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Quality Care in an Educational Environment

Jussara Wins!!!

On Saturday night at a prestigious event in Sydney, Jussara was presented with the Cee Cees award for the best Diploma Qualified Child Care Worker in NSW.

The event recognised the work of staff in community-based centres 'who shine' above the rest. The criteria included an in depth knowledge of child development and individual difference as shown through their practice; great relationships with children and their families; motivated children's curiosity and problem solving through the provision of innovative programs; created and documented innovative programs underpinned by sound research which reflect children's emerging skills and interests; shown resourcefulness and energy to enrich children's lives; developed programs that are inclusive of all children; influenced the community to build its capacity and make it a better place for children and their families and worked at improving their skills through further education and training.

The centre wishes to congratulate Jussara and all staff for their commitment to best practice.

Management Committee Monthly Meeting

The following decisions were made at the recent Committee Meeting held on the 16th August:-

- ◆ Emma and Jamie have completed their relevant training from Tafe NSW and have asked to be paid at their new level. The Committee has a strong commitment to on-going professional development for all staff and believe that this should be recognised and appropriately remunerated. Emma has completed her Diploma in Childrens Services and Jamie has achieved her Certificate III in Childrens Services. The centre has offered Jamie a full-time permanent position which will commence now that she has completed her traineeship.
- ◆ The Centre held a highly successful barbeque at Bunnings as a fund-raiser for the Centre. It was a beautiful day and there were lots of helpers. Many thanks to all parents and staff who helped out on the day. The proceeds will go towards updating the lounge furniture in the play and staff room.
- ◆ We are continuing to obtain quotes for the installation of solar panels on the roof and upgrading our office technology.
- ◆ Committee meeting notes are at the sign-in desk for any interested parents to read.
- ◆ Next Meeting : Monday 20th September, 6pm. All interested parents are invited to attend.

Christmas Shut-Down 2010

Please be advised that the centre will close for children on Thursday 16th December 2010 and re-opens on Tuesday 11th January 2011.

Trivia Night

Saturday 11th September 6.30pm
Newcastle United Sports Club



HCCC is independent of any advertising that appears in this Newsletter

Please support



at Hamilton.....

Centre Routines

- ◆ If your child is sick on the morning that they are due to attend the centre, please ring as early as possible to let us know. Often families require extra positions at late notice, and we can offer casual days if we know when children are going to be away.
- ◆ Please ensure children bring their hats each day. As the days are getting warmer, it's time to start sunscreening the children on arrival and also ensuring there are suitable spare clothes in bags.

Good for Kids Good for Life Physical Activity Strategy

Over the next few months, our service will be getting active, thanks to our involvement with the Good for Kids Good for Life Program.

What does this mean?

This means that our centre will be extending our focus on physically active play. Our staff will also be implementing fun activities to be more active and support them to explore movement skills, which are a crucial part of every child's development.

We are excited to be part of this initiative, which is just another way that we are working to give your child the best start in life.

Why physical activity?

You might be surprised to know that children do not naturally learn how to do things like throw, kick, run and jump, as part of their growth and development. Like any other skill—such as reading and writing, children need to be taught these skills and given opportunities to explore them to develop the whole child, body and brain.

These activities will help children to improve their co-ordination, balance and strength, and to be bright, active and on-track for healthy growth, learning and development.

If you have any questions about the *Good for Kids Physical Activity Strategy*, call 1300 657 197.

Mutual Benefits Help us to help you

Are you thinking of buying your first home, swapping your existing home loan or purchasing an investment property? Newcastle Permanent has a range of flexible and affordable home loans to meet your needs.

To arrange an appointment with your local Newcastle Permanent Community Lending Manager, call **13 19 87** and they will meet you at a time and place that best suits you.

Mention that you saw this advertisement when you apply, and if your loan is successful, **Hamilton Childcare Centre will be rewarded with a donation of \$300.** For more information contact **Lyn Connors** on **4962 1334**.



*For every home loan approved and advanced by the Society, the organisation will receive a \$300 donation. Applicable to new loans only. Society Fees and Government charges apply. Full terms & conditions are available on request. Newcastle Permanent Building Society Ltd. (ABN 96 087 651 992).

Visiting Performers and Excursions

Friday 27th August :

We present Ananse Stories with Sam Derchie. Sam has African music and stories for the children at 1.30pm.

Excursions to Hamilton Public School for children going to school in 2011 will be held on:

Friday 17th September

Tuesday 21st September

Children will visit the kindergarten classroom and join the school children in the playground for recess and a play. Notes will be placed in family pockets soon.

REMINDER: If you are applying for a home loan with the Newcastle Permanent, please see Susan or Lyn in the office for a special voucher, then advise the loan representative (prior to your loan application being submitted) that Hamilton Child Care Centre is a part of the Introducer Program so that the centre can received \$300.00 towards fundraising.

