



Woodcroft Little Learners

Newsletter

2018

Welcome back to our families, we hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a nice New Year. Thank you kindly to you all for the presents that we received, your generosity is very much appreciated

We would like to welcome our new families to the centre, our new Silkies, and Alfie our Lizard. We said goodbye and good luck to all the children that have left us to go to School and kindy.

Our 0-3 Environment

The 0-3 environment is working very well with the children being able to try different activities, learn early life skills, focusing on independence skills and caring for others in a prepared environment. The younger children in the room are feeling very settled in there area that is partitioned off. They are able to see what is going on in the room and watching the older children.

"Play is the work of the child" Maria Montessori Independence:

The older children are learning to dress and undress themselves and are showing interest in toileting, please provide clothing that the children can take on and off themselves, avoid press stud body suits, dresses and puffy clothing as these forms of clothing hinder the child from becoming independent on the toilet.

As most of the children in the 0-3 environment are becoming interested in toileting we ask for you to pack enough change of clothes for at least 3-4 accidents that may occur during the day. The Children are doing very well and we would like to encourage this great development.

Shoes need to be comfortable and easy for children to put on

Photo Gallery



Sweeping up the sand



Saying hello to the silkies



Washing the dishes

Woodcroft Little Learners
Cnr Bains & Panalatinga Rds
Morphett Vale 5162
8325 0011

Email

[Woodcroft little learners
@hotmail.com](mailto:Woodcroft.little.learners@hotmail.com)

Website

www.woodcroftlittlelearners.com.au

We will be setting up a shoe dressing up box this week so if anyone has any shoes that become too small for your children such as gum boots, football boots etc **please can you donate them to us.**

In the Montessori environment the children are in a routine and have understanding of what needs to be done, in order for the children to stay relaxed and comfortable we ask you to please drop your children off and encourage them to go with an educator for a smooth transition from home to classroom, we are very happy to discuss your child's development at pick up time. Our Learning app is also a good way of communicating with you. If you are wondering how our child is then you can ring up later in the day to see how your child is getting on. If you feel that you would like more time to discuss how your child is getting on or what they have been doing at the centre, please let us know and we will arrange a time for you to have a discussion with your child's Focus Teacher.

Caring for the Environment:

We have 2 new Silkies which are yet to be named, if you have any suggestions please let us know. The children are being shown how to care for them on a daily basis by providing them with water, giving them food scraps and chicken food as well as watering the garden, raking the bark and sweeping the floor.

Food and Drink:

During lunch we are discussing about healthy foods we have in our lunch box please provide your children with healthy choices and don't forget a piece of fruit to share with their friends at morning tea. Please label your child's containers with your child's name and if you would like to inform us as to what you would like your child to eat for lunch/afternoon tea, please also write this information on the containers as well.

We are also showing the children how to pour their own water from a jug both inside and outside at regular intervals throughout the day, this has been a very good activity for turn taking, independence skills and wanting to drink more regularly.

Routine:

For all the new families that have joined us and are just becoming familiar with our routine, our routine is up on the wall in the hallway and in the room if you would like to have a look (a copy is attached)

Can we also ask families to leave the children's toys at home please to avoid them getting lost or broken.

Sleep and Rest

Our sleep room in what used to be the baby room is working very well with the children and educators, the children are more settled in the room and relaxed (please see our Sleep and Rest Policy that is attached to this Newsletter) just a reminder that all sleep times are documented on our daily information sheet and if you have any queries about your child sleeping procedure please do not hesitate to ask.

Training

Some educators are going to Montessori workshops and are bringing in changes to the room, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to discuss with any of our staff.

3-6 Environment:

We would like to welcome everyone to the first term of 2018. We have been busy in the 3-6 Environment welcoming transitional visits from 0-3 and sorting/planning our environment; we have added new, practical life trays outside and have rearranged the prepared environment for your children to explore independently. The outside practical life trays including pouring, threading, scrubbing and sanding have been very popular. We have been scaling our room back to basics regarding Montessori materials and the daily routine; this is to meet the children from their current abilities and interests to support their understanding and sense of order, confidence through small independent successes in their chosen work, and encourage their own love of learning and will too learn from their own agenda and not from adult influence in the room. We will plan and program from your child's current ability and interest to extend their learning and independence over the term.

