

# Ballymore Bulletin



+think + play + learn + grow =



Ballymore Kindy



Issue 4 August 2016

## Desley's Dialogue



Dear Parents

By the time you read this newsletter we will be entering the final weeks of Term 3. It will have been another busy time for all of us and hopefully we are all surviving, as best we can, the ills and chills of winter.

Spring is around the corner and at kindy we will be looking forward to warmer mornings for our outside play and new growth on the many plants that Louise Stoakley and her son, Lachlan (Group 1), planted for us over the mid-year holidays. Thank you Louise! I hope we have kept enough water up to them.

I would also like to thank Chris, Yvonne, Karen and Kerry and Lindsay for keeping everything sailing along during my absences. The children have enjoyed the new music, stories and ideas that visiting teachers share and it is also important practice to adapt to new teaching styles – they will have many teachers to work with at Prep.

I am including a short article on the place of literacy and numeracy in play. Sometimes it can be hard to see all the more traditional academic learning that is occurring as children generate ideas and put them into action in their social play. But this is really important preparation for school and beyond.

You may also like to read this article:  
Kaufman, S.B. (2013). The Need for Pretend Play. Retrieved (25 July 2014) from:  
<http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/beautiful-minds/2013/11/11/the-need-for-pretend-play-in-child-development/>

Do let me know if you have trouble accessing it. I have paper copies available.

*Desley*

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Upcoming event  
(Term 4)

Science Visit by  
Dr. Joe

Both groups will be visited by Dr. Joe:

**Group 1 – Tuesday 18 October,**  
and

**Group 2 – Friday 21 October**

Dr. Joe brings some great science equipment and experiments to share with us.

He encourages the children to ask lots of questions, poses theories and test them out!



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### President's Report

As we're beginning to look forward to the jump to prep next year, there is a new batch of children looking forward to starting Kindy at Ballymore in 2017!

Places have now been offered and accepted, although there can always be some change between now and the beginning of next year with possible job transfers etc. Please continue to recommend that people contact the centre if they are looking for a kindy position in 2017.

As a Committee and a wider Kindy community, it is our job to make sure everything is in order for the years to come, just as they were for us. Enrolments are a big part of this and word-of-mouth continues to be the number one way of finding out about our Kindy, so please keep recommending and spreading the word.

You may have noticed the low retaining wall along the front of the property needs some attention. We've applied for a grant to cover the costs but it wasn't successful. Although it isn't super urgent, the Committee decided to go ahead and get the work done over the September holidays as the builder is available and we've enough to cover the costs. Hopefully you'll notice the improvement after the holidays!

See you at kindy.

*Deanna*



### *Book Drive for TI*

On my recent visit to Thursday Island, it was very evident that books were not in abundance at the child care centre that Gowrie now manage.

I suggested that I ask our Ballymore families if they have any books (for babies, toddlers and young children) that are no longer needed, if they would like to donate them to the TI centre.

Please don't feel compelled to give up any books unless you are certain. But if you do have books you were intending to move out of home, please feel free to leave them in the office and I will pass them on to the Gowrie team.

(Desley)





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## *All S/He Ever Does Is Play – What About the Three R's?*

Literacy and numeracy are fundamental aspects of our everyday lives. Our kindergarten curriculum provides experiences that enable children to develop the foundation skills that will underpin their later literacy and numeracy learning.

**Literacy** (i.e. reading and writing) encompasses a range of skills and attitudes, beyond knowing the alphabet.

These skills and attitudes include:

- Thinking and problem solving
- Listening
- Communicating with each other to share ideas
- Taking an interest in books
- Using books for a purpose
- Making inferences about stories from picture clues
- Being aware of environmental print
- Scribbling, drawing and writing about ideas
- Practising reading behaviour
- Recalling and telling stories to construct meaning
- Role playing writing
- Understanding that the written word has meaning – a shared symbol



**Numeracy** also involves many more skills and attitudes than counting and knowing numbers:

- Describing attributes
- Sorting and classifying
- Comparing
- Patterning
- Measuring
- Counting and one-to-one correspondence
- Being aware of numerals – the symbols for numbers
- Ordering – e.g. from biggest to smallest
- Understanding shape and space
- Thinking and problem solving with, and about, mathematical concepts
- Using numbers to communicate ideas



## 4 Ballymore Bulletin (All S/He Ever Does is Play – What About the Three R's?)

Our play curriculum provides a myriad of opportunities for children to explore, experiment, pose and solve problems, interact with others, manipulate materials and equipment and talk about what they are doing. Through these experiences children develop the foundations for literacy and numeracy.

