

Parent Newsletter February 2012

Take a look to see what's going on at Top Ryde Early Learning and to keep abreast of important updates.



Welcome to 2012

Happy new year! A big welcome to all of our new families. We have had an exciting start to the year and have already had two families come and share their knowledge with the children for Chinese / Vietnamese new year and for Australia Day. We will continue holding events and onsite experiences for the children (check your events calendar) and welcome all the families to come and join us at any time.

Child Care Regulation update

You may have seen in the news that new child care [Regulations](#) came into place on January 1st. The changes are a national initiative to bring all centres across Australia up to the high quality level that we've been operating at since we opened. There are a couple of minor adjustments that we've made across the centre, mostly to do with the wording of policies to bring them into line with the new national standards.

- The policy change drafts will be displayed in the foyer in the coming weeks and we invite your input
- You'll notice a new sign in the foyer providing our basic information all in one spot
- We've also made some minor adjustments to our forms - eg Accident Form, updating wording etc and these will be displayed for comment after our policies have been reviewed.
- Our Director, Nicole, is now our Nominated Supervisor (old title was Authorised Supervisor)
- If Nicole is absent (and neither Lorna or Nesha - the licensees – are onsite) we'll always have a Responsible Person at the centre – we have appointed a number of Certified Supervisors and are waiting for their applications to be approved by the appropriate department – Mikhala, Tracy, Kirsty, Dalia and Pina are all Certified Supervisors. Elizabeth and George will complete application forms in the coming weeks.
- Lorna will continue to provide input, guidance and mentoring for our educators, leading the program across the centre, as such she has been appointed our Pedagogical (Educational) Leader. She will ensure that we continue to incorporate the [Early Years Learning Framework](#) in our program of play-based educational activities and guide the team in reflective pedagogy.

If you have any questions about the new regulations / national standards, Nesha is a wealth of information, as well as Lorna, Nicole and the team - don't hesitate to ask!



Upcoming Events

17th February
Family BBQ
Join us for a sausage on Friday evening

7th March
Parent information night
Chat with your child's teacher, find out about our program

23rd March
Sleep over slumber party
Mum and Dad can go out while the kids have a slumber party at the centre

6th April
Good Friday Public Holiday
Centre Closed

9th April
Easter Monday Public Holiday
Centre Closed

25th April
Anzac Day Public Holiday

Open Door Policy and Family Involvement

We love having our parents involved at the centre. If you would like to come and play or present an experience to the children, please talk to your child's teacher and add your name to the calendars in each of our classrooms (you might like to do some cooking, or read a book, or make some craft...we've got lots of ideas.) For those busy mums and dads, you may like to write ideas into our communication and input books located next to the learning stories (on computer) in each of the rooms.

Sun Safety

It's not the hottest summer we have seen in Australia but it's still super important to protect our skin. As we are an approved Sun Safe Service, we ask that all families provide two broad brimmed, labelled hats, apply sunscreen on (or before) arrival every day and ensure children are in shirts with sleeves to protect their shoulders.

Treasures from home

Your children's toys are precious to them and although we love sharing your child's joy, they may be lost or broken if they come to the centre. Please keep them at home, or if they absolutely, positively must come in, allow your child to show their friends, and then keep it safe in the car for them during the day.

Paper

We are fabulous at recycling and love to make use of all the paper that offices throw out or into their recycling bin. If your office has paper that has printing on one side and would otherwise be discarded, we would love you to bring it in for the children to use to develop their writing skills.

News from the Kitchen

We are enjoying our summer dishes and our favourites are Kathy's home made sausage rolls with salad and the baked tortilla stack. We also enjoyed some scrumptious yum cha treats over Chinese New Year

Don't forget that Kathy has a brilliant cookbook for sale for the amazing price of only \$15. Limited copies will be available at the Family BBQ in February.

Morning and afternoon tea

We provide large fruit platters with a variety of fruit and vegetables each day for the children at both morning and afternoon tea. Kathy also bakes a nutritious slice, makes sandwiches or a healthy dip with crackers to go along with the fruit. The menus are planned in accordance with the Nutritional guidelines and all children are offered morning and afternoon tea every day. They are encouraged to have some milk and then a drink of water to wash their teeth at the end of the meal. To ensure that all children are offered a full variety of food we encourage children to eat two or three pieces of fruit with an accompanying snack and then allow other children to come to the table. If they are still hungry, they are invited back for a second serve. We make as much fruit and veggies available for the children as they like (we've always got extra) and encourage healthy eating habits and choices at all times. If you have any food suggestions for morning and afternoon tea times please let Kathy know or write a note on the suggestion board on the kitchen door.



