

Dates for the Diary:

Monday the 26th of January– Australia Day public holiday the centre will be closed.

Family Picnic day Saturday the 21st of February . At Robertson Park.

Excursion to Pioneer house commences every second Thursday.

Monday the 9th of February– Parent committee meeting.

Welcome to 2009

Special points of interest:

- **Welcome to all the families for 2009.**
- **Graduating room procedures.**
- **Choosing the right child restraint for your child.**



Pelican Room Staff:

Jeni, Kate (both working full time) and Jacquie working (Monday, Tuesday and Friday).

Jeni is Diploma trained. Kate is currently studying for her Diploma and Jacquie has her certificate III.



Starfish Room Staff:

Natise, Hannah and Leah.

All working full time.

Leah is completing a traineeship. Natise studying for her Diploma and Hannah her Certificate III



Octopus Room staff:

Sally, Michelle, Emma and Elyse.

All working full time.

Sally is studying her certificate III, Michelle has just completed her Bachelor of Education, Emma is currently studying for her Bachelor and Elyse is the newest member of our team

Welcome to all the families for 2009.

Here are some tips for making the transition into the centre smoother for your child. The first day of child care is a major milestone and these tips will help ease first-day anxieties.

Be positive - Parents/carers play an important role in shaping your child's attitude toward child care. A balance of enthusiasm and matter-of-fact acceptance is a good approach. Honestly discuss with your child about the friends they will meet and the activities they will be able to participate in.

Reassure your child - Many children feel a little uncertain about starting preschool. Answer your child's questions honestly. Make sure your child knows you will be there to pick them up at the end of the session and ensure they know what to do if they feel worried about anything during the day. Help them to readily identify their own belongings and to be independent with personal hygiene skills such as toileting. If you are confident when discussing child care with your child, they will feel reassured that everything is all right.

Separation Anxiety - Separating from family and saying goodbye can be difficult for some children. If your child cries or is upset when you leave them, remember, this is a normal response. You are welcome to call Imaginations to see how they have settled. Although you might feel anxious yourself, do not leave without saying good-bye.

Communicate:- Maintain open communication between your child's carers; families are welcome to visit or ring the service at any time. Look at the day book as a conversation starter for your child, such as "I saw you didtoday". Inform your child's carer of any special events that may be happening at home such as grandparents visit, a new puppy for example, so the carers can connect with your child on a personal level.

Change of Policy: Please Read and e-mail back any Comments or Feedback

GRADUATING ROOMS PROCEDURE

Imaginations Early Learning Centre

operates as a 63 place Long Day Care Centre. Within the structure of the centre, the children are separated into three age groups. At times the groups operate as one known as 'Family Grouping', but on the whole are three interdependent groups, as follows;

Pelican Room
16 children
Starfish Room
16 children
Octopus Room
30 children

The age at which a child graduates to the next age group is dependent on the child's needs and the availability of a childcare space in the next age group.

When a place becomes available the following procedure is followed to allow a smooth transition to the next age group:

* Priority to fill a space is given to a child graduating rooms;

*The Director consults with the room teachers to determine which child is age ready to move to the next group.

*The Director informs the parents of the intention to move the child.

A parent can ask for the child to remain in the present group. It is the staff's responsibility to inform the parents about their child's readiness and the procedure to graduate rooms, to put the parents at ease;

*The parents receive a 'Changing Rooms' letter, and notification of any relevant fee changes.

*Staff receive notification of the child moving rooms and his/her session times;

*The child is given at least two weeks transition period to graduate and then is listed formally in the next age group;

*A child begins by visiting for short periods, building up to more days once settled, lengthy times, to become familiar with their new routine;

*The parents are kept informed as to how the child is coping with changing rooms and given strategies to make the transition easier;

*The child is given great flexibility to visit other age groups.

*The general flexible nature of our environment means that all children become familiar with all staff and can move between rooms to allow smooth transitions between age groups.



This Months Quote

The great successful men of the world have used their imagination...they think ahead and create their mental picture in all it's details, filling in here, adding a little there, altering this a bit and that a bit, but steadily building--steadily building." -- Robert J. Collier

Parent Committee meeting will be held the second Monday of every month to organise social events, help review policies, and general input into the every day running of the centre. If you would like to be part of the parent committee we would love your input. Please let Meredith know if you would like to attend the meetings,

Choosing the right child restraint for your child:

The law requires that all children must be restrained when travelling in a car. Choosing correctly fitting and always using a restraint significantly reduces their risk of injury in a crash. Always choose a restraint with the Australian Standards mark.

Forward Facing Child Seats are for children weighing 9kg to 18kg (from ages 6 to 9 months to approximately 5 years). A child seat facing



Forward and has a six-point harness. It is held in place with a vehicle's existing lap/ sash seat belt and the tether strap from the restraint.

A child seat should be used until the child no longer fits. This is when the child's shoulders are too broad to fit the seat or when the child's eyes

are above the top of the restraint.

Make sure the harness fitting a child in a restraint is done up snugly, and the child keeps both arms in the harness.

Always seek the advice of the RTA Authorised Restraint Fitter and refer to the restraint manufacturers instructions.

For more information please contact Kidsafe NSW on 02 9845 0890 or www.kidsafensw.org or the RTA Enquiry line on 13 22 13