



Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2011. A Happy New Year to all of our Sydney Cove families and friends. It is that time of year where we are welcoming back our returning families and welcoming new families who are joining care for the first time. We also bid farewell to many of our proud Preschoolers and their families who graduated to School this year. An exciting time for everyone! If your family has just joined our centre, or if your child is transitioning to the next age group, please don't hesitate to ask your room leaders/team members any questions to help make your transition easier. We aim to make your transition as smooth as possible. Remember there are no silly questions! See transition hints in this newsletter also.

Inside This Issue

- 1 Coordinator's Intro
- 2 Transition Tips
- 3 Graduation Ceremony
- 4 Preschoolers Artwork
- 5 Captain Bandanna
- 6 Christmas Party
- 7 Horns, Buttons and Tubes
- 8 Chinese New Year
- 9 Child Care Rebate
- 10 Policy Review: Allergies
- 11 Team Profile
- 12 Little Reminders

A reminder that our information portal- **'Sydney Cove Parent Connect'** www.scccp.com.au gives each family easy access to their child's individual portfolio. We have just completed our quarterly update. If your family has just commenced care your portfolio will be available for viewing at the end of this quarter (end of March).

Please email coordinators@sydneycovechildren.com.au if you need your log in details or password. Your 'username' will be your child's first and last name, for example John Smith (capital letters for the first letter of both names and remainder of letters in lowercase).

We look forward to another wonderful year at Sydney Cove and thank all of our families for your continuing support and much appreciated feedback.



Proud Sydney Cove Preschool Graduate

Transition Tips



Commencing child care and transitioning to a new room/age group is an exciting and sometimes a challenging time for families. New experiences and places can make us feel a little worried. Here at Sydney Cove we are here to help you and your child feel relaxed and reassured. We know it takes time to build great relationships- and from day one we focus on getting to know your family.

- Ask Questions. Don't let something small niggle at you. Ask the team leader directly to clarify if you are unsure.
- Spend time getting to know the Team members, the room and general routine. Ask for feedback at the end of the day.
- Always smile, say 'goodbye' and wave confidently as you leave. Avoid returning to the room after saying goodbye.
- Call during the day if your child had an unsettled morning. Chat about what both the family and the team can do to make saying goodbye easier.



Graduation Ceremony

Graduation Ceremonies were held for both Preschools during December and January. We proudly presented each graduating child with a special Graduation Certificate. This was a proud moment for our Preschoolers who are well prepared for School by our Advanced School Readiness and our wonderful Teachers. Families joined us for this special occasion which included a yummy afternoon tea.

Qld floods inspire Preschoolers Art Work

Recent devastating floods in Queensland inspired our Preschoolers to create 'something special' for the children and families affected by the floods. Many of our children witnessed the floods and their effects on other children and their families through the media earlier this month. The Preschool teachers encouraged the children to talk about, role play and create with different media in order to help them to make sense of what had happened. Sydney Cove shared our Preschoolers artwork with 'The Sydney Morning Herald' and a story was featured on the 21st of January. <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/weather/trauma-leaves-its-mark-on-children-and-their-drawings-20110120-19y40.html>

The Preschoolers are very proud of their artwork and it is now displayed in our East Hallway.





Captain Bandanna

Captain Bandanna Entertainers visited Sydney Cove in December as part of our end of year celebration. Captain Bandanna incorporated music, movement & storytelling to take the children on a fun filled educational journey full of adventure & surprises.

The catchy songs were performed by Captain Bandana & Splash the Mermaid in a captivating, interactive & energetic performance that had the children sailing to mystical islands using exciting actions & story telling.

Christmas Party

Families and friends were invited to join us for our Annual Christmas Party in December. Santa dropped in to deliver a present to each child and enjoy a cool drink and some Christmas cake. The children were very excited to see him and chatted to Santa about their Christmas wish list. The morning teas were a wonderful opportunity for families to mingle and chat.



Horns, Buttons and Tubes Show

Dominic who has written songs for 'The Wiggles' visited our babies in November to present his show 'Horns, Buttons and Tubes'. The music was from different cultures and after some hesitation the babies were entranced by the show. Dominic played a variety of instruments and the babies danced and clapped their hands to new and well known songs. Instruments played included a Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, and an Accordion.

Chinese New Year Celebration

Chinese New Year is an important celebration within the Chinese Community. To reflect our families' cultures and local community we incorporate this special celebration into our program annually. The children investigated the celebration and its significance to the Chinese Community in January. Many activities were interweaved into our program including creating 'Dragon masks', 'Chinese New year lanterns', and participating in music, movement/dancing and storytelling sessions. 'Happy Times for Kids' will also visit our centre this month to present a production on the celebration, including an opportunity for children to dress up and experience different aspects of the Chinese culture.



