

Newsletter Uniting Shirley Road Preschool

Welcome to Term 1, 2016

Welcome to the new Preschool year. It has already been a wonderful start to the year for both groups. Before the term started our educators got together for 2 days to start planning and preparing for the new year. All educators are constantly reflecting and evaluating their practices. We aim to create a learning environment that enables children to learn and grow throughout the year. We are lucky to have educators that are very dedicated and enthusiastic towards their profession.

We welcome all our new families and we hope that your association with the Preschool is a happy one for your family and child. We also welcome all our continuing families.

“please bring in your child’s ‘About me’ sheet”

A big thank-you to Chris Udy (Church minister) and church members who provided a yummy welcome BBQ for both groups. It was lovely to see lots of families attend. It was a wonderful way to start the term. We are lucky to have a wonderful connection with the Church.

We hope that our educators and parents can work together to ensure that children feel happy, safe and excited about coming to Preschool. We aim to provide the best learning experiences for your child to ensure that they have fun while learning and growing. It is also important that you please bring in your child’s ‘About me’ sheet that was given out to all families this week as this will help us with our planning. Also could you please bring in a framed photo of your family if you have not done so.

Tenley Betts
Director

Allergies

We have a number of children that have allergic reactions to various food products. This means that you cannot send the following products to preschool for your child to eat (for morning tea or lunch). These include all nuts, peanut butter sandwiches, peanut butter dips, nutella sandwiches, satay sauce, pesto pasta, sesame seeds. Processed /packaged food that are labelled 'may contain traces of nuts' are allowed at Preschool.



Arrival at Preschool

- Sign in your child in the SIGN IN/OUT Attendance Book located on the shelf next to the children's fridge (Regulatory requirement).
- A staff member must be informed if someone else will be collecting your child and written in the attendance book.
- Make sure that a spare set of labelled clothes are in their bag in case of 'accidents' or water play.
- Please put sunscreen on your child when you arrive and tick the box in the sign in sheet column, otherwise your child will have to put on sunscreen and wait 20 mins before they are allowed outside. The sunscreen is located at the entrance to the Preschool. Also on hot days please dress your child in suitable sun protection clothing e.g. clothing with collars, covered necklines and shoulders.
- Please encourage your child to wash their hands on arrival.

MEDICATION

- Any medication is to be written up using the appropriate form available from a staff member. The medication is to be given to a staff member. If your child has a puffer then they need to complete an Asthma Plan.
- Remember to collect medication at the end of the day. Epipens and Asthma medication can be left at Preschool. Staff will inform you when the medication expires.
- If your child has an ongoing medication requirement then please see the Director to discuss a Management Plan. This is to be updated every term or when necessary.



Lunch, Morning Tea and Afternoon Tea

At Shirley Road Preschool we are educating children to eat healthy and also look after our environment. We encourage all children to reduce the packing of food in their morning/lunch boxes by using reusable containers and less plastic. All lunches to be placed in the body of the fridge. If morning tea needs to be put in the fridge then please place in the door of the fridge. Only adults are allowed to open the fridge door. We encourage you not to put lollies or chocolate in the lunch boxes. Could you please bring a standard size water bottle **(Water Only)** with your child's name on it. Some healthy lunchbox ideas are attached.



Could you please ensure that **NO TOYS** are brought to Preschool. We have plenty of resources and toys available. Unfortunately if your child brings in toys they are likely to be damaged, lost or cause a disagreement that may upset your child.

New Preschool hours

The Preschool is open from 8.15am to 3.45pm. You may bring your child in anytime between those hours. They will not miss out on any planned activities. You must arrive by 3.40pm. This gives you time to read the daily reflection, pack up your child's bag and look at photos. If your child is not signed out by 3.45pm a Late Pick Up Fee will be charged to your account. Staff have other commitments after work and need to leave on time.

Other reminders

- Remember to clearly label your child's name on everything; this includes lunch boxes, morning tea, water bottle, clothes, shoes, socks, bedding, carry bag and library bag.
- Please let the Preschool know if there has been a change in address, phone numbers at home and work. This is necessary to ensure we can contact you at any time.
- Please check your family communication file every day as some important information may only be distributed in hard copy to you.

Immunisation

If your child has had their 4 year old immunisation could you please ensure that we have a copy of their updated immunisation record as per NSW government requirements:

Immunisation Record. Under the *NSW Public Health Act 2010*, an immunisation record must be provided in order to enrol your child as follows, either:

- An *Immunisation History Statement from Medicare showing your child's immunisations are up to date, or;
- An Immunisation History Form where an immunisation provider/GP has certified that your child is catching up their immunisations, or has transcribed the child's immunisation history from another country, or;
- A Medical Contraindication Form if your child is unable to be immunised with any vaccines due to medical reasons, or;
- A Conscientious Objection Form if your child is unable to be immunised due to religious or philosophical reasons.

Other immunisation records, such as the Blue Book, a GP Letter or an overseas immunisation record are not acceptable.

*Immunisation History Statements are sent to each parent/guardian after their child turns 18 months and 4 years of age. You can obtain one at any time by contacting Medicare:

- By telephone on 1800 653 809
- By email on acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au
- Online at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online
- In person at your local Medicare office, Centrelink office or Child Support Service Centre

Craft Material needed please!

