

**Newsletter for Greystanes Uniting Church Childcare Centre**

**June/July 2023**

Welcome to the bimonthly newsletter. The Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea was a lot of fun, the children enjoyed showing their mums and grandma’s all the toys and crafts that they participated in. It was lovely to meet all the grandma’s and the educators had fun talking with all the families. Our Educators would like to thank all the families for their support, and we hope that you enjoyed your time at the Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea.

The Service would like to send out a BIG Thank you to Kate’s Crafty Bakes Catering for all the lovely food provided at the Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea.

 A group of people sitting in chairs under a blue tent

Description automatically generated with low confidence A group of people outside a store

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A group of people sitting at tables and chairs

Description automatically generated with low confidence A group of people standing at a table with food

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**Children’s Clothing:**

As the weather is cooling down the children will need to have clothes that keep them warm and wear shoes that are appropriate for running and climbing. It is also important that children have a Sun hat in their bags, that will give shade to their faces, neck and ears. Due to the change in weather please remember to bring a spare jumper in your child’s preschool bag.

If you are finding it hard to find a hat for your child, the service has some hats for you to buy they are $10 a hat and come in a variety of colours. Please see Wendy in the office if you would like to purchase a hat from our selection.

The service uses Cancer Council 50+ sunscreen. If your child has a problem with this brand of sunscreen, please let Joanne know.

**Incursions and Special Events:**

* On Friday 9th June 2023 there will be an incursion for an advanced STEM course for the children in the Bears room. This incursion will be in the morning at 9.30am. Please be sure that your child is here at 9am so that we can prepare for the incursion at 9.30am.
* There is a public holiday on the Monday 12th June. May we remind you that the service will be closed.
* In the month of July, the children will be researching and celebrating NAIDOC week. We will be looking at culture and sustainable practices.

**Evacuations and Lockdowns:**

In the month of June, the children will be practicing the Fire Evacuation and Lockdown Procedures. The educators and children will be practicing the quickest and safest way to exit the building without being hurt.Depending on the weather we will notify families prior to the event if the children are to be taken out of the preschool gate. This will be done through a Story Park post.

**Information from the Educational Leader** – Joanne/ Laura

As we head towards the middle of the year, educators in the Bears room will be conducting mid-year assessments for children in that room. The assessment period will be an easy document for the families to read and understand. If your child is in the Bears room, please feel free to ask questions about your child’s learning and how they are going. Families in the Bunnies and Butterflies rooms, if there are questions about your child’s learning, please feel free to ask questions of the educators in the room.

**Community Connections:**

The service would like to say **Thank You** to Officeworks Wetherill Park for their donations of Paint/craft supplies and Easter craft. It has been greatly appreciated by educators and the children at the service. We would also like to thank Rania Tabbaa for organising these donations for the service.

**News From the Children’s Rooms:**

As we are coming close to the middle of the year if you have any questions about your child’s learning and development, please don’t hesitate to speak to any of the Educators or an Educator in your child’s room.

**Bunnies:**

* In the Bunnies room the children have been looking at how the garden grows. The children have planted and watered the garden and are now waiting for the sprouting flowers and the vegetables to grow. The children also helped Lauren weed the garden and helped to take care of the land.
* The Bunnies are also learning about the senses and fine motor skills. This is enabling the children to experiment with all types of mediums that they can feel and play with.
* Aboriginal art and craft are another popular experience where the children are learning to make some fantastic patterns using paint and other art implements. In these experiences the children are learning about a different culture of our nation and building an understanding of taking care of the land and being respectful of all people.
* Please ensure that your child has enough nappies for each day they are attending, as well as bringing LABELLED bed sheets/ bottles/ spare clothes.

**Butterflies:**

In The Butterflies room the children have been researching colour mixing and how mixing colours together change the foundation of the colours. The children have been fascinated with colour and how colour changes depend on the other colours that they mix. This has been a big project that children are always asking questions about.

The Butterflies have also been learning about planting seeds and how they grow. The children have been taking care of the garden and have been weeding and watering the garden where necessary. This project has grown from a project on taking care of our bodies and being healthy, to learning about sustainability and how to be sustainable when we eat, (only take food we will eat), how to be sustainable when we use items from the land or recycled materials to do craft. The children are discovering that being sustainable will help our planet to survive and for the animals and plants to grow. The educators and children have been discussing about Reconciliation week and what that means to us at our service. The children have been busy using boxes, tubes, and recycled materials to make all kinds of craft for Reconciliation week.

In the Butterflies room the children have been exploring shapes that are 2D and 3D. They have been learning about how many sides are on a shape, and how many corners. The children have also been making crafts that have different shapes in them, this helps with recognition of shapes and how shapes can be used in all aspects of play and learning. The children have also been looking at the guidelines to being part of the Butterflies room and what we do to share, include others, and build social skills in the Butterflies room. The children have really taken hold of this and are happy to share their equipment and ideas with each other when playing or in group time.

**Bears:**

In the Bears room the children have been talking about changing the routine and the educators have sat down with the children and spoken about how they would like to make change to the routine. The children and educators have worked together to adjust the times we go out to play in the mornings and as having time in the sun is important for the children’s growth, the children and educators have also spoken about doing their yoga and having rest time outside. The children thought about how they would like to do their yoga time and what kind of equipment they need to do this. The educators have guided reflection and asked questions to help children think about appropriate change to the bears room routine. The children have also given some thoughts about indoor and outdoor play and have worked out with the educators the appropriate guidelines for the Bears room to have both indoor and outdoor times.

For Reconciliation Week the Bears children have been looking at the symbols that the Aboriginal people use when communicating with each other, this has enhanced the children’s learning of sign language as another way of children and people communicating together. The children have been practicing their sign language and using sign language to identify animals, sing songs, identify emotions and how to greet each other. In the Bears room the educators have introduced a scrap book where the children are able to share their experiences from the weekend or a special occasion in their community. When sharing the scrap book the children sit together in a circle and talk about their experiences, thereby children learning and sharing their ideas.

The Bear room are also collecting family photos and if you wish to send in a photo of your family, you are most welcome to do so. The Bears children will be talking about families and who lives in their house.

It is very important that children DO NOT bring toys from home. Bringing toys from home can cause conflict with others, and children will get upset if their toys get broken or lost. However, in the Bears room the children have been able to incorporate a sharing circle time. Children have been able to bring in photos of events they have attended over the weekend, their favourite toy, or their favourite book or soft toy. If your child has brought in a special item from home, please place this item in the sharing box in the morning and pick up from the sharing box in the afternoon on pick up.

If you have any questions about your child’s learning and development, please feel free to have a chat with Eliane, Jackie and Laura

Thank you for taking the time to Read the Newsletter. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the Office on 9636 3246 or speak to any of the Educators.