



grenfell preschool & long day care centre



newsletter

8th December 2008

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End of Year Celebration

It is hard to believe that it is the end of the year and we are thinking about Christmas and planning for 2009.

Our annual celebration party and Graduation Night will be held at the Grenfell Bowling Club on Tuesday 16th December. The sausage sizzle will start at 6pm followed by a concert and the graduation. Santa Clause will be there to see the children.

You are all invited to attend.

Bring the family, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends, and enjoy the celebrations. To help with catering, we are asking everyone to let us know who will be attending by writing your name on the list at the office. Bring your camera to capture the happy faces - especially the graduation and Santa.



Enrolments for 2009

If you have not returned your note regarding enrolment for 2009 we ask that you do so this week to allow us to set our staffing for 2009. All children need to re-enrol for 2009.

Confirmation of enrolments will be sent home.

Parent/Staff Interviews

If you have not been able to attend your parent/staff interview and wish to do so please see a staff member and we will try to fit you in before the end of the year.

Staffing for 2009

The committee will meet on Monday night to discuss with the director the staff changes for 2009. We have advertised for an Early Childhood Teacher and also for a Diploma Trained Child Care Worker.

Children's Services Regulation

The NSW State Government is reviewing the Children's Services Regulation. This regulation is what determines the minimum level of care that your child receives in childcare and preschool in NSW.

Finding out what families want and need from childcare and preschool is part of this review. An online survey has been developed by the NSW Government. Families are invited to complete it at www.community.nsw.gov.au.

Some of the questions you will be asked in the survey concern staff qualifications, staff to child ratios and group sizes. The research on these issues is clear:

Children get better quality care when childcare centres and preschools have: highly trained staff, better staff to child ratios and when children are grouped in smaller groups.

Highly trained staff

Community Child Care believes that all staff working in child care centres or preschools need at least entry level training (e.g. a Certificate in childcare from TAFE) and that all child care centres and preschools should employ at least one university trained teacher.

Staff to child ratios

It is simple really, the less children, especially babies that each staff member needs to care for, the more attention those babies receive. Child care services have fought a long battle to ensure that the ratios of staff to babies under 2 was dropped from 1 staff member to 5 babies to 1 staff member to 4.

The NSW Government announced last month that this change will be made in the new Regulation. The survey asks how the ratio should be implemented, whether it should only apply to certain hours or to the youngest babies.

It is of great importance that the Government simply replaces the current 1 to 5 ratio with the new 1 to 4 ratio.

The other issue the survey asks about is space. Currently services must supply 3.25 square metres inside space per baby - consider a square of 1.8m x 1.8m – this is the current minimum standard. Some services have suggested cutting this requirement so that more babies can be cared for by a centre to offset the cost of implementing the new ratio.

This would greatly impact on the social and physical development of children under two. These young children need ample space to learn how to crawl, walk and interact with their peers and educators.

The costs of these measures

Increasing the quality of childcare and preschool may cost parents more. More staff and more highly trained staff cost money. Community Child Care Co-operative is aware that for many people the cost of childcare and preschool is already prohibitive. But we also know that parents want the best possible care for their children. The evidence is overwhelming – children get better quality care and education at centres that employ more staff and at centres that employ more highly trained staff.

We, like you, believe children deserve the best quality care we can give them. Please give these issues some consideration and spend a small amount of time completing the survey.

Clinic Dates

Clinics are held at the Grenfell Community Health Centre on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Phone 02 6343 1811 for an appointment.

Next Clinic: 17/12/2008

2009 Dates

21/01/2009	15/04/2009	20/05/2009
18/02/2009	18/03/2009	17/06/2009



Important Health Notice

Whooping Cough

Whooping cough (pertussis) is spreading through NSW this year. People of all ages have been affected. Babies and young children are most at risk of severe illness. Here are some things you can do to stop the infection spreading.

What is Whooping Cough?

Whooping cough is an infection of the nose and throat that is spread easily from person-to-person by coughing. It starts like a cold with slight cough, fever and runny nose. The cough often develops into coughing spasms and may last for months. For some people, especially children, the coughing spasms end with a gasp (or “whoop”) or with vomiting. Babies get very distressed and may turn red or blue during coughing attacks. Some babies stop breathing.

Older children and adults working or visiting childcare can get whooping cough too and pass the infection on to babies and young children. Adults with whooping cough usually don't have a “whoop” after they cough and they may not realise that they could be putting babies at risk if they have whooping cough and visit childcare centres.

Immunisation helps to protect everyone.

The whooping cough vaccine should be given to babies at 2, 4 and 6 months. A booster shot should be given at 4 years of age. A booster is also available for older children and adults.

Double check that your child is fully up to date with immunisations against whooping cough. If you are unsure, check with their GP or with the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809.

Tell your childcare each time your child has another vaccine so they can update their records.

A whooping cough booster vaccine is a good idea for adults who have contact with babies. For example, the vaccine is recommended for new parents as soon as a baby is born and for couples planning a pregnancy.

Keep your child away from people who cough.

People with a new cough could have whooping cough and could pass the infection on. It's best to keep your child or baby well away from coughing people if possible.

See your GP if you, or your child, get a cough.

Your doctor can diagnose and arrange for testing and treatment if needed. Children and babies with symptoms of whooping cough should not come to childcare until your doctor has given the all clear.

If your child has whooping cough...

Children with whooping cough must not attend child care and affected adults are strongly advised to stay at home while there is a danger of passing on the infection to others.

Untreated, people with whooping cough can spread it to others for 3 weeks. Treatment with the right antibiotics from your GP can shorten the infectious period to 5 days. Your public health unit will be able to advise your childcare centre if someone is diagnosed.