

The Elder Street Herald

Jan Feb 10 Edition



Happy girl Emily!



Lucy is settling in great!



Emma enjoying painting

Welcome to Elder Street for 2010

This week marks the 4th week of operation for 2010. From observation and chatting with staff and children, it is safe to say that everyone seems to be settling in well. We would like to officially welcome:

Possums: Gabriel, Oscar Lucy M, Eli M, Avery, Lucy G, Jarryd, Harley, and Chloe D

Joeys: Xavier W, Lainie, Joshua, Boston, Tom, Miley, Samuel M, Emily J, and Emma

Wallabies: Caleb, Will S, Ava, Marisa, Colby, and Lilly

It is great to have so many of our new parents chatting and getting to know staff and other families and also feeling comfort-

able to call up and check on how the children are going throughout the day. All these positive interactions can only make the transition to a great partnership with the centre all the more easy. We will put out a Settling In questionnaire at 8 weeks from when we opened and encourage parents to give us any feedback they feel we could benefit from. We have included our standard article on Settling In in this edition. We have always had great feedback about these tips and hope that it will help families feel at ease.



New friends Lilly & Bella



Lauren, Boston, Lainie, Xavier & Charlotte



Eli is just such a happy boy



Caleb at work...



Miley enjoying her art



Joshua—"Mr Smiles"



Xavier at the easel



Gabriel at play....



Marisa & Lilly at water play



Busy Tom painting...



New Friends—Riley & Colby



Oscar the gorgeous!



Lainie busy painting...



Chloe & Ava working together

Settling in at Elder Street—transition tips for families

Here are some tips for any families who may be now or in the future facing a little bit of a relapse with the settling in process. This tends to happen sometimes when the toys and excitement of a new place wear off and the morning tears or comments like “I don’t want to go to school” start surfacing. For children under 3 yrs, it may be a little while before the tears totally disappear, but there are some ideas for getting into a routine if you are having problems and just don’t know what to do. Here is a sample routine that may help your morning transition when preparing to say goodbye for the day:

- On the way to the centre talk about the fun things that may happen that day
- Use the carer’s names in your conversations in a positive way ie, we can tell Shelly

about the funny book we read last night”

- When you come into the centre greet the staff and encourage your child to do the same
- Either carry or lead your child to their locker and involve then in the morning jobs of putting away bed bags, washing hands and then lead them to a carer
- If carers are busy (which is often the case during morning drop off) stay with your child and point out some interesting things in the room or playground. When available a carer will approach you for your morning welcome.
- **This is the crucial part!** If you plan to stay for a while, please let us know and we will come back to you when you are ready to go. When this

- Arrives we suggest that you have a phrase to use each day ie, okay bye honey, mum/dad will see you this afternoon, have a great day, I love you” and leave without hesitation.
- **Your child will more than likely cry—this is very normal.** It is not advisable at this stage to take your child back or decide to stay longer as this will only prolong the agony for both of you and make it more difficult for your child to settle when you do leave. After you have left the carers will involve them in the days activities and they will

settle.

This is all normal separation anxiety which will settle down with time and nurturing. Of course all children are different, some don’t look back from the first day. However, these other award winning performances are more likely to be for your benefit and thankfully the tears do miraculously disappear when you walk out the door. As we advise all families on enrolment and throughout your time at the centre, please feel free to ring and check how your little one is going whenever you feel the need.



Child Care Fees

Please see further information on page

5 explaining Child

Care Benefit, Child

Care Management

System and Child

Care Tax Rebate

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Now that we have settled in and most of the families accounts have sorted themselves out, it is time to remind families of our Centre’s Fee Policy. This policy states that fees should be paid on time and not fall into arrears by more than 2 weeks.

Important points regarding payment of fees:

- Continued failure to pay fees within a set timeframe can jeopardise enrolment at the centre
- Fees paid by cash or cheque need to be paid by 10am Friday morning at the latest

- Fees paid by direct deposit need to be set up to come out by Wednesday night at the latest. This allows the fees to reach us before the end of the week. Due to the 2 day delay it takes for most banks other than the Greater Building Society, we often do not receive fees until the following week.
- Fees are billed each Monday morning for the week ahead. Which ever way you choose to pay your fees, we ask that you are not in a position where you are paying for the week, fortnight or month just past.