Please donate any unwanted small boxes, magazines, envelopes and cylinders for the children to use in creative experiences. Also any natural materials you have at home would be welcome.



Portfolios

Portfolios are a different way of looking at your child's development. Over the next few weeks we will begin to set up each child's portfolio, which will be available for you to view at any time and will contain lots of examples of your child working and learning at preschool.

Program

We will aim to send you a weekly update via email on what the children have been learning. We encourage you to comment and provide feedback about our program.

3-Day Group Happenings

Welcome to another year. It is hard to believe we are already at the end of week 3. All the children have settled well into this group.

The children have been learning about working with each other. The children are also learning about responsibility. We have started our helper chart this week. Each week we choose two children to be responsible for a variety of jobs which include; helping put out lunches, ringing the tambourine when asked, turning the light off in the bathroom when nobody is in there, emptying the worm bin, watering the garden. The children are helping to add to the list of jobs.



Next week we will start our News time. You would have received your books and note about News time. We have also started library on Wednesday. Could you please bring in a library bag and the children will have the opportunity to change them during the day. The cost is \$2 per term.

We would also love to see more parents volunteer sign their name on the volunteer sheet which is found next to the sign in sheets.

This term we are focusing on learning about each child's family and culture. As projects and investigation arise we let you know.

After lunch the children have a quiet period. They are still quite young and often need at least 20mins to recharge their bodies. During this time children have the opportunity to lie down on pillows, listen to relaxing music, read books or have a sleep. If you would like your child to have a sleep then please let a staff member know. Also we ask that if your child does not have a bed bag then could you please bring in pillow.

This year we are starting a 'Bottle top' recycling project. We ask that you please bring in any washed coloured plastic bottle tops. We have a container near the sign in sheets. We need lots and lots of bottle top. We are also in need of things for our 'tinkering box'. If you have any old locks & keys, nuts & bolts, old clocks, pulleys etc then please place them in our tinkering box.

Tenley, Margo, Dora, Kanwal and Jessica



**STEPS Eye Test
Tuesday 8th March**

**A Swag Full of
Instruments
Wednesday 16th March**

**Harmony Day
Monday 21st March**

**Easter with Church
Wednesday 23rd March**

**Police Visit
Wednesday 30th March**

**Working Bee
Saturday 2nd April**

**End Term 1
Wednesday 6th April**

**Start Term 2
Tuesday 26th April**

2-Day Group Happenings

Welcome back to the New Year with lots of new and positive things to look forward to!

The staff in the 2 Day Group room have been transitioning new children and families into their new room as well as welcoming returning children and families. We have been getting to know everyone through conversations, discussions and working/playing with the children throughout the day. The children have coped very well with this transition of learning preschool routines, developing independence skills and learning to relate to other children and adults. Interests are starting to emerge with the different groups of children and we have been building on these throughout the program. Some of these interests have been outdoor play times, insects, building ramps with blocks, celebrations, puzzles, cooking experiences, painting and playdough. We look forward to further extending their interests and skills as the term moves along.

Morning/Afternoon Tea & Lunches

There is a system to where we place our snacks and lunches. We are placing our morning & afternoon tea containers in the fridge (if needed) on the side door. If it is only fruit please place this with your child's name on it into the basket. Lunches and packs can go on the shelves in the fridge. Just a reminder to label all your child's containers and drink bottles, thank you kindly.

Progressive Afternoon Tea

As this is the first time we have needed to arrange afternoon tea we have tried out a different strategy and now it has been changed to a progressive afternoon tea, meaning that one table is used for those children who want to sit down and eat whilst if they wish to play they can do so and come as they are ready to eat their snack.

Library Volunteers

We are looking for a library volunteer from one of our parents to run our library borrowing session this term. The role would require an hour of your time on Friday mornings and you would just need to write down the book being borrowed and tick off the books being returned. This is also a fundraising activity for the preschool so a donation of \$2 per term will need to be collected.



STEPS Eye Test
Tuesday 8th March

St Patrick's Day
Thursday 17th March

Harmony Day
Friday 18th March

Easter with Church
Wednesday 23rd March

Easter Hat Parade
Thursday 24th March

Incursion TBC
Friday 1st April

Working Bee
Saturday 2nd April

End Term 1
Friday 8th April

Start Term 2
Thursday 28th April

2-Day Group Happenings

Our Daily Routine

8:15-9:00am	Indoor Play
9:00-10:00am	Indoor and Outdoor Play/Group times
10:00am	Morning Tea
11:00am	Indoor Play/Group times
12:30pm	Lunch
1:20-1:35pm	Rest/Quiet Activities
1:35pm	Yoga
2:00-3:45pm	Afternoon activities/ indoor play
3:00pm	Progressive Afternoon Tea

Abby's farewell

We will be saying our farewells to our lovely teacher Abby this Friday. The 2 Day Group will be having a party day for the children to spend their time with Abby on her last day and of course we will make her last day something special to remember. If you would like to wish Abby all the best at drop off time please do stop to chat with her or if you are free to join us at morning tea time you can drop in then.



Denise, Abby, Grace and Kanwal