Child Care Rebate

Currently, eligible families receive their Child Care Rebate quarterly or annually based on attendance information submitted to the CCMS by child care services. From 1 July 2011, [subject to the passage of legislation](#), the Government will provide families with the option to receive their Child Care Rebate paid either directly to their bank account, or as a further fee reduction payment paid to their child care service on their behalf, bringing further assistance to families at the time they incur the costs of their child care. More information is available at www.mychild.gov.au. From the MyChild homepage go to the *Latest News* tab and click on the *Fortnightly Child Care Rebate Payment Option* link.

Policy Review: Allergies/Intolerances

Allergies can develop at any time and also increase or diminish in severity. We have recently updated our Allergy/medical condition policy and enrolment form to highlight the following:

- 1) Prior to the child commencing care confirmation is required from the family and their GP confirming any allergy, intolerance or medical condition.
 - 2) Prior to the child commencing care the relevant Action Plans (Allergy, Eczema, Asthma) must be completed by a GP, and returned to the centre.
 - 3) All Action Plans must be accompanied by medication to counteract the reaction/symptoms. The medication will remain stored at the centre while the child attends care. The medication must be prescribed by GP and have a prescription label attached with clear directions on administration of medication including the child's details.
 - 4) Sydney Cove is to be notified by the family of any allergy, intolerance (or medical condition) that develops during the child's enrolment. Once a child 'reacts' to a certain food or substance/or shows other signs/symptoms, the family is to visit their GP and confirm whether the reaction is 'intolerance' or an 'allergy' etc.
 - 5) If an 'intolerance' is confirmed during enrolment then a letter from GP is required stating the intolerance prior to the child returning to care. The child's room will display an 'Intolerance information' chart.
 - 6) If an 'Allergy' (or Eczema/Asthma) is confirmed during enrolment then an 'Action Plan' must be completed by GP (1 colour copy) and returned to centre prior to the child returning to care (accompanied by appropriate medication).
 - 7) Children who have an Allergy/Asthma/Eczema or Medical Condition will wear relevant band/s while in care. This is to ensure team members can identify the child and follow action plan accordingly.
- Please don't hesitate to speak to your room team leader or coordinator to clarify any aspects of the policy.**

Handy Hint!

To avoid delays with you child care rebate/benefit payments.

Email your Parent Reference Number and Child Reference Number to

admin@sydneycovechildren.com.au

Does your child have an Allergy or Asthma?

Please attach Allergy or Asthma Band on Arrival (right wrist).

Located in room folder near sign in/out forms.

Team Member Profile: Jacinta Murphy

Position: Nursery Coordinator

Home Town: Dublin

Where did you study: The Liberties in Dublin

Qualifications: National Vocational Cert Level 2 / Caring for children 0-7 years/ Care of the special child 1994-1996

Experience: Manager of a nursing agency. Worked in POW theatres for a year. Working for Sydney Cove Centre Management for over 10 years.

Interests: **My Irish Mothers group IMGDU:** I am founder/organiser of the Irish Mothers Group Down Under

Travel: All over the Shop! Ireland, Europe and USA

Memorable travel moment: Clapping when the airplane landed in JFK as the turbulence was so bad we all thought we were going to die!

Famous quote: "Babies cry to communicate not to manipulate"

Favourite movie: Love actually and Bridget Jones



Jacinta – The Baby Whisperer

Little Reminders

- **Kidzkuts:** next sessions: 09th March, 20th April book online www.kidzkuts.com.au
- **'Happy Times for Kids' (Chinese New Year) 22nd February, 10:30am (3 – 5's)**
- **'Wildlife Man' (Reptiles and Amphibians) 09th March, 9:30am (2 – 3's)**
- **Sydney Puppet Theatres (A package for Granny) To be confirmed (0 – 2's)**
- Use **Hand Sanitisers** on arrival and departure.
- Attach **'Allergy/Asthma/Medical Condition bands'** on Arrival
- **Important Reminder:** Sydney Cove is a **'Nut Free Zone'**. Please do not bring food into centre or leave any food in your child's bag.

With Best Wishes from Kelly, Katie, Jacinta, Jo and all the Sydney Cove Team

Phone 02 9270 5000

admin@sydneycovechildren.com.au

www.sydneycovechildren.com.au

Sydney Cove East Provider Number 407330200S

Sydney Cove West Provider Number 407330196A

Sydney Cove West Coordinator: Kelly Gibson

Sydney Cove East Coordinator: Katie Simcoe

Nursery Coordinator: Jacinta Murphy

Administration Manager/Newsletter Editor: Jo Gilmore