We appreciate your assistance with this matter and remind all families that they are always welcome to speak to myself or Kim at any stage to discuss their account situation.

Elder St ECHC banking details:

BSB: 637 000

Account #: 164952389



Things we need you to know.....

For those who are new or those who may have simply forgotten, here are some very important reminders.....

1. **Drink bottles should have only water** in them. Following the Good For Kids, Good for Life guidelines, juice or cordial are not recommended or allowed at the centre.
2. Sun Safety—please dress children in clothes that are sun safe, most importantly with **sleeves that fully cover the shoulder and upper arm.**
3. Please ensure that no food items, lollies, or medication are left in your child's bags.
4. Please label all belongings including shoes, drink bottles, clothes, dummies, blankies etc
5. Parking in Elder St—it is very important to be considerate of our neighbours when parking, **please do not park on or too close to neighbour-ing driveways**
6. Safe footwear—**THONGS ARE NOT ALLOWED**
7. Preschool Wallaby children need to have 2 flat sheets for their sleep bag. The fitted sheets are very tricky for them.
8. **Please ensure we have your most recent contact numbers for home, mobile and work—this is very important!**
9. **BED BAGS!!** Some of our little friends haven't brought one in so far this year. We need them each day they attend and they need to be taken home at the end of the attendance week and laundered—**THANKS!!!!**



Children's Learning and Development at Elder Street

All parents (including myself!) like to know how their child is progressing in their learning and development. As early childhood educators we are often asked about what the children are learning or being taught. What parents need to understand about this stage of early childhood development is that play is the main ingredient to their success for learning now and in their future.

Each children's service in NSW has followed the guidelines set down in the NSW Framework Curriculum for many years. Some services may still be following this framework, however we now have access to exciting newly developed information known as The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF). This has been developed by the Council of Australian Governments, with considerable input from the early childhood sector, early childhood academics and the Australian and State and Territory Governments. It has a specific emphasis on play based

learning and has a lovely title of Belonging, Being and Becoming. A parent brochure on the framework will be available shortly for all parents to read. But briefly the title refers to:

Belonging; experiencing belonging, knowing where and with whom you belong which is integral to human existence.

Being; childhood is a time to seek and make meaning of the world and recognise the significance of the here and now in children's lives. The importance of adults understanding that early childhood years are not solely preparation for the future but also about the present.

Becoming; children's identities, knowledge, understandings, capacities, skills and relationships change during childhood. Becoming reflects this process of rapid and significant change that occurs during the early years. It emphasizes learning to participate fully and

actively in society.

Elder Street's Program

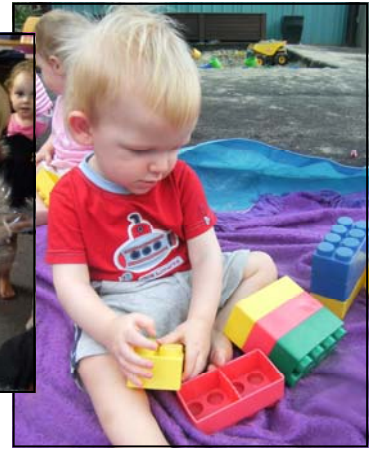
The pedagogy that we follow is already very in tune with this new framework, as within our observing, planning and implementation we focus on the children's already existing strengths and abilities and let the children's own emerging interests lead our teaching strategies. Within the port folio entries in the children's folders, we will be using the terminology of the new framework and the 5 principles and subsequent indicators for learning as our guide to reporting and planning for the children. Please take the time to read through the brochure and also have a look through the children's folders. For families new to the centre, the teachers are working towards completing each child's first entry, so if there is nothing there yet, please wait a few weeks and you are sure to see some lovely documentation on your child's progress. Any questions on programming please speak to either myself, Kim, April, Kate, Shelly or Donna.

