

Elder Street Herald



Elder Street
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

Guiding Children's Behaviour

Dr John Waring, Psychologist

July/August 2010

The information below was taken from Dr John Waring's advice column from his website www.childpsych.com.au. Dr Waring is a local child psychologist who we have booked to speak at our centre around October 2010 (he is yet to confirm a date). We have received feedback from others that his presentations are very helpful and informative. So here is a snippet from his tips on behaviour management.

Knowing why your child is misbehaving is half the battle in trying to change or manage their behaviour. Misbehaviour is always a form of communication.

Young children don't often have the verbal or cognitive (thinking) skills to rationally argue or effectively communicate their needs.

There are a number of goals of children's misbehaviour, including attention seeking, power and revenge.

The goal of attention seeking occurs when the child shows off and pesters the parent to maintain their attention. The misbehaviour may only temporarily stop when attention is given.

Sometimes the message your child is giving is "Look at me, I'm still here, spend some time with me". If you've been on the phone for 45 minutes, their behaviour is a legitimate request for your time. Sometimes the goal of a child's misbehaviour

is actually to challenge power. This is where the child states, "I'm the boss" through his or her behaviour.

Giving in to this sort of behaviour in young children can lead to real problems in parenting that child in the future.

A third goal of misbehaviour can be revenge. A child may be disappointed about a broken promise or angry about being smacked. They may engage in revenge types of behaviour such as defiance, being sullen or hostile, or withdrawing.

Misbehaviour may also be a display of inadequacy. When a child has poor self-esteem they may withdraw and give up trying to do the right thing.

In working out the goal of your child's misbehaviour you need to be careful not to "over-interpret" the behaviour. Ascribing adult types of motive and reasons for their misbehaviour is inappropriate and unhelpful.

We need to remember that growing up involves making many mistakes and learning from them. Catching your child being good and praising them is the most simple and effective way to improve your child's behaviour.
www.childpsych.com.au

Kind thanks to the Sacasan family for the donation of some lovely baby toys for our Nursery ♥♥♥

Our prayers & thoughts are with the Williams family as Matt (Micah's dad) undergoes treatment for a serious illness. We are all sending out positive energy for him and just know he will come through with flying colours—go Matt!!!!

Our Kate has put a donation box in the foyer to support the Leukemia Foundation who she raises money for regularly—all and any donations will make a difference!

Inside this issue:

Dr John Waring— Managing Behaviour	1
News from the Frontline	2-3
Asthma Plans	4
Family Get-together	
Henny Penny Hatch- ing	5
New Welcome Foyer	
Complaints EYLF update	6

Possam News Hey everyone, has anyone noticed how big we are becoming?? We certainly have! We have noticed it in our language development, our longer concentration spans and in how heavy we are when we have our nappy changed!!! We have been working on our emerging self help skills via dress ups, taking our shoes and socks off and putting them on the shelf and also some of our littler friends are becoming very skilled with our feeding spoons. More on the learning front with a focus on numeracy and literacy. Of course we all simply adore books and story time and have plenty of opportunity to find somewhere quiet to have a browse. We also have set language time each day and we are finding the children are sitting happily through numerous books and enjoying information books as well as story books. We have exposed the children to lots of written numerals and counting opportunities indoors and outdoors in lots of different forms. We count as we play, we count as we wash our hands, we point out numbers in books and posters, we talk about full numbers and half numbers when we cook. We have also been working on colour recognition and especially love looking through the coloured perspex blocks to see the whole room in different colours. Finally, we have had a great time working on a few learning projects involving living creatures. Firstly we experienced the cycle involved with the hatching chickens and to be able to have hands on experience was priceless. Extending from that was the little home we made for our crickets. The children were fascinated with the little critters and spent long periods of time watching them jump around. Great learning!!



Joeys News

Hello family and friends! Lots of us are turning 3 over the coming months and we are showing our readiness in becoming more self sufficient. We can feed ourselves like pros (messy ones at times!), scrape our bowls and wipe our faces, put our shoes on and help pack away (remember that one for home!) - some of us need lots of encouragement, but we can do it!! Well done Joeys! Our other focus for building our sense of identity is practicing our manners— we are hearing many “please” and “thank yous” which is lovely and helps the children understand about social responsibility and respect for all our friends and family. Curriculum wise we have kept the interest in our Hermit crabs going by adding some more information to our poster which the children love to refer to after a session of hermit crab play. Socio-dramatic play is a great platform for learning lots of skills ie, sharing, communication, finding out who we are and what we can do and the children have had some lovely times in the Joeys restaurant, doctors surgery, tool shed and this week baby nursery. We had a lovely music session with Elaine (Charlotte’s mum) who was very generous with her time and came and played her guitar and sang all our favourite songs—the kids and staff loved it!! Out in the playground we are constantly moving and socializing. The most obvious area of growth and interest has been playing in groups and mastering the balance bikes! Talk to you later xxx

Turn the page to see the Joey’s photos.....

