

KCCC newsletter June 2011

IN THIS EDITION

Parking, Policy of the Month, Head Lice, Staffing Updates, Staff training, Fundraising, Accreditation spot check, the New Menus, Licence Renewal visit.

We currently have 201 children attending the centre in both long day care and kindergarten.

Over the past two years I've had the privilege and pleasure of working on the KCCC board. During that time I've learned more than I anticipated about the business of operating a child care centre and its many complexities. I've come to know better many of the wonderful families that use the service including my dedicated fellow board members and other generous volunteers. I've had an opportunity to observe the incredible job done by our management team to hold the centre together and support our fantastic carers and teachers. I've become very aware of how lucky my family is to be part of the KCCC community and I see very clearly how much my children benefit from the wonderful environment at the centre.

It's for all these reasons that I was disturbed to hear of several instances recently where a handful of parents have not treated our staff with due courtesy or respect. I have had reports of parents using aggressive or abusive language to intimidate and upset staff members. I have also heard of parents engaging in damaging, potentially defamatory, gossip about particular staff members.

I would like to remind all parents that our vision is for KCCC to be a quality children's service that is a happy place for children to be. We aim to provide a community based childcare service that encourages and supports parental involvement. The development of an innovative educational path for children in a secure and trusting environment is also part of the Centre's vision.

For all these reasons it is very important that we treat our staff with courtesy and respect and maintain our culture of co-operation and trust between staff and families. If parents have concerns about the care and educational program provided to their children, or about the service provided by our administrative team, they should be raised, in a respectful manner, with either the staff in the rooms or in the office. If concerns are not addressed after reasonable discussion, we have a formal complaints policy that can involve an investigation by the Board. Any of the Board members are also happy to discuss concerns about the operation of the centre.

I know all the families at our centre share my interest in a positive and supportive environment for our kids and I thank you for your effort to make that happen every day.

Regards,
Angela Hoefnagels
Chair, KCCC Board

Staff Training

Over the last month staff have:

- Donna and Michelle attended Documenting and assessing:
- Soledad attended Portfolios Design Development and Implementations
- Paul will also be starting his OHS Training as our new OHS officer.

FUNDRAISING

Have you received your pasta drive order form? Order some yummy pasta for quick and easy family meals. Orders due back 18th July. Monies paid directly to the centre.

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STAFFING

Michelle our lovely kindergarten assistant is unfortunately reducing her days due to family commitments. She will be finishing in the Rosella group at the end of this term. We are in the process of interviewing for this position to start with Kelly after the kinder break.

Head Lice

In regards to head lice, Kensington Community Children's Co-operative (KCCC) Undertakes to:

- Treat all families with respect and dignity
- Disseminate information to families on the management and detection of head lice
- Conform to best practice management strategies as recommended by the department of human services; and
- Only exclude children with live head lice.

Attached with this newsletter is a parent consent for head lice checks. It allows staff to check for headlice. This is always done in private and will be carried out in respectful manner with the best interests of the child considered at all times.

WORKING BEE

On Sunday the 19th of June we held our working bee. It was a hive of activity both inside and outside. Offices were painted, gardens planted, yards swept and sausage sizzled. We had a range of happy helpers covering books making sandwiches and pouring coffee to the tired workers. Everyone seemed happy to pitch in and help out where needed. Thank you so much to everyone that came and worked so tirelessly on the day. A special thanks to Cazz Redding for planning and organizing the day.

Accreditation Visit

On Thursday the 30th of June we had a spot check from the National Childcare Accreditation Council by validator Robin Hurst. These visits are unannounced and are computer generated so the service is randomly chosen.

The check takes three hours and covers all aspects of our service: programs, policy, OH&S etc.

There was a particular focus on programming and she responded positively to our approach.

Robin also mentioned in her written submission about the 'strong community influence' evident'In a wide range of program aspects'.

There is the possibility for two A4 pages of unsatisfactory grading to be recorded against the Quality Areas within the Assurance scheme. We received no unsatisfactory comments.

I'm pretty proud, as are the staff, that with so many staff and so much going on in a day (not different from any other day) that an industry specialist, with a critical eye, can walk in and be so impressed by the quality of our service.

HOORAY!!!

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