

Bush Baby News

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TERM 4 WEEK 4 2020



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

What a busy start to our final term for 2020! From school photos in week one, to Halloween craft and fun, and of course the very important task of learning and practicing the various songs and performances for the Christmas Concerts, it has all been happening at preschool!

Our biennial survey closed recently and I would like to thank all those families who took the time to complete the survey for your feedback. Family input is critical to our planning and informs many of the decisions we make with respect to how our preschool runs, and in a year like 2020 when contact with families is limited, surveys and other methods of feedback are especially important. The results of the survey were very encouraging, and there was some fantastic feedback for the staff and board to consider moving forward.

Family input, feedback and ideas are always welcome and encouraged. You may wish to speak directly to Mrs Sayre or any of our educators, contact the preschool via phone or email, or you can also (anonymously if you prefer) pop any feedback, ideas or suggestions in the Suggestion Box, which is located next to the Wattle Room sign on area.

The Board met last week and have a number of projects to make improvements at preschool (both inside and outside) either underway or soon to be underway so stay tuned for updates on these!

Finally, thank you so much for your ongoing support of our COVID-Safe procedures at drop off and pick up times - it is greatly appreciated :-)

Kind regards,

Bec Pollard

DATES TO REMEMBER Term 4



- Class photos 12th, 14th, 16th October 2020.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Emergency Evacuation Practice

Every day, we reviewed and practiced our emergency procedures and evacuation from the preschool with the children. This is an important part of preparing children for the (hopefully unlikely event) of an emergency.

Things we went through included;

- What to do when you hear three whistles
- What to bring with you
- Why we are going out
- What we will do, (call 000 etc)
- Check everyone is with us and safe
- Talk to mum and dad about your safe places and what your address is so you can tell the emergency services. (We encouraged children to ask you, so you could decide if you are comfortable with children knowing their address for various reasons)

These procedures and practice help children and staff to deal with situations calmly and quickly, because it has all been done before. It is also a requirement of our licensing.

It is helpful, and a timely reminder, for parents to discuss with their preschooler where you would meet them if there was a fire at their home and teach them their address. There have been several instances in the media lately where very young children have saved someone in their family because they know these details. It is never too early to teach your child.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AT PRESCHOOL

The preschool has completed risk assessments on various emergencies that could occur in our environment. These have been addressed and emergency procedures drawn up to manage them. If there was a need to evacuate the premises, the diagram, procedures and staff roles are displayed in both rooms.

Staff and children practice our procedures each term and at different times of the day, so they become very familiar with them and children will not panic. If you have any questions about our procedures feel free to ask. There will be a note on the whiteboard advising days we have practiced. This is often a good time to talk to your children about emergencies at home.

FROM OFFICE

Our Preschool Photos have arrived!!!

Photos can be viewed by requesting them from your child's educator.

There is an envelope located in the back of the photo pack for you to take away and arrange payment, either by cash or credit card. Once payment is made you are free to take your photos home.

The entire photo pack is available for purchase for \$65 or individual photo pages at varying prices (see payment envelope).

The oaks baby clinic

Good afternoon.

My name is Amber I am a child and family nurse in the MacArthur area. We just wanted to let you and your families know that our baby clinic has now

reopened at The Oaks Public School on a Thursday Morning during school term. We can see children up till 4 years of age and can refer to allied health and assist with eye sight screening and hearing also.

I have attached our flyer with our details and the number to book an appointment.

Thankyou for your time

Regards

Amber Odgers, RN, RM, CFHN

Child and Family Health Nurse | **Community health**

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SLEEP AND REST PROCEDURES AT PRESCHOOL

Rest is very important for children every day. Sleep and rest needs vary from child to child and even day to day. The preschool is flexible and aware when it comes to providing for these needs. Staff monitor all children for signs of tiredness or sickness at all times, and are very experienced in recognising small signals.

Our daily routine provides many sections of the day where children can experience down time and withdraw a little from the busy environment if they feel the need. Quiet areas are planned every day indoors and outside for relaxation and rest, such as book corner, quiet drawing, manipulatives and mats.

The daily schedule provides several quiet times, for example after lunch is quiet independent book reading, and coming indoors after outdoor play the group usually does some relaxation, yoga or story time.

