

BallymoreBulletin



+think + play + learn + grow =



Ballymore Kindy



ISSUE 1 Summer Edition January 2015

DESLEY'S DIALOGUE



Dear Parents

Welcome to the "Summer Edition" of our Ballymore Bulletin. I hope all our families have had a relaxing and happy summer break.

It is not long now until kindy begins for 2015 and already there is much thinking and planning happening for our year ahead. We really hope that you and your child enjoy your time at Ballymore.

We also hope you enjoy reading through our Bulletin. We have included:

- updates on information to help families and children make a smooth transition to kindy in those first days and
- dates of important events in our first weeks – our Kindy "Meet & Greet" and our Alumni gathering.

Learning at Ballymore

During your time at Ballymore, you will hear us talk often about "Creating a Caring Community of Learners". This is Ballymore's unique approach to early education and places strong emphasis on the importance of relationships in a young child's life. Research has also shown that such a focus has significant impact on a child's development of their "executive functioning abilities" – including working memory, inhibitory control and cognitive flexibility – crucial for life, and school, readiness.

Early in Term 1 we will take time to hold a discussion evening to talk more about this.

In the meantime, I have included a short article in this newsletter which gives a brief explanation of why we place such value on children's make believe play within our curriculum. Such play affords a strong sense of agency to young children - a critical element of our relationships curriculum. This approach encourages a "strengths based" view of children, using play to foster a sense of individual worth and competence, and to develop respect for themselves and others, as well as a range of skills.

Happy reading everyone and welcome to 2015 at Ballymore Kindy.

Bye for now,
Desley



www.facebook.com/BallymoreKindy

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi Everyone,

Welcome to Ballymore Kindy. Over the next few weeks you'll discover that the centre is an excellent place for your children to start their education and by the end of the year you'll be astonished by the wonderful progress they have made over their four terms at Ballymore.

The Kindy is in great shape, looking its best after some large grant works over the last two years. The outdoor environment is perfect for play. The mud patch will be primed and ready, so don't forget the spare change of clothes! We lost most of our biggest tree out the back in last year's big storm. The

tree is reshooting but in the meantime, some shade sails will provide some shade. They may be installed in time for our first day, otherwise soon after.

Our AGM will be held on Monday, 2nd February. Our lovely independent, community kindergarten relies on parents for our Committee. It is a great way to be involved at the Kindy. The place runs itself, and the positions don't require any special skills. Please don't be shy about putting your hand up for a position at the AGM!

Deanna
President 2014

Ballymore Kindy on FACEBOOK



park

- Interesting updates on what the children have been doing at kindy
- Interesting articles/links/pages that I think would be beneficial reading
- Notices that we would like to communicate to a wider audience.

As Facebook is largely a photo-based form of communication, we may occasionally post photos of children at the kindy. There may be some families who do not wish their child to appear on our website and we will carry this action across to Facebook.

Dear Ballymore Families,

I am writing to let you know that Ballymore Kindy is on Facebook. We think it will be a great tool for us to communicate with our past and present families and also spread the word about our wonderful kindy.

We are therefore requesting anyone interested to 'Like' us on Facebook. To do this, you will need to log onto your personal Facebook page, search for Ballymore Kindy and select 'Like'. This means you will automatically follow the

Kindy and receive posts (we promise not to bombard you with posts. In fact, it will never be more than two per week). The types of posts we intend to make include:

- Notices and updates of social occasions/plays in the

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you on Facebook.

Desley

FIRST DAY AT BALLYMORE



We know there is a lot for new families to become familiar with at the beginning of the year, so we will try to make the first day as easy as possible. You may like to arrive just before 8.30 on this first morning to allow time to settle your child in to the day. When you arrive, please come in and:

- Sign the sign-in book
- Help your child to wash hands
- Help your child to find their locker (There is a list on the wall in case you have forgotten yours!)
- Help your child to put sheets into the red box
- Help your child to hang up their hand towel near the wash basins

Please stay on the carpet with your child until 8.30. Puzzles and books are available for parents and children at this time. Just before 8.30 teachers will be

Young children take their cues from their parents – engaging in long goodbyes or long discussions at this time can give them the message that you are feeling anxious and that they should be worried too – so please be very strong and resist the urge to linger or to look back.

at the carpet to begin our day with the children. This is the time for parents to say “goodbye”, and exit!!