Our pretend play gives children **real purposes** for using literacy and numeracy skills. For example – At the Boost Juice Bar, the players had to:

Count cups, making sure there was one for each customer

Sort juices into different types

Measure amounts of juice and compare colours

Solve problems such as how to manage a number of people in a small space

Listen and speak to each other to give and take orders

Make a sign for the bar in order to communicate a message to others

Write orders for drinks

Read orders back to the drink makers

In this one play scenario, a number of literacy and numeracy skills and attitudes were being employed and consolidated. Our games of fairies, firemen, doctors, dinosaurs etc. can all be analysed in terms of the literacy and numeracy foundations that are incorporated into them.

As children play their “games” at kindy, they are initiating and developing their own ideas. This ownership of the activity means that they are stakeholders in the decision making process of the curriculum. As a result, they are often more motivated to complete tasks, to gain new information and to **stretch** their skills. In play, children are more likely to take risks, to have a go and to experiment with new ideas and skills.

The strong relationship between pretend play and the use of symbols, such as letters and numbers, has often been noted by researchers:

*“Pretend play allows children to develop their abilities to use symbols, to represent experience and to construct imaginary worlds. For example; it is the same process of symbolic representation whether a child uses a block (an object) to represent a cat, or letters (c-a-t) to represent the animal. In both reading and writing, as in pretend play, children become absorbed in a world and events that are divorced from present time and circumstances. When children read and write, it involves fluency in using words to call up experiences not present in the here and now. Pretend play, where children create imaginary texts through play, requires the same skills.” (Danby, S., 1998)*

# Child Restraint Safety

Desley invited us to share some information about child restraint safety. My husband and I are Kidsafe accredited child restraint fitters and ran a successful fitting business, winning the Qld Kidsafe award for the promotion of injury prevention in 2013 and so it is a pleasure to share something we are so passionate about.

In 2014 the type G seats were released and are a game changer to keeping kids safe. Too often parents want their child to advance to the next stage. This is not the case with child restraints. The longer your child can stay in a harnessed seat the better. Our tall 6yo daughter fits perfectly in our *Infasecure Evolve* and has many more years before she will outgrow the seat.

Since Levi's Dad was diagnosed with Leukaemia and we are no longer active in the industry, I would like to share some great information about what seats are now available from safety advocates - **Child Restraint Info AUS** - Look them up on Facebook

[When is it safe to move my child out of a 6 point harness?](#)

**Legally your child MUST be in a 6 point harness till at LEAST 4.**



The safest way for anyone to travel is in a 6 point harness. This is why race car drivers and astronauts use 6 point harnesses. In Australia we now have G type restraints which harness children to an average of 8-10 years.

These seats include; *Infasecure Evolve, Infasecure Grandeur, Infasecure Genesis, Safe n Sound Maxi Guard SICT, Babylove Ezy Grow, Hipod Manhattan, Safety 1st Sentry, Mothers Choice Journey*

At around age 6, the iliac crest, which is the part of the pelvis in Adults of which the seatbelt rests on, develops in children. Small children also have fragile, developing, flexible neck muscles, loose ligaments to allow for growth, small rib cages, developing abdominal muscles, soft spinal columns and unprotected relatively larger abdominal organs. The vertebrae do not completely ossify until close to age 6. This vulnerability causes far more serious injuries from the seatbelt in children than adults. Harnessing for as long as possible is definitely and strongly recommended.

Please feel free to ask us anything and we are happy to give your child restraint a free check at Kindy drop off.

*Pamela and Damien (Levi's parents)*





## FUN RECIPES!

Here are some recipes from Yvonne (Mrs. Matthews) – Cloud Dough and muffins!

# Cloud Dough

### Ingredients

One packet of flour (any kind is fine)  
One bottle of baby oil  
(+ colour, glitter, etc.)

### Method

Add baby oil to flour (approx. 1/2 bottle per bag of flour) and mix well until flour sticks together when pressed firmly.

You can also add scented oils to this, but baby oil smells lovely too. To add colour, tempera powder paints are best. You can also add glitter to glitz it up a bit!

# Basic Muffin Base

### Ingredients

2 cups self-raising flour  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 egg beaten  
1/4 cup oil  
1 cup milk

### Equipment

One 12-hole muffin pan

### Method

1. Place all ingredients in a bowl
2. Mix until just combined
3. Bake at 180 degrees for approximately 20 minutes



Thank you for reading!!  
See you again in the next issue☺