Carpark Safety

Please remember to TAKE CARE when using our carpark. Many of our young children are as yet to develop their carpark safety skills - and it is important to be aware at all times. Many of our families have been fined in the past by rangers policing school traffic, so obey the road rules and remember:

*Drive Slowly

*Always drive forward - DO NOT back out of the driveway (it's illegal)

*When using the 'arc', drive all the way to the end so that all spots can be used

*Be patient - wait calmly if there is someone in front of you (we all know that sometimes kids can take a while to be ready to leave)

*If you are parked in the 'arc' remember to be as quick as you can, others who are parked behind you will be waiting

*Use the carspots against the building if you will be taking a while (we love you to stay, just not to hold up other parents)

*If there are no spots, park at Top Ryde City - you will be fined by rangers for blocking the driveway / street.

*If you can, avoid 8.45-9am and 3-3.15pm - as the school next door has incredibly high traffic at this time

*PLEASE take care, double check your rearview mirrors and again, drive slowly and patiently

Labels

We endeavor to send all of your children's belongings home every day and if you label them it makes it so much easier for us to do. [Stuck on you](#), in the link here has a great range of labels that you can use, or you can buy a cheap laundry marking texta from the supermarket. It will save lots of money, rather than replacing lost clothes. Unlabelled clothing is put into our lost property basket in the foyer, and each month this is emptied and donated to charity.

Family Pockets

Each family is given a 'pocket' at the centre, and they contain important information along with fun ideas, competitions, information from your child's teacher and newsletters with our plans and information for you (for those of you who don't receive it by email) so please check them each day so that you and your child don't miss out.

Policy reviews

Each month we review a selection of policies. They are put on display in the foyer for you to read and if you would like comment on or make suggestions. We will always take your input seriously - there are some times when regulatory requirements mean that we have to follow particular policies or procedures, but on the whole, input from our families is what makes our policies work for everyone, so please take the time to read and comment. Due to the National Regulation changes that took place on January 1st, several of our policies were changed and added to. We will be displaying them over the coming weeks, and invite your comments.

Staff Training

All of our team go on regular training to keep abreast of the latest information in our industry along with updating qualifications and doing relevant and practical training to continue their professional development.

- Nicole – will shortly be attending a Director's Inspiration 2 day course
- Tom and Mikhala continue their Diploma of Children's Services study
- Amanda, Pina and Angela are all working towards a Certificate III in Children's Services
- Neshia and Lorna will be attending a conference on the National Quality Framework
- Neshia is delivering training to other child care centres on Workplace Health and Safety, Safety in Children's Services, Building Relationships, and Advocating for Children.
- And we'll have Elizabeth and George signed up for some courses in no time - let our team know if there's any training suggestions you have.

Don't forget to bring your access fob every day!

The security fobs are designed to give you access at any time of day, and to keep other visitors outside until a staff member can attend to them. If you forget your access fob, we've always got a buzzer - however, often staff are outside and don't hear it, or are working with our children and can't drop everything to open the door for you (and it's really loud and irritating, and tends to wake up sleeping children!). We're happy to issue you as many fobs as you need - for other adults who pick up the kids, or just for your other set of keys - you simply pay a \$20 deposit which is refunded when you return it. Email Sam director@toprydeearlylearning.com.au to order another fob.



Congratulations Tom!

Tom was married to the gorgeous Catherine in December and went on a wonderful honeymoon during the break.

Don't he look handsome!

Thank you!

Thanks to the following children and families for their generous donations:

- *Aiden and Callum for the Sara Lee treats at our end of year concert
- *Charlie and Annika for the talk about Speech development in children at our last staff meeting
- *George for the bags of fresh fruit
- *Jasmine and Alexis for paper and soft toys
- *Noah and Summer for the traffic light teaching toy and Australia day presentation
- *Jack for lots of drawing paper



Our new teachers

Elizabeth and George Our new Early Childhood Teachers joined us this week - there are profiles up in the foyer with information about our newest recruits. Welcome to the team!!!

...in other news....

via your family pockets you'll be getting information shortly about Stanely the Story Bear, Ron the Reading Bear, our Community Garden and our Parent Resource file