Joeys Fun..



Wallabies News

We have been busy as usual with lots of learning about concepts; opposites, size and building on this learning through stories and games, focusing on caring for and learning about the hatching chickens and scaffolding our interests by building our own farmyards, animal enclosures made by ourselves out of blocks etc. With lots of successes with self help skills in our daily routines we have seen some blossoming self esteems which in turn leads to more empathetic and altruistic friends that are willing to take the time to help others gain success—a lovely journey to watch in the children. We have formed our own Masters Builders Association with some absolutely magnificent constructions that could be extended on for days and days—if only we didn't need to pack away sometimes!!! To keep ourselves abreast of the big wide world we have lots of multicultural influences in our daily experiences, with using our room atlas and globe, singing songs and learning rhymes from other cultures. Along with focusing on concepts, our other areas of cognitive development have seen lots of voluntary practice of early literacy skills with our older Wallaby children. Some of the children are able to confidently write their own name and some can do their siblings names also. The best thing and key to future success at school, is that there is a natural interest and awareness of print around them and this also inspires the younger children to also have a go. We are all becoming very competent at recognizing our first names and also written numerals 1 to 10. Go Wallabies, you are all amazingly clever!!!



Asthma Plans

We have quite a few children with Asthma plans for asthma medication to be administered. We received feedback from some parents that they would like us to make it clearer on what they need to provide and how often any documentation should be updated. Following the guidelines from Asthma Australia and our Asthma Policy the following is required for us to administer asthma medication on an ongoing basis (meaning without parents having to complete a new medication form each day/week):

1. AN ASTHMA PLAN

An Asthma Action Plan is a written set of instructions prepared with your doctor or nurse that helps you to stay in control of your asthma.

Your written Asthma Action Plan outlines:

- What medication to take every day (even when you

are feeling well).

- How to tell if your asthma is getting worse.
- What you should do if your symptoms are getting worse.
- What to do if you have an asthma attack.

2. The asthma medication noted on the Asthma Plan can only be administered to the person named on the asthma plan. Any additional children/siblings will need to have their own individual Asthma Plan.

3. UPDATING YOUR ASTHMA PLAN

Asthma Action Plans should be updated regularly by your GP in conjunction with an asthma review. For most adults, this should be at least once a year, and **for children approximately every six months**. For those people with more severe asthma, more frequent reviews might be needed www.asthmafoundation.org.au.

Our centre forms previously

asked for 3 month reviews, which we will now change to 6 monthly. We will send out a note to families with plans, when their review date is coming up so they can book in for an asthma review with their GP. If your GP writes on your child's asthma plan that the review date can be longer than 6 months and signs this, we will follow this order and also send a reminder to book for a review at the end of the 12 months.

If your GP prescribes an Asthma Medication for your child, but you do not have an Asthma Plan written by a doctor, please either ask for your GP to write an Asthma plan, or have them write a letter with the child's name, asthma medication and dosage information, sign and date it. They can be faxed to our centre on 49576982.

If parents have any questions, please do not hesitate to call and speak with myself or Kim. Thanks...

Family Get-together—Walk-ride-push-athon! 19/9/10

It's time for another family fun day! Last year we revived our Family Disco, so that means that this year we need to get out and about together. The staff have put their heads together and came up with a great idea to promote our new Physical Activity Policy with some fun together on the beautiful Newcastle foreshore!

Our plan is to meet on Sunday 19 September at 10am at the Lee Wharf Maritime Centre for a lovely walk/ride/push along the foreshore. We will put a detailed information flyer in all pockets shortly, but a rough

guide for the event is that parents and children choose how they wish to get their way along the foreshore (either walk or ride, skate, pram, dance etc...) and we follow the path up to the park at Nobby's Beach then cross over to the big park and make our way over to the railway sheds covered area and playground for a brunch style picnic and some more fun sporty activities.

We will be providing lots of fresh cold fruit for anyone who would like some and encourage families to pack a picnic of healthy foods or whatever they

would like. We will have some fundamental physical gross motor activities for everyone to be involved in, plus the park to play in and surrounding areas for further bike or scooter riding. When you receive your note, please fill out the return slip so we know who is coming and we hope to see you all on the day with your joggers on!



Henny Penny Hatching.....always lots to learn!!

This year Elder Street really did live and breathe the hatching experience. We had lots of planned experiences leading up to their arrival ie, painting farm scenes for the backdrop of their enclosure, the children loved to make farm enclosures out of blocks and talking about all sorts of farm animals. The Wallabies did a wonderful job of creating the Wallaby Farm yard and filling it with all things “farmy”. We don’t think it is coincidental that this year we had a 100% successful hatching rate—those little chicks couldn’t wait to get out into their lovely farm yard!!

