



Peninsula Occasional Care

Newsletter Term 1 2018

Welcome to Term 1

A big welcome back to our families and children returning after what we hope was a fantastic Christmas and relaxing New Year! Of course we extend a very warm welcome to our new families and know that you and your child will quickly settle into our Preschool routine.

Our Program

Our Program is based on the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia and is designed to provide environments and play experiences to enable the children to grow physically, emotionally, intellectually and socially. The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia is centred on a play based philosophy. Play is a context for learning that:

- Allows the expression of personality and uniqueness
- Enhances dispositions such as curiosity and creativity
- Enables children to make connections between prior experiences and new learning
- Assists children to develop relationships and concepts and stimulates a sense of well being

“Play provides opportunities for children to learn, as they discover, create, improvise and imagine. Children’s immersion in their play illustrates how play enables them to simply enjoy being” (EYLF, p.15).

This manner of programming is consistent with all Child Care Centres and Pre Schools on the Central Coast. Our Service offers the additional advantages of:-

A Small Group Setting allowing us more time to focus on your child individually,

Family Age Grouping allowing the children to spend their day with siblings and interact with children of different ages.

Flexibility of Attendance Hours our service allows families to utilise and pay for only the hours they require, rather than paying for the session (i.e. the total hours the centre operates) for example if a service is open 7.00 to 6.00 your fees will be based on a 11 hours per day even if your child only attends for 6 of those hours.

Appessment

We have finally begun to use our Appessment documentation program. We will be recording aspects of your child’s day through this program and emailing them to you in real time. We have sent invitations to all families via email to participate which will enable you to receive your child’s documentation, please ensure you accept this invitation.

Family Photo Display

We are continuing with our family photo display this year. This display enables us to support the children’s sense of belonging and to create a visual link with home. If you have not already done so please bring in a photo your family or email an image for us to print.

Cultural Celebrations

During February we will be celebrating Chinese New Year. This year is the Year of the Dog. We will be looking at the animals of the Chinese Zodiac and learning about traditional Chinese New Year Parades.

We will be celebrating culturally relevant special days and community days throughout the year. Please share your families' special celebrations with us so that they can be included in our program

14th February	Sweetheart Day	HeartKids Australia is launching Sweetheart Day on 14 February to raise awareness of childhood heart disease. They are involved in providing support, advocacy, growing awareness and enabling further research into children's heart disorders.
16 th February	Chinese New Year	Chinese New Year is an important Chinese festival celebrated at the start of the first calendar month. This year is the Year of the Dog
3rd March	World Wildlife Day	World Wildlife Day, to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora.
17 th March	St Patrick's Day	St Patrick's Day is an annual observance that is popular in Australia on <i>March 17</i> . This event serves as a tribute to Ireland and one of its patron saints, St Patrick. The legend of the leprechaun and its gold is one of the many Irish folktales shared on St Patrick's Day in Australia.
19th -23 rd	Harmony Week	Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity
30th	Easter Good Friday	Easter egg hunt , Thursday 29 th March Service closed Friday 30 th March and Monday 2 nd April
1 st Ap-7 th May	National Pet Week	<i>National Pet Week</i> ® is dedicated to celebrating the more than 200 million pets that enrich our lives each and every day. Bring in your pet to say hello. Caged Pets can spend the day
11th-22nd	Nature Play Week	Nature Play Week celebrates initiatives of all shapes and sizes that reconnect kids with nature and the outdoors.
22 nd April	Earth Day	Earth Day is a celebration of the environment we all share. It also acts as a day of conservation awareness.

Family Participation

If you have particular skill, hobby, interesting occupation or special talent you would like to bring to the Centre, we would love to make time for you to share it with the children. This could include anything from singing or playing an instrument, sharing your occupation, to doing creative arts or bathing a baby. Please speak to us and we will be happy to organise a time.

Thank you to Jack's mum Alicia who assisted us with the production of the beautiful Christmas stars the children made at the end of last year.

Thank you to Finn's family for the donation of a fantastic pirate water tray and to Harvey and Adriana and Noah's Family for the donation of craft materials. We have used these materials as inspiration for our collaborative alphabet collage now displayed in our playroom.

Don't let bad days,
insecurities, or
tantrum-throwing
babies
make you believe,
EVEN FOR A MINUTE
that you are
anything less than an
EXTRAORDINARY MAMA!

-Paula Rollo
BeautyThroughImperfection.com



Reminders

Fees All fees must be paid on the day of attendance or paid in advance. It would be appreciated if fees were paid on arrival, as afternoons can be very busy. Our Centre has EFTPOS for your convenience of fees can be paid directly into our bank account.. Please remember that **24 hours notice** of absence must be given or full fees for that booking will be charged. Invoices will be sent weekly for families with fees in arrears.

