, we will be having a new staff member join the team. Her name is Bek and she is a Qualified Educator. Her background is in child care, but for the past few years she has worked with at risk youth in a youth education service. She is excited to be rejoining the child care industry. You will all meet her over the coming month, I am sure.

Of late, we have had a number of children being dropped off on days they are not enrolled to attend. If you need care on days that are not your normally booked days, please call or email in advance to check if we have availability. We will always do what we can to accommodate, but some days unfortunately we won't be able to due to us being at capacity, number and ratio wise, and when extra children get dropped off unannounced, it can tip us over the regulations relating to ratios, meaning we are not meeting regulation. This leaves us having to at the last minute organise extra staffing which is not always easy to do, and leaves us scrambling. This is also an extra cost to Merino as we have to pay for that extra staff for the day, which we hadn't accounted for. As mentioned before, we will always try to do our best to accommodate when we are given advance notice, but if you have not called in advance to check, we will have to turn you away or if we don't notice the extra attendance right away, as soon as we do, we will have to call you to pick up your child. Please don't let it get to this, the staff don't want to have to be put in the uncomfortable position of turning children away. Thanks in advance

EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 1 SUMMARY: CHILDREN HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF IDENTITY

Being, Belonging and Becoming are integral parts of identity. Children learn about their own identity from their families and communities. In early childhood settings, children develop sense of belonging when they feel accepted and trust those that care for them. When children feel safe, secure and supported they grow in confidence and explore and therefore LEARN. The concept of being, reminds educators to focus on the here and now and the importance of children's right to be a child and experience the joy of childhood. Becoming, includes children building and shaping their identity through their evolving relationships. Children develop their sense of identity through the following outcomes:

- 1.1 Children feel safe, secure, and supported.
- 1.2 Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency.
- 1.3 Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities.
- 1.4 Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect



When a child learns to walk
and falls down 50 times,
he never thinks to himself:
"maybe this isn't for me?"



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POLICY NEWS-REMINDER

Delivery and Collection of Children Policy

Policy Statement

The education and care service ensures that the attendance of all children enrolled in the service is accurately recorded in accordance with regulatory and government guidelines. Families are required to personally deliver and collect their children, or arrange with the service for an authorised person to do so.

Policy Principles

- Children need to be collected before closing time at 6:30pm. Children not collected before this time will be charged the full cost of staff overtime rates up to the next fifteen minute block. Children cannot arrive at the centre before 6:30am.
- The centre has a keypad entry system for parents and a doorbell for other contacts and visitors. The code is for parents only and is not to be handed to children. It is important that this is adhered to so that we can monitor people coming into the centre for the safety of the children.
- On arrival, drive slowly onto the premises, then children need to be signed-in in the appropriate book/folder. This is a Licensing requirement and as such, families who continually forget to sign their child in or out, risk losing their childcare benefit for those days and could be liable to pay full fees.
- Bags are placed in the lockers.
- Children need to be handed over to the correct staff in their room and any messages passed on. Children are not to be left in the foyer.
- Medication and appropriate forms need to be filled in and handed to staff.
- All medications need to be handed to a staff member so that they can be stored properly.
- The enrolling parent/guardian or authorised person who brings the child to the service or collects the child from the service must sign/initial the child's times of arrival and departure.
- At collection time; sign your child out, check the front door and whiteboard in the foyer and read the day book relevant to your child. Merino Court, Southdown and Corriedale Streets are all 50km/hour zones. Please respect this and drive accordingly as we are located in a residential area. There is a 5km/hour speed limit on the premises to protect the children who are unaware of road safety.
- Indicate to staff that you are taking your child so they can pass on any messages.
- Merino Court, Southdown and Corriedale Streets are all 50km/hour zones. Please respect this and drive accordingly as we are located in a residential area. There is a 5km/hour speed limit on the premises to protect the children who are unaware of road safety.

Daybooks and Learning Stories

You may have noticed that the daybooks have not been in the foyer of late. The staff do such great jobs with the learning environments in the rooms, and we now keep the daybooks running in the individual rooms so you can see the room environments. Please help yourselves and go into the Possum's or Goanna's rooms and check out the computers and the daybook slideshows, to see the fun learning experiences that have been happening during our day.

While you are in the room, check out the cool art work and learning stories that we regularly update and change on the walls



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GOANNA'S GOSSIP

The Goannas have been enjoying getting their indoor herb garden set up. They went on a few excursions to Bunnings to purchase a variety of herbs and planted them with Sue. They cannot wait to use some in their cooking and play, as well as learning how to care for them.

The Goannas also went on an excursion to a few different op shops and the Armadale Recycling Centre, to purchase some natural baskets for the room. We scored really well and came back with wooden baskets, containers, bowls and buckets. The Goannas did well to act nice and cute whilst in the op shops and got the shop keepers on side, thinking the Goannas were SO cute and nice they gave us a huge discount. Good work Goannas.

You may notice 2 new additions to our room, their names are Dory and Fin-can you guess what they might be? Since their arrival, everyone has been very interested in them and this is one of the reasons for us to be starting our 'under the sea' project. I wonder what new things we will discover?

-Tammy, Sue and the Goannas



POSSUMS



This past month we welcomed Hunter and Jayce to the Possum's room. Tayjas graduated up into the Goanna's room.

We have recently celebrated Chinese New Year by making Chinese drums and lanterns. We also made Kiwi birds for Waitangi Day.