Parent Information

1. ADDvance Inc Presents a Seminar on ADD/ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome and Learning Disorders "Ways to help and support the child with learning disorders" with Dr Lee Sturgeon, Dr Rory McCarthy and David Porter on Saturday 25 September, 9am—4.30pm at Wallsend RSL Club. \$30 for parents. Ph 0412 003 283
2. Speech Pathology—Judy Armstrong Speech Pathology Clinic—Ph 49521539 will attend the centre for regular individual/group assessment and therapy
3. Lessons 4 Life—an on-line interactive learning resource targeted at young children (3 1/2 to 7 years) that addresses the topic of bullying. The resource engages children in a hands on learning experience that causes them to think about life, feelings and consequences, while at the same time engaging them in important conversation with an adult. Free on-line demonstration. www.kidslessons4life.com

2011 Enrolments

Letters have been placed in all family pockets for positions next year. You must return the pink slip regardless of whether your child is returning.

If your child is going on to big school, please indicate which school as we will contact the school to advise them what wonderful competent children they will be getting. We are then hoping to invite kindergarten teachers to the centre to see the children's work.

Please indicate the hours of care that you require on the pink slip. There are new regulations next year around new staff/child ratios and we need to make sure the staffing roster matches hours required.

We will be strict on available days next year and cannot guarantee additional days for non-working parents. This is due to our long waiting list and the centre's desire to offer additional positions to families on that waiting list. We give priority to siblings as per centre policy as long as both siblings are attending the centre.

Fund-Raising Report

- ◆ We would like to thank those who have already donated prizes for our major fundraiser this year the Trivia Night coming up in September, but we are still in need of more prizes, so if you or someone you know would like to help out please let the staff know. There is a box situated in front of Susan's office where you can place the donations.
- ◆ The Trivia Night is still on Saturday 11th September at Newcastle United Sports Club and it is shaping up to be a big night. The MC's for the night will be Garth Russell and Silas Moss.
- ◆ Unfortunately Sue Smith (Photography), is still unavailable to come and take the family photos at this time. We will keep everyone updated as soon as Sue is well and available.
- ◆ We are trailing Billy G's gourmet cookie and biscuit dough this year as a new fundraiser, notes will be going out in September, so keep an eye out for this.
- ◆ Thompson's Pie Drive order forms for this year will be going out at the end of October, so make sure you make plenty of room in your fridge and freezer for all these yummy pies and sweets.
- ◆ Christmas Toy catalogues will start appearing in your communication pockets shortly. This is a great way to stock up on Christmas presents as well as raising funds for the centre—20% of all sales goes to the centre.

**ALL FEES MUST BE UP TO
DATE AND PAID IN FULL
EACH MONTH**

Kirsty Lynette Mortlock

8/05/1981—18/08/2010

Kim and Owen and family wish to thank all families for the flowers, cards, sympathy & support during this difficult time.

Calling the Family Assistance Office

Some families may be finding it difficult to reach the Family Assistance Office at this time of year. It is their busiest time of the year, and the FAO has engaged a significant number of extra staff to help manage demand. The calls increase at this time of year because a number of things happen at the same time, including:

- ◆ Reconciliation of family entitlements
- ◆ Advance payments of Family Tax Benefit
- ◆ Budget measures
- ◆ Lump sum claims for family assistance
- ◆ Letters to families about their payments

What can families do?

Consider using the FAO's online services at www.familyassist.gov.au. Families can find information on the website to answer many of their questions, check their details and update their records. There are many functions that families can do online, such as:

- ◆ View child care details and payments
- ◆ Claim Child Care Benefit
- ◆ Update work, training or study details
- ◆ Update schooling details.

If a call can't be avoided, try calling (136150) after 6.00pm local time. The call centre is open 8.00am—8.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Absences and Child Care Benefit

Child Care Benefit (CCB) is paid for a child's first 42 absences each financial year. If a child uses all 42 initial absence days, they can have access to more absence days only if they are taken for certain reasons. For some of these reasons you need supporting documentation, such as a doctor's certificate in the case of illness.

Additional absences requiring documentation:

- ◆ Illness of the child or a member of their household *
- ◆ Outbreak of infectious disease for which the child is not immunised
- ◆ Parents rostered days off or rotating shifts *
- ◆ Shared care arrangements *

Documentation is not required for absences due to:

- ◆ Period of local emergency
- ◆ Attendance at preschool
- ◆ Exceptional circumstances—where a child has already used at least 31 of their initial 42 days due to reasons above marked with an *, you can receive up to 20 more absences without further documentation.

Have you paid some fees by Direct Deposit in early July that have not been receipted? We have an unidentified deposit. Please check your statements and let Susan know in the office if it's yours.

(you will require proof to claim it!)