



Montessori Children's Centre Pty. Ltd.

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Term 1 2010 newsletter 1. 1/2/2010

Important dates.

Item	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Dates	27/1/10- 1/4/10	19/4/10- 2/7/10 Excursion Grug Pre-school 21/4/10	19/7/10 - 24/9/10	11/10/10- 10/12/10
Public holidays Centre closed No programs	8/3/10 Adelaide Cup	2/4/10 Good Friday 5/4/10 Easter Monday 26/4/10 Anzac day 14/6/10 Volunteers day		4/10/10 Labour Day
Holiday programs	6/4/10- 16/4/10	12/7/10- 16/7/10	27/9/10 -1/10/10	13/12/10 -17/12/10
Centre closed No programs		5/7/10- 9/7/10		20/12/10- 10/1/11

Parent education programs.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
An introduction to Montessori 4/3/10 7.30-9.00 pm	Early literacy To be advised	Early mathematics To be advised	Behaviour management To be advised

Welcome.

New families. We welcome all of the new families who have joined us this year. We look forward to a long and happy association with you all.

New staff. Office. This term we welcome a much needed office administrator Sharon Middleton. Sharon's responsibilities include all issues to do with accounts and parents should contact her with any questions regarding their accounts. Please ensure that any payments are labelled and deposited in the fees box which is cleared daily.

Office hours are:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00am- 1pm Sharon	9:00-4:00pm Ainsley	9:00am-1pm Sharon		9:00-2pm Sharon

Pre-school and transition staff members. Please welcome Lea Vawser and Theresa Shaw-McMillan to the centre staff. They will be working in the pre-school as assistants. Lea and Theresa are both currently completing their university studies.

Staff changes. Noonie has replaced Lauren in the transition program but will continue her role in the pre-school as well and Bianca will continue as pre-school assistant.

Montessori method of education training opportunities.

All staff members are required to undertake Montessori studies during their time at the Centre. Please see Bernie if you are interested in joining any of these workshop sessions which lead to a national qualification.

Contacting us. We want your skills!!

Parents who wish to contact a staff member or offer their services as volunteers in any aspects of our program can do so by leaving a message in our communication book or in our parent skills and talents book which are both kept next to the sign in sheet. We would love to hear from you!

Community and local information.

Parents are reminded to check our community noticeboard for local events of interest. It is located outside the transition room. If you wish to place items of interest on this board please give them to Sharon for centre approval first.

We also have a wide variety of information pamphlets you can read or ask staff to copy. Check out this community info board outside the transition room in the foyer.

MCC marketplace.

Parents are welcome to place home grown produce like eggs and vegetables in the foyer. Please clearly label all goods with prices and provide a jar/container for monies. See Sharon for details of how to do this!

Important forms.

The change of booking form located in the foyer is available for parents to update their details - phone number/address, as well as to book holidays, extra care, or change a child's booking. This form must be processed by the office **2 WEEKS PRIOR to ANY CHANGE** to enable any adjustments to parent's accounts to be made. Without this 2 week notification, families will be charged for their regular bookings.

Label. Label, label!

Label everything please! The lost property was overflowing at the end of last year. If you want Centre staff to be able to return hats, lunchboxes and drink bottles which have been misplaced they **MUST** be named. If you would like to order labels (stick and iron on) please see Sharon for information.

Food safety concerns.

Centre staff members are concerned by the number of nut products still finding their way into children's lunch and snack boxes. All muesli bars and some pre-packaged biscuits all contain traces of nuts and are a health hazard for children with allergies. Please respect the Centre Nutrition Policy and DO NOT send nut products. For a complete guide to our Nutrition policy please refer to your parent handbook. We discourage any pre-packaged items, including yoghurt and cheese and biscuits. We are a WATER ONLY Centre. Thank you for your support in helping our children develop healthy eating habits for life.

Leftovers and health issues.

We have also noticed an increase in the number of children requiring a heated lunch. While the Centre is happy to reheat leftovers, some foods are very difficult to reheat safely. Left over barbeque meat, chicken, rice and any cream based pasta or risotto all pose the risk of carrying bacteria. These foods must be treated with extra care and the Centre is not equipped to store, reheat and dispose of such foods safely. Simple soups, pasta and leftovers with less than 3 ingredients are far safer to reheat and serve for children. For additional information on food safety please go to:

www.health.sa.gov.au and follow the links to Start right eat right program.

Other good sites are: www.chdf.org.au www.allergy.org.au www.kidshealth.org.au

Program news.

Over the course of Term 1 the **preschool children** will explore 'Our Local Area'. We will be looking at native plants/food and local geographic landmarks and exploring measurement through mapping and gardening. We will also focus on the practical life aspect of the Montessori philosophy; care of the self, others and the environment. Transition programs will be looking at shapes this term.

Transition and playgroup programs will now begin and finish from the double doors leading to the garden. To minimize disruption to the preschool program, and to ensure child safety (locking and unlocking the foyer door) we ask that transition parents please drop off and pick up from the large double doors. The sign in sheets will be located in the transition room on top of the children's drawers. Please ensure you initial next to your child's name at drop off and pick up. This is a licensing requirement. If you have any details you would like staff to know i.e: Grandma is picking up, please write it in the notes column next to your child's name.

Policy review.

As part of our ongoing policy review January and February we are reviewing philosophy and Sunsmart policies. Your comments are valued. Please take time to read these policies and make comments that you think are appropriate. Deadline for comments is 25/2/10. Staff members are also reviewing these policies and will inform parents if and when any changes are made as a result of this review.

OHWS

Please alert staff if you see any items which need attention, particularly gates as this helps us to maintain children's safety at all times. Both car park gates have been repaired recently and we appreciate your vigilance in this area too.

Car Parking.

It is still the height of the bowling season and all car parks behind the Centre are required by the bowling club. Please respect their season and park on the road. If you have a sleeping baby in the car, call the Centre and a staff member will be happy to walk your child to the car.

Sign-in Sheets.

It is a licensing requirement that ALL children are signed in and out on the Centre sign in sheets. The preschool sign in sheet is located in the foyer, please ensure you initial next to your child's name when you drop off and again at pick-up. Transition sheets are located in the transition room on children's drawers. Add any extra information in the notes column on the sheet next to your child's name.

Thank you for reading this important information and we look forward to the coming term.



The role of the adult is to make sure that the child has the ability to master all the components of the task. Show him how to do it, then stand back and let him do it himself.

Rhys and Bernie working with the colour tablets