Sign In and Out of Service All children must be signed in on our attendance roll, at entry to the Centre, every time they arrive and must be signed out of the Centre as they leave each day. This is a Department of Education & Community requirement as well as being necessary in the event of an Evacuation or Lockdown

Immunisation Records Please bring in any Immunisation record updates as soon as you receive them so we can copy and place this on your child's file. According to the National Immunisation Program Schedule, children need to receive immunisations at Birth, 2 Months, 4 Months, 6 Months, 12 Months, 18 Months, & 4 Years. We are mandated by the NSW Public Health Act to ensure are records are up to date, substantial fines are applied to Centre's who fail to keep up to date documentation.

Hats We have set up a hat rack in the children's bathroom and have provided the children with their own hat which will remain at the Centre.

Sun Protection Children must also have tops with sleeves that cover their shoulders and tummies.

Sunscreen is available at sign in table for parents to apply to their children. Please stamp your child's hand when sunscreen has been applied.

Footwear Please send your child in safe appropriate footwear, no thongs or heeled shoes, joggers or sandals with backs are the safest foot wear. We encourage children to play in bare feet.

Spare clothes Please remember to have spare clothes in your children's bags each day, even the older children need a change as they can get wet clothes during play.

Drink Bottles We have purchased two small esky boxes so that we can store the children's drink bottles so that the children can easily access their water throughout the day. Please ensure your child's name is clearly visible at the top of the bottle

Bag Labels We have tied a name label to all the children's bags. We have located the labels on the same part of each bag enabling us to quickly locate individual bags as required. Please transfer this label when changing your child's school bag.

Labelling Items To avoid confusion and mix-ups, please ensure drink bottles, baby bottles and lunchboxes are labelled clearly with your child's name.

Staffing

Our staffing is as follows:

	8.30-4.30	8.30-4.30	9.00-3.00	All our educators are available for you to share information about your child or to discuss any concerns regarding your child Lynne Alison and Jo are all able to assist with fees, bookings and other administrative tasks
Monday	Lynne	Alison	Joann	
Tuesday	Alison	Joann	Michelle	
Wednesday	Lynne	Joann	Alison	
Thursday	Lynne	Joann	Michelle	
Friday	Lynne	Annette	Zoe	

TAKE OFF THOSE SHOES!

Going Barefoot Helps Our Children:



Strengthen their feet and lower legs.

Enhance proprioception and overall body awareness.

Increase agility and mobility.

Improve body confidence and trust.

Connect and tune into their environment.

Experience joy and freedom!



Loose Parts Play

The theory of “loose parts” first proposed by architect Simon Nicholson in the 1970's. He believed that it is the 'loose parts' in our environment empower our creativity.

In play, loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials. Loose parts can be natural or synthetic. Loose parts help children inspire imagination and creativity on their own terms and in their own unique way.

Children love it because it is entirely up to them how they use the 'tiny treasures'. There is no right or wrong way to play with loose parts, so they are free to explore, experiment and play however they like.

Loose Parts Support our Curriculum

Math

Children acquire their first math skills and numerical concepts when they manipulate small loose parts by sorting and classifying, and combining and separating them. They learn one-to-one correspondence when they make connections among loose parts. Once they begin integrating loose parts into their games, you commonly hear them start to count and see them arranging the parts in specific sequences, patterns, and categories by color, type, number, and class. The concept of measurement becomes clear when children play with tools like cups, sticks, funnels, and sifters. Measurement, equivalency, balance, spatial awareness, conservation, and logical classification are precursors to higher mathematical skills that loose parts readily support.

Physical Science

Loose parts help children investigate and actively construct ideas and explanations about physical properties of the nonliving world. Children gain deeper knowledge of how things work when they can experiment with materials. They can also test multiple hypotheses involving gravity, force, weight, distance, and height. Children learn that things move in many various ways (motion) through playing with loose parts that can be pulled and pushed to start, stop, or change their movement. They can investigate inclines and gravity, colour, shadows, and reflected or refracted light.

Language and Literacy

Children use loose parts as props to engage in rich conversations and storytelling with peers and adults. Describing the items they manipulate, children can test new, complex words and engage in productive arguments that increase their critical-thinking skills.

Art

Adding loose parts to the art area can enhance their creativity and help them extend their ideas and questions. Offering the children invitations to draw, sculpt, collage, explore, and extend their ideas.

Movement and Music

Movement possibilities with loose parts such as scarves, hoops, and ribbons are endless, and provide opportunity for children to improvise; loose parts offer almost limitless opportunities to explore sounds

Excerpt from: Daly, Lisa, and Miriam Beloglovsky. 2015. Loose Parts: Inspiring Play in Young Children. Minnesota: Redleaf Press