We have added lots of things to our Pond project. Frogs, lily pads, flowers, dragon flies and fish.

To continue on this theme, we have been singing lots of songs about ducks and frogs-5 little ducks, Galumph and Mr Frog.

We have done well with our books and games to help us with our developing early literacy skills, and we are learning lots of new words.

As usual, we have been enjoying lots of outdoor play with obstacle courses for climbing/gross motor/balance skills, and water and sand play for our fine motor skills.

With the Possum's room having a mixture of babies and toddlers, we have been reading and listening to stories about being gentle with our friends and helping with the smaller younger children.

-Karen and Lindsey





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SCHOOLIES STUFF

Art and Craft has been really popular in the afternoons after school. We have coloured in colouring pages, painted with water colours, painted with poster paints, and had a free expression art day with different coloured paints, cardboards/papers, textured paints, textured scissors etc. The Schoolies went to town and there was art supplies EVERYWHERE which Cal really enjoyed spending half an hour cleaning it all up (it's opposite day today).

We have also been playing ball games and DONKEY has been a favourite. In that game, we stand in a circle throwing and catching a ball and if we drop the ball we say the letter D, if we drop the ball again, we say D,O and so on. If we drop the ball so many times we have spelt out the word DONKEY, then we are out of the game. We have been mixing it up also and changing the word DONKEY for other words, such as our names, MERINO etc.

Some of us Schoolies had forgotten the school trip protocol when getting picked up from school and have been running off from the group, so we have also been talking about the dangers of running off and getting lost, and on school runs to and from Yale and Brookman, we need to walk in pairs so that we can all stay together safe and happy

BIRTHDAYS:

11th - Molly and Ruby 2yrs

17th - Yashmeet 4 yrs



"We are all a little weird and life's a little weird, and when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness and call it love."
~ Dr. Seuss



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Where to Find

We love to keep all of you families informed of what we do here at Merino. So we had a bit of a declutter in the foyer recently to make this easier for you.

There is a policy file in the little white bookcase where all of our policies are kept. Also our policies are on our old website, but from feedback from parents, the old website isn't user friendly (need logins and passwords etc), so we are almost done creating our new website which will be much easier to get access to forms, policies etc. that you might need and want.

You will also find informative pamphlets and posters in the foyer to do with child health, community organisations, local sporting groups etc.

If your child needs Medication on any given day, there are Medication Forms on a hook on the wall next to the whiteboard in the Goannas room. These need to be filled out when medication needs to be administered. If ongoing medication needs to be administered for an ongoing condition, such as inhalers for asthma or tablets for ADHD etc. then please talk to Cal, and we will do a medical condition action plan.

FEE PAYMENT REMINDERS

Invoices are sent out each fortnight. The invoices you receive, will include 4 weeks- the previous 2 weeks to show any payments that have been made since the last invoice (for your records), and then the future 2 weeks of charges in advance. Fees are expected to be paid in full by the end of each fortnightly invoice period. When there is a balance owed at the start of a new invoice period, a late payment fee will be added to the account. The rates are below:

If there is an overdue balance on invoice day, an automatic late penalty fee of \$25 will be applied to the account. If it falls into a second fortnight when the next invoices are done and there is still a balance owed, then a further \$25 late penalty will be applied. If there is STILL an overdue amount by the end of the second invoice period, your child's enrolment will automatically be cancelled, to provide a place for a paying child. Put simply, if you pay your account by the end of each fortnight, you will be fine, if you don't pay your account by the end of a fortnight, you will be charged the \$25 late penalty and your child's enrolment will be in jeopardy.

We have a few families with a pre-arranged monthly payment schedule, so for these families, we will work the late penalties in line with this, so if the accounts aren't cleared and paid in full once a month, then we will then apply the late penalties mentioned.



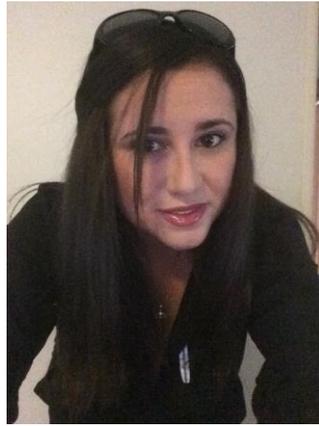
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5 minutes with...Mel



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

I was born in Manchester UK and moved to Australia when I was a teenager. I love living in Australia. I was at Merino when I was 19 years old and I left and then recently returned at 25 years old.

Tell us about your family life

I have a big family in Australia and lots of family in England. I live with my partner Mark and we live by the ocean. I love living near the beach and all of my family love Perth.

What do you enjoy most about working at Merino?

I like that it's a small centre and it is 100% like working in a little family environment. The staff and the children all have great relationships and are friendly and caring to each other.

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

I am at Merino 3-4 days a week. My days change some weeks, but whenever you see me, you're always welcome to ask questions.

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

I was watering the garden with the Possums and the hose popped off the end and I got soaked. The Possums all thought it was so funny and hilarious.

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

I look after my niece and nephew lots. I adore being an auntie. I enjoy swimming and watching my English football (you Aussies call it soccer).

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

My partner dropped 6 eggs on the floor in the kitchen and I didn't realise. I walked straight through it and slipped and fell straight on my bum. It hurt but we found it hilarious.