The younger age groups had lots of large group experiences based around the chickens hatching, such as stories, checking out information charts provided by Henny Penny—all of this helps to build our knowledge base as well as inspire curiosity and a love of learning. Of course the best teaching strategy and opportunities provided by this experience is that the children are able to have hands on contact with the chicks (they are so very gentle and loving) and share it with their friends and families.

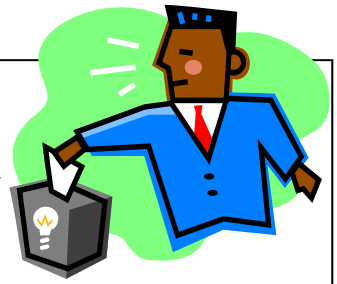


Welcome Foyer supports our Centre Philosophy...

We are always looking for ways to bring our Centre philosophy to life and have recently replaced the tired old philosophy boards (and gave the foyer a long overdue coat of paint) with a beautiful story book wall to welcome all our families into the centre. Soon we will have a philosophy weaving frame that we are going to make out of sticks and recycled materials that families will be able to write a message on and weave through the frame. Part of our learning curriculum and Reggio Emilia theory supports that the environment is seen as the third teacher, drawing great importance in the rooms being aesthetically pleasing and reflective of all things natural and calm. This is the effect we have tried to achieve when welcoming all into Elder Street—we hope you really like it (thank you for all the lovely comments so far) and will contribute to our new philosophy too.



Esther helped Mel and Aunty Karen put the butterflies on the wall...

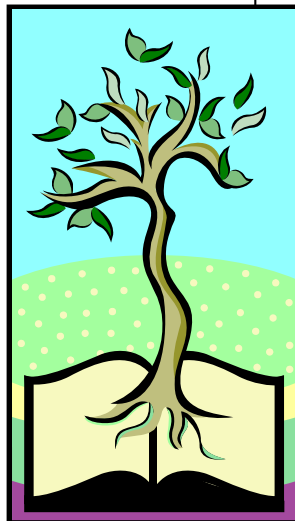


**DO YOU HAVE SOME FEEDBACK,
A COMPLAINT OR QUESTION?????????**

We encourage all families to come and speak to staff if there is ever a concern or question. There are numerous ways this can be done. Face to face, via email, telephone or a note popped into our fee box in the foyer. We would dread to think that parents have concerns about any practices or policies within our service that have remained unaddressed. We are here for all families and constantly ask for feedback, suggestions and ideas on how we can improve our service. We find it very disheartening and disappointing to sometimes hear feedback second hand and hope that all our families understand how unproductive and sometimes destructive talking to other parents or friends about issues rather than communicating with those directly involved. If the issue is important enough to discuss with other parents/friends outside the service, then it is surely of enough importance to share with our staff and management so it can be addressed and ideally resolved. We are strong believers that a little bit of uncomfortable communication is always worth the positive growth and change that can occur if dealt with constructively and professionally. We also thank the many parents that we have formed such strong bonds of communication and mutual respect with—this is a partnership all the way and we can not possibly do it without each other. Many thanks for your consideration on this matter.

Early Years Learning Framework

All staff attended training on Saturday 26 June, 2010 by Children's Services Central based on the new **Early Years Learning Framework: Belonging, Being & Becoming**. With many other centres from around the Hunter attending it was a great chance to network and compare strategies on implementation of this new curriculum. Some services had decided to not implement until after the training, but we have been researching and using this tool since January and were relieved to learn that we are right on track. We were actually able to give some great ideas to other centres on how we are planning and programming for the 5 Learning Outcomes so successfully.



We are now at a stage where we would like to share more directly with parents how we are supporting the children in achieving the 5 learning outcomes. Each staff meeting we will be collating examples of how this is being done and ask for your feedback.

The first one you will receive will be: Learning Outcome 1—**Children Have a strong Sense of Identity**.

Keep a look out in pockets and please tell us what you think!

Staff Holidays coming up.....

*Kim away 16-18 August *Karen away 23 Aug-1 Sept *April away 1 -11 Nov *Kim away 15-18 Nov

SCHOOL PORTRAITS HAVE BEEN BOOKED FOR MONDAY 25 OCTOBER 2010 WITH PETER FIELD PHOTOGRAPHER—WE WILL PUT ENVELOPES IN FAMILY POCKETS WHEN WE RECEIVE THEM....

BIRTHDAYS!!!!

Happy birthday to:

July babies:

Gabriel, Emily, Emma, Anthony, Jake, Lilly, Sam R, Elise, Colby and Ryan

August babies:

Annika, Chloe D, Luca, Joel and