“The children's developmental folders are available for parent's at any time and are kept on the shelves located between the nursery and preschool room”

Elder Street Early Childhood Centre

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Sam, Will and Hartley all enjoying their Elder Street day

Building Partnerships with Families



In-Service Entertainment 2010

- Friday 12 Feb—Bob Turner Wildlife Show at 9.30am
- Tuesday 18 May—Joel the Magician at 10am
- Fri 6 August—Celebrations music show at 10am
- Thursday 21 October—Drumbeat Show at 10am

All shows \$7.50 per child and are billed to accounts for children who attend on the booked date

Congratulations to Chelsea, Josh and Ruby (Joey's) on the safe arrival of their little boy Henry Joshua.

Congratulations to Matt and Jenni on the arrival of their little boy Oliver. Elodie (Possums) talks about him all day long!

Birthdays

January

- Lucy turned 1
- Lara turned 2
- Xanthe turned 3
- Harrison turned 4

February

- Sam T turns 2
- Joshua turns 2
- Emily J turns 2
- Charlotte D turns 3
- Will R turns 3
- Olivia M turns 4



Happy Birthday

Final words.....

Please see our last page for information about Child Care Benefit and a tear off part if you would like to receive our news by email.....

Last reminder is that Elder Street's pick up time is 5.50pm as we need to be off the premises at 6pm for licensing compliance.

Next bi-monthly news we will be talking about....

Buy and Sell, Equipment Levy, Illness and Exclusion—any questions on any topic in the meantime please call the office on 49539300 :)

Help with the Cost of Child Care—FAO, CCB, CCMS & CCTR

Some of you will be familiar with all these acronyms and others may be still scratching their head. As our centre is “approved” care that is also accredited, we are able to pass on many rebates to help with the cost of fees.

CCB—Child Care Benefit—if you earn between \$0-\$125K for 1 child in care, \$135K for 2 children in care and \$145K with 3 children in care, you are entitled to reduced weekly fees. To receive this, parents need to contact the Family Assistance Office (FAO) and obtain a Customer Reference Number (CRN) for themselves and another one for each child. We then use another system that only approved children’s services can use to process this benefit. This is called:

CCMS—Child Care Management System—once we have all CRN’s and dates of birth of the parent linked to the child, we are able to send off enrolment data via this system to the FAO, this is known as a “formal” enrolment. The FAO then send us via the internet directly into our accounting system, information about your family’s entitlements. This information including your CCB percentage, eligible hours of care (either 24 or 50hrs), the number of children using care (ie, 1 or 2 child %) and our flat rate is used to calculate your weekly reduced fee. If your family is entitled to CCB our system puts an “E” for estimate on your account. Each week our software will estimate what your reduced fee will be based on whatever reduction was received the week before. For families that earn over the figures given or families that wish to pay full fees and then claim their benefit as a lump sum when they complete their tax return, they are known as “F” full fees or “L” lump sum. The final benefit available to all families is:

CCTR-Child Care Tax Rebate—this covers up to 50% of out of pocket child care expenses with a rebate of up to \$7500 (indexed) child per year. This is paid quarterly or annually. If you wish to receive this payment quarterly you must claim ccb as reduced fees (even if you receive a zero reduction). This means you must provide all the information mentioned previously (CRN’s, date of birth etc) even if you have been advised that you will not receive reduced fees. If you do not provide this information within 28 days after enrolment to the centre, the FAO will deem your child’s enrolment exited, this is known as an “informal” enrolment. Informal enrolments have no data attached that the FAO can use to track your child care usage and therefore will not allow a claim to be made. Another common scenario is that you have provided the child care centre with all CRN’s etc, but have not actually rang the FAO and registered for child care related benefits. This is as simple as ringing 136150 (you will wait a while!) and asking to register. If you are told by the FAO when you go to claim that they are waiting on usage from your child care centre you should tell them that Elder Street uses CCMS and therefore reports usage weekly. This means that the FAO receives all the data they need every week from us for families that have provided all the necessary information and have a formal enrolment. CCTR payments are deposited directly into your bank account by the FAO.

If you have contacted the FAO to update income etc, please let us know so that when our weekly report comes through we can see what your new fees will be.

We urge parents to bear with the long phone cues when calling the FAO and make sure that you have registered correctly for any rebates you may be entitled to.

Would you like to receive your Elder St Herald and other news via email? Please fill in and return to the centre:

Name: Email address: