



3-5 Room Newsletter

Term 1, 2018

3-5 Room email: 35room@geelongchildrenscentre.com.au

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year, this will be sent out termly. Families will receive the newsletter via email and also on the Educa site. Daily journal pieces about the learning which is taking place are uploaded to Educa and at the end of each month a reflective piece will also be written.

With a little bit of a staggered start to the year with the newly refurbished 3-5 Room taking a little longer than expected, I thank parents for their patients through this construction period and thank the educators for their flexibility and commitment.

We quickly reaped the rewards from all of the orientation we offered to the toddlers in 2017 who were moving to the 3-5 Room in 2018. The commitment of the primary carers in the 3-5 Room to their children and their families meant for a smooth transition with only a few tears and hesitant moments being had.

Families have embraced our room and it has been wonderful to read via educator and talk to families about how they feel about the room so far. Feedback has been positive with families commenting that they feel welcome when coming in and appreciate the learning which is taking place. Many families had noticed their child has become more independent and emotionally capable since moving or joining the 3-5 room and this is very much what educators strive to hear at the beginning of every year. Providing a nurturing, inviting and supportive environment for children and their families ensures confidence from families is maintained moving forward throughout the year.

January saw Educators and children develop bonds and connections with each other. Trusted relationships were formed and thus engagement and learning began. January can be at times a minefield for educators. Navigating children's emotions, expectations and enquires can be tricky in a new environment. It's with great pride that I can say that all the educators in the 3-5 room did an excellent job of supporting and guiding children and their families through the early stages of this year. Once settled into the room children began to notice one another and friendship groups were founded. Children also recognised times of transition and routine and were able to assist peers throughout these times, teamwork and shared awareness were communicated. We celebrated Australia Day and its diversity and engaged children in social awareness of what it means to be Australian, proud and respectful.

February was all about teamwork and negotiation. Children were now comfortable with one another and sort out each other for companionship and communication. While recognising that that they can belong to more than one friendship group was often a topic of clarification, “yes you can have 2 best friends who may be different to yesterdays’ bestfriends”, most children were able to grasp this concept and include others in their play. Pako Festa took place in February and this presented the prefect opportunity to begin to expose children to cultural diversity and respect for differences. Simple visuals such as children from different nationalities engaging in play scenarios which are all the same (eg soccer) allow children to see the similarities rather than the differences. We talked about different cultures within our room and the flags that represent each county. These become part of our everyday conversations and resources.

Thankyou to Bec, Olive’s mum for providing a great community participation event in March. Bec who is a founding member of the “Walk for Jonno” campaign helped the centre become aware and host a fund raising event for the campaign. Geared towards the awareness of Heart Disease, all rooms across the centre participated in a walk around the Thomson oval. This was thoroughly enjoyable and children were able to meet the “happy Heart mascot”. Talking to children about healthy life choices was emphasised leading up to the event and continues to be a part of our daily practise. We also saw the installation of the solar panels at the centre which created lots of interest from the children. Many of the children knew exactly what the workmen were doing and recognised the panels which they also had on their own homes. Children shared the knowledge about the role the panels play and it was a valuable topic of discussion amongst peers and educators.

We have begun our visits to the local facilities such as Thomson Oval and the Fruit Shack. These venues are valuable places within our community and their easy access means lots of learning opportunities for children can take place outside of the centre. If any families would like to come along on our excursions please ask the educators in the room when our next planned visit is.

Visual Diary

Our visual diary is a story snap shot of the valuable and meaningful learning which has taken place throughout the day. Providing families with information about our emergent curriculum assists in providing opportunities for feedback and an understanding of what we are teaching children and how we are supporting their development. The visual diary is available for children to also browse through and look back at previous days experiences. Children identify themselves and others in the stories and recollect previous learning and valuable experiences they have had. As we are no longer providing portfolios for children families are encouraged to read the visual dairy which is also uploaded to Educa on a daily basis.

What's next?

In term 2 we will be looking to deepen our children's understanding about the world in which they live and who makes up our community. This will be facilitated through a visit to the Eastern Hub, formally known as Karingal. We anticipate visiting the hub in term 2, this will be a great opportunity for children to learn and engage with people with disabilities and to be supported in their understandings about diversity within our community. We will also be holding our annual Winter Solstice evening, more details will follow closer to the June date.

As always families are encouraged to participate in activities within the room at their convenience. If you have a free afternoon or morning and would like to come and join in for group time, craft time or just host a game of hide and seek it would be greatly appreciated.

What's in the bag?

Our sunsmart policy ends at the end of April, children will no longer require sunscreen to be applied unless the UV level is above 3. This will be monitored by educators and sunscreen applied if necessary. This also means children will be permitted to wear beanies. Can families please begin to prepare their child's bag with warmer clothing and a beanie. Children can still wear their summer hat until deemed too cold by educators, beanies will then be required for outdoor play.

As the cooler weather approaches families are asked to check your child's bag, a warm coat and beanie are required for children to be permitted to play outside in the cooler months. Gumboots are optional for children, we have facilities to keep gumboots at daycare so they don't have to be dragged full of mud backwards and forwards in your car if you would like to bring a named pair in for your child.

We request all items of clothing including gumboots (on the inside usually works) be named please.

Feedback?

We are always striving to achieve an enriching, meaningful and diverse curriculum for all children in the 3-5 Room. If families have feedback or suggestions about how we can improve our program within the room and the service it would be greatly appreciated. We will be sending out a questionnaire mid-year for feedback please. Families are requested to complete the questionnaire so we can continue to maintain and improve our service for you.

Staffing within the 3-5 room 2018

Ali- Room Co-ordinator Leanne-Room Leader Brooklyn – Programmer

Ulrica -Planning cover (Thursday) Mel- Qualified Educator Bradley- Qualified Educator

Liseth – Qualified Educator Abi - Qualified Educator Amanda - Qualified Educator

Deanna - Early Years Educator

Thankyou

Ali and 3-5 room Educators.

TODAY YOU
ARE YOU.
THAT IS
TRUER
THAN TRUE.
THERE IS
NO ONE ALIVE
WHO IS YOUER
THAN YOU!
DR. SEUSS