"Free the child's potential and you will transform them into the world" Maria Montessori

We have also begun using our compost and adding topsoil to our vegetable patch and the children have planted various varieties of tomatoes, we also will be adding beans, peas and some edible blooms over the next few weeks.

The children have shown interest in our lizard "Alfie" and have been feeding and bathing him, they go regularly to see him to make sure he has enough water and food, they also enjoy having cuddles with him. We have been taking extra care of our chickens over the hotter weather, and the children have been changing the water daily and collecting the eggs earlier in the morning.

We have observed that children tend to engage and focus quickly in the mornings when our parents drop off and allow the children to put their lunch and fruit away, find their own name tag and put their belongings away independently. It would be beneficial for parents to say their good-byes to their children prior to entering the room and/or at the door from 8am (beginning of work cycle time). If parents require to pass on information please approach an educator for communication purposes about your child's needs, however if you require more information about your child or would like to discuss your child's learning please feel free to book an appointment with their Focus teacher. We encourage parental input so please feel free to arrange a suitable time and/or write your ideas/comments on the parent's input book on the lectern in the foyer next to the Ipad, don't forget you can also see what we have been doing on our learning app and on our Facebook page.

"The child's parents are not his makers but his guardians" Maria Montessori

Thank you for joining us in 2018 from The Preschool 3-6 Team and The 0-3 Team.

Dates for your diary 2018

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 13 th February	Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)
Wednesday 14 th February	Valentine's Day
Friday 16 th February	Chinese New Year Year of the Dog
Friday 16 th -18 th March	Montessori Conference Gold Coast
Monday 12 th March	Adelaide Cup CLOSED
Wednesday 21 st March	Harmony Day
Friday 30 th March	Good Friday CLOSED
Sunday 1 st April	Daylight Saving ends
Monday 2 nd April	Easter Monday CLOSED

As a part of the process to keep our families informed, continually updated and offer best practice in the centre we ask that you read this Policy and inform us of any feedback or suggestions that you may have.

Sleep and Rest Policy and Procedure

Policy Statement

All children have the right to rest/sleep at the centre throughout the day, they should be within sight and hearing distance so that educators can assess the child's breathing and colour of their skin to ensure safety and wellbeing. Rooms that are very dark and have music playing loudly, may not provide adequate supervision of sleeping children. The light may be turned off and music playing quietly.

Red Nose Recommendations state that babies must be laid on their backs to sleep at all times.

Red Nose recommendations state that Wrapping or swaddling a baby while they are sleeping must be discontinued when a baby starts showing signs that they can begin to roll (usually around four to six months of age, but sometimes earlier). The Child's safety should always be the first priority.

Procedures

- Children are provided with a bed or mattress, they are positioned in a quiet area with enough space for a person to sit in between each one. Children have the choice to sleep when needed.
- Children that don't sleep are offered quiet activities.
- Children are given blankets to sleep with; the blankets are washed each week on the child's last day of attendance.
- Children can sleep with comforters but are recommended not to.
- Children may be patted to sleep for a short time but we encourage the children to self settle.
- Sleep times are documented.
- Children are not left unattended in the rooms when sleeping
- The mattresses and beds are cleaned daily and put away in the working rooms and can be set out in the sleep room for the next day,
- To encourage independence the children are shown how to clean their bed when finished with and how to dress themselves.
- For the safety of the children the beds and mattresses must be put away when finished with in both rooms.

This policy was adopted on

12th August 2013

Date reviewed

22nd January 2018

Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour and Screen-time

'Sedentary behavior' is a term used to describe time spent doing physically inactive tasks that do not require a lot of energy. Watching television is a common childhood sedentary activity. Children who spend long periods of time inactive are more likely to have poorer physical, social and intellectual development. Planning and encouraging physical activity during the time children are awake is an important part of promoting a healthy lifestyle. Limiting long periods of time where children are inactive is just as important as making sure they do enough activity. Sedentary tasks can be grouped as either 'productive' or 'non-productive'. Productive sedentary behavior and quiet 'down time' are necessary for young children.