Preschool has sleep mats, clean sheets, pillows and blankets for resting if children need to. These are placed in a quiet area of the room within view of teachers. Teachers usually call parents to seek feedback on their wishes regarding children sleeping and how long they should be left.



2.7.1A Bushfire Policy

Relevant Legislation: [Link/s to Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 97](#)

[Link/s to National Quality Standards: 2.1,2.1.1,2.1.2,2.2 and 6.1,6.2](#)

Public Health Regulation

Introduction: The Oaks Preschool is committed to ensuring the safety of all adults and children within the centre and will plan ahead for all bushfire emergencies, ensuring staff approach the situation in a calm and professional manner.

Policy Goal: The Oaks Preschool will ensure that all situations are closely monitored with advice taken from all relevant authorities and in line with the local schools.

A leave early action plan will be taken.

Strategies, What will we do?

The Oaks Preschool complies with Work Health and Safety National Standards, Codes of Practice, Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 and Australian Standards as well as best practice recommendations from relevant recognised authorities including the local RFS Units.

- During peak bushfire seasons, such as spring and summer, Educators will monitor the Fire Danger Rating within the community daily. If the rating is Very High or above, Educators will monitor the situation via internet, fires near me app and other forms of local communication to stay aware of the current situation within the community.
- The Oaks Preschool will adapt a "Leave Early" policy whenever a bushfire is likely to impact the service, or if so guided by the local Police or NSW Rural Fire Service.
- The neighborhood safe place for the Oaks Preschool shall be the Community Hall in Russell Street, as this is the closest point to the Preschool. All present at the service, shall follow the designated route (as per attached map).
- The Oaks Preschool complies with Work Health and Safety National Standards, Codes of Practice, Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 and Australian Standards as well as best practice recommendations from relevant recognised authorities including the local RFS Units.
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Extra Procedures to be followed:

- Neighborhood Safer Places are predetermined by NSW Rural Fire Service and will remain the current emergency evacuation point for the Preschool.
- Staff will remain calm, reassure and comfort children during this procedure.
- Notification of the safest route will be placed on both the entrance gates to the Preschool along with contact information for families.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- The Nominated Supervisor will:
- Contact and liaise with emergency services
- Continually liaise with the approved provider of the situation and plan
- Implement the "Leave Early" evacuation plan and move all children to the designated "Neighborhood Safe Place"

- Send information to families via SMS and Kinderloop of the “Leave Early Plan”
- Place all signage on gates and doors of building
- Collect all emergency items, headcount and commence evacuation procedure.
- Notify ECED formally of Centre Closure

VERY HIGH, SEVERE OR EXTREME FIRE DANGER RATINGS WHEN FIRE IS REPORTED IN THE LOCAL DISTRICT

On days when the fire rating is reported as Very High, Severe or Extreme Fire Danger Ratings and when fire is reported in the local district, staff will be on high alert and advise the Nominated Supervisor of any changes to the weather or fire situation.

Parents will be advised that the “Leave Early Plan” is in place and that the Service is preparing for evacuation if required. They will be asked to be aware of the current fire situation, remain local to the Preschool in the event of evacuation and to collect children after evacuation has occurred if choosing to leave them in Preschool care.

The Nominated Supervisor will ensure:

- Contact local authorities to advise attendance numbers and staff within the service and the evacuation plan that is in place, should evacuation be required.
- All outdoor taps are in working order with tap/hose fittings in place
- Hoses are prepared with all fittings and ready to be placed out if required
- Any outdoor hazards have been removed from external buildings
- All access areas around the building are clear and internal gates are unlocked.
- Ensure all mobile phones are fully charged
- Ensure computer backup has been removed from premises
- Ensure all staff are carrying a whistle in case of emergency evacuation is required

Links to other Policies: This policy is to be read and acted upon in conjunction with

2.7.1 Emergency and Evacuation

2.7.2 Fire and Emergency Procedures

2.7.3 Emergency Evacuation Procedure

Sources and References: NSW Rural Fire Service
Wollondilly Shire Council
ECED

Review Date: Policy completed 10/2020

Review 10/2021

