



Whitford Family Centre Inc.

Children's Program Staff and Parents Meeting Minutes,

Wednesday 18th June 2018

Attendance:

Vicky Fort – Orange/Red

Michelle Ukich – Orange

Melissa Nicol – Purple

Phil Gooch – Blue

Emma Coad – Purple

Alex Bailey – Green/Blue

Laura Robertson – Blue/Green

Natalie Gasmier – Blue

Apologies – Jemma Hartley

REMINDERS:

The children need to wear their hats all year round, even in cooler weather. Beanies and caps are OK to wear. It helps to get the children into the habit of wearing a hat outside. Please take children's hats out of bag and place in locker.

Next term we will also be supporting Heathridge Spearwood Centre and their Pyjama Bag Drive. We are asking for

donations of children's pyjamas, books, soft toys which will be combined into gift bags for lower socio-economic groups in the local area. A hamper will be in the front office for any donations. An email will be sent with more details.

Jenny will be away on leave for the first 2 weeks of Term 3. She is heading to South Africa on holiday. Jemma will cover for Jenny during her absence.

Please be aware that we are a nut allergy aware centre. Please do not bring any food into the centre which may contain nuts. Please be careful with muesli bars as they often contain hidden nuts.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:

To link in with Jenny's holiday, the children next term will be learning about countries around the world. Where our families are from, where they were born, where they have been on holiday. We will also look at African animals.

We have just received an email from the Regulatory Body in charge of our centre informing us that they will be assessing our centre and Children's Program. This will involve a visit during the early part of Term 3.

As part of our Sustainability program at the centre we are asking for any donations of plant seedlings, in particular vegetables and herbs which we can then use in our cooking activities. Also, any indoor plants would be gratefully received. We are also in the process of adding more recycling bins to the centre, and teaching children about recycling.

In addition to this we are taking part in "Plastic Free July". We will be encouraging the children to bring minimal throw-away packaging to Kindy and instead use reusable containers.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING THIS TERM:

- The 4s program have had a visit from an ambulance and heard about what to do in an emergency.
- We learned about our bodies and body parts. We have painted our hands and feet, we have walked through sensory bins. We have been doing lots of sensory play again this term.
- We have looked at our faces using mirrors. This has led us to talking about our feelings and emotions. It's OK to feel sad. What can we do when we feel sad? What does my body feel like when I'm sad?
- We have drawn faces.
- We have looked at skeletons using "Bony Bob".
- We have looked at actions using our puppets Jack and Jill and William the Wooden Man.
- We have done lots of music and movement activities through action songs. We have even tried yoga.
- We have been working to develop the children's core strength, a good pre-writing skill. We have been doing lots of gross motor activities. We have also been asking the children to complete some table-top activities while standing up

rather than sitting on a chair. This enables them to use their full arm and build their core strength. To help with this at home you can ask your child to do things like a bear walk, wheelbarrows or play on monkey bars at the park(if you can find them!)

- We have been retelling stories (The Gingerbread Man). The children have been helping to "read" the story. Retelling familiar stories is a good pre-reading skill to develop.
- This term the children in the 4s program have been sent home with a Show and Tell bag for them to choose 4 things to show to their friends. This is good to help develop confidence and language as well as listening skills for the rest of the group. There is no pressure placed on the children to do Show and Tell. Mum or Dad can do it with them if the child is unsure. Next term a soft toy will be sent home instead.