Non-productive sedentary behaviour:

- Watching television and DVDs for leisure.
- Playing screen games such as handheld, video or computer games.
- Being restrained for long periods of time, such as in a car seat, high chair, porta-cot or stroller.

Productive sedentary behaviour:

- Reading, listening to stories or looking at books.
- Quiet play, such as art and craft activities, drawing and puzzles.
- Sleeping.

Why no screen-time for children under two?

Babies should not be restrained or kept inactive (during awake time) for long periods, especially in front of the television.

Before babies can walk, they need plenty of time to practice movements such as reaching, kicking and feeling and especially tummy time. As babies become more mobile and start crawling and walking, they continue to need plenty of time to move freely and creatively, practice new movements, and play with others.

Screen-time is not recommended for babies and children less than two years of age, particularly in the early childhood setting, because it may:

- reduce the amount of time they have for active play, social contact with others and chances for language development
- affect the development of the full range of eye movement
- reduce the length of time they can stay focused.

Why limit screen-time for two- to five-year-olds?

Most children will be exposed to screen-time at home, and for many children this will be excessive. In a Montessori Early Childhood setting screen-time is not included in the program.

In children under the age of 5, long periods of screen-time have been associated with:

- less active, outdoor and creative play time
- an increased risk of being overweight
- unhealthy eating habits
- poorer social skills
- fewer opportunities to develop thinking skills
- slower development of language skills and short-term memory
- television-viewing habits that may continue throughout childhood.

Sometimes children are left inactive for longer than they ought to be, in places such as high chairs, strollers or car seats. Even during outdoor play time, some children may stay inactive.

Young children who have adults to interact with during play are more likely to be active. Be prepared to join in with play and help less active children be more active during play time. This can include encouraging children to:

- walk or pedal instead of always being in a stroller or car seat
- help with packing up toys, daily chores, cooking a meal or shopping
- play with simple items, such as baskets of containers, boxes with latches, pouring activities,
- make big movements and try new things
- play outdoors during daylight hours.

Thank you for your continuing support

Michelle and The Team



0-3 Environment Daily Routine

6.30am-Welcome/Breakfast/Work cycle

8.30am Indoor/outdoor Work cycle/cutting fruit

9.30am Doors close for Morning Tea, 1 Educator takes in a small group at one time, focusing on hygiene, eating, drinking, preparing and cleaning up after themselves. The activity is repeated till everyone has had a turn.

10am-Indoor/Outdoor work cycle

11.30am- Door closes then we begin Lunch, repeating the Morning Tea Activity.

12am-Sleep/Rest Time, we take the children over to the sleep room, 1 group at a time.

2pm- When the children start to wake up, we take them back into the room to play and start to prepare for Afternoon Tea

3pm-Afternoon Tea Routine (Repeating the Morning Tea Activity)

3.30pm-Inside/Outside Play.

6.30pm- Close

Please note that nappy changing and toileting are taken place throughout the day as well as drinking water.

For small children if milk is the only source of food, then we follow the child's routine.

3-6 Environment Daily Routine

6.30am-Welcome/Breakfast

8.00am-Work cycle

9.00am-Morning Tea Preparation/Safety checklist Outside/Work
Cycle continuation

9.30-Morning Tea (is available till we go outside to play)

10.30am-Open Doors Inside/Outside play

11.30- Circle Time/Preparation for Lunch

12am-Lunch Time

12.30pm- Books and Puzzles on the mat

1pm-Group Story/Sleep and Rest

1.30pm-Afternoon Activities/Group Games/Songs

3.00pm- Afternoon Tea/Inside/Outside Play

6.30- Close

Please note that children are very independent in using the toilet and helping themselves to water when they are thirsty.

They also help with the preparation of meal times and the cleaning up after themselves.