



Dates for the
Diary;



Literacy in the early years:

In this month's newsletter;

- Literacy in Early Years.
- Roads and Traffic Workshop.
- SIDS and Kids.
- Fancy Dress Day.

You may have received literacy and numeracy concept cards in your files over the last few weeks.

This is a government funded initiative, to encourage literacy and numeracy learning in the early years.

Numeracy Concepts:

When we talk about numeracy concepts we need to think more than just numbers. We can incorporate

numeracy in to every day learning such as

* Using everyday words to describe shapes such as 'straight, curved, and 'bent', then introducing words such as 'triangle', 'square' and 'circle'

* Children can share by saying 'one for you', and 'one for you', until nothing is left.

* When we unpack the washing, we sort things as

we put them away.

* While cooking with your child fill a measuring cup, using words such as 'full', 'half cup' and 'empty'.

* Helping fold the washing using words such as 'up', 'down', 'next too'

* Counting everyday objects in sequence "1,2,3,4"

* Family Picnic day – Saturday the 14th of March at Lawson park.

* Imagination's second birthday. Thursday the 9th of April.

* The centre will be closed for Easter on Friday the 10th of March and Monday the 13th of April.



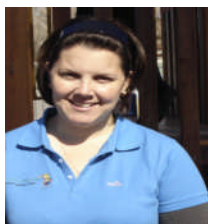
Roads and Traffic Workshop:

On Wednesday the 25th of February, the staff at Imagination's attended a roads and traffic workshop. This was a very beneficial workshop looking at ways to incorporate road safety into the everyday program. Here is some useful information they gained during the workshop:

How To Guard Your Child in Traffic:

1. The best way of protecting your child near traffic is to hold their hand.
2. Your children learn about road safety by watching and copying you. If you always wear a seatbelt they will copy you and always wear theirs.
3. If you cross the road at a crossing rather than from between parked cars, you will be setting an excellent example. Nearly one third of children pedestrians are killed trying to cross a road from between parked cars.
4. Another good example to set is to only cross when it says 'walk' at crossing with the walk/don't walk signs.
5. The footpath is safer than the road but our children must learn to watch out for cars reversing out of driveways.

SIDS and Kids



Lisa

Emma will be away from the Octopus room from Wednesday the 11th of March to Friday the 3rd of April. Lisa will be working in the Octopus room during this period. Lisa worked casually for Imaginations last year and has a Diploma in Children's Services. Emma will still be at the centre: as part of her University studies she is required to undertake a three week practicum in the 2 to 3 year old age group, so you will still see Emma in the starfish room.

Some Random Thoughts on Children

'A characteristic of the normal child is that they don't act that way very often'

'Children seldom misquote. In fact they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said'

To reduce the risk of SIDS it is recommended that:

- **Babies from birth are placed on their back to sleep.**

Babies, aged under one year, wherever they sleep, should be placed on their back to sleep unless otherwise directed in writing by the child's medical practitioner.

- **Sleep Babies With Face Uncovered.**

Babies should be placed at the bottom of the cot to prevent them from wriggling down under bedclothes. No quilts or doonas should be used. Light bedding, such as thermal blankets, should be firmly

tucked in at the bottom to prevent them covering the baby's head during sleep. A safe infant bag with fitted neck and arm holes is a good alternative for bedding.

- **Keep Babies Smoke Free.**

Infants and young children should not be exposed to cigarette smoke.

We have just received a child care kit from SIDS and kids on safe sleeping practices in child care. If you would like any further information on Sids and kids please ask Meredith or visit their website www.sidsandkids.org

Next parent meeting will be held on Tuesday the 7th of April at 5:00 pm to organise mother's day and discuss ideas about programming. Babysitting is available. We hope you can make it.

Ethan from the Octopus room, demonstrated to the children his bullwhip skills, He got the whip for his birthday.

If you or your child has an interest that you would like to bring to the centre we would love to share it with you.



Dress-up Day: On Friday the 20th of February we had a dress-up day to raise funds for the bush fire appeal. Thanks to everyone for their kind donations \$150 was donated to the Red Cross, and many other families gave donations of clothes and household items.