If there should be tears please be brave (for your sake and your child’s!) - we are well practised at handling tears! and we will certainly contact you if your child does not settle.

Feel free to phone us during

the day if you are feeling concerned. But try and enjoy your day – it is a new step for you and your child.

Please return at about 2.15, so that children are leaving the centre by 2.30.

Housekeeping Matters



It is important that we have all enrolment forms signed and returned to us or drop into our locked letterbox before Monday 19 January. Please post

Each child will receive a welcome letter in January with reminders of start dates, what to bring and which locker will be theirs at kindy. Group 1 commences on Tuesday 27 January and Group 2 commences on Thursday 29 January.

Please ensure that:

- all your child’s belongings are all clearly named
- your child has a spare set of clothes in their bag each day
- hats and clothes provide good sun protection

Each child will require a small washer to use at kindy. It is important, under safety regulations, that the washers are not touching each other so we have to ask that washers be approx 30cm x 30 cm in size. Hair bands are easy loops to sew on the middle of the washer:



WHY DO WE PLAY “GAMES” AT KINDY?

MAKE. BELIEVE.



Why is “make believe” play such an important focus in our curriculum at Ballymore?

- This is such a natural way for children play. Do you remember building cubbies under the dining room table? Dressing up in mum’s jewellery? Playing at Superman in the backyard? As children we liked to “try on” different roles to see how it felt – children today are just the same!



- Children are not, as some may think, “empty vessels” waiting to be filled with appropriate knowledge by teachers. By the time children arrive at kindy they have already acquired a significant range of knowledge, skills and attitudes. Establishing make believe games provides children with reasons to access that knowledge, refine it and build on it.
- In this type of program, children are seen as active (not passive) learners whose ideas are valued and who are encouraged to be creative decision

makers and problem solvers. This is so important for their sense of identity – for autonomy, independence and the confidence to face and deal with new situations and problems.

- By being able to act on their ideas, children are motivated to extend their development and learning. Motivation is derived from a sense of purpose. Children are more likely to be actively engaged and learning when the experience has personal relevance to them. For example: it’s much more interesting to use pen and paper to draw a space map to use in your spaceship than because someone has told you to do a drawing!
- Language plays a major role in this program as children are encouraged to share ideas and communicate for a variety of purposes in their play. Language is vital to thinking and learning. Talking about ideas helps children to clarify their experiences and thoughts, and can help them to make connections between new and existing knowledge.
- By its very nature make believe play emphasises social relationships – focussing on children communicating and relating to one another in a variety of contexts. Children are encouraged to not only be independent in their efforts

but also interdependent as the group identity is stressed – the need to be aware of others, and respectful of individual ideas and efforts.

- Make believe play supports research into brain development. Our play takes place in a climate of relaxed alertness. It involves content that engages the whole child in rich and complex problem solving, and allows opportunities for the child to bring to the surface, or represent, what is experienced or learned (Caine & Caine, 1994).

styles and allows children to experience success as they play at their own level and stretch themselves to meet goals they have set. There is no “right” way to engage in make believe play. In addition, such play provides opportunities to interact in different ways. Quieter children can be seen to be a leader in play when their role requires it or when the game has relevance to them or has developed from their own idea.

- Make believe play is an effective strategy to assist children in meeting the 5



- Make believe play encourages the use of symbols – ie something representing something else. This symbolisation is the first step in developing literacy and numeracy, and the understanding that letters and numbers are symbols with meaning.
- Make believe play accommodates different learning

outcome areas of the Qld Kindergarten Learning Guidelines – Identity, Connectedness, Wellbeing, Active Learning and Communication and reflects the philosophy of the Early Years Learning Framework of Australia titled “**Belonging, Being & Becoming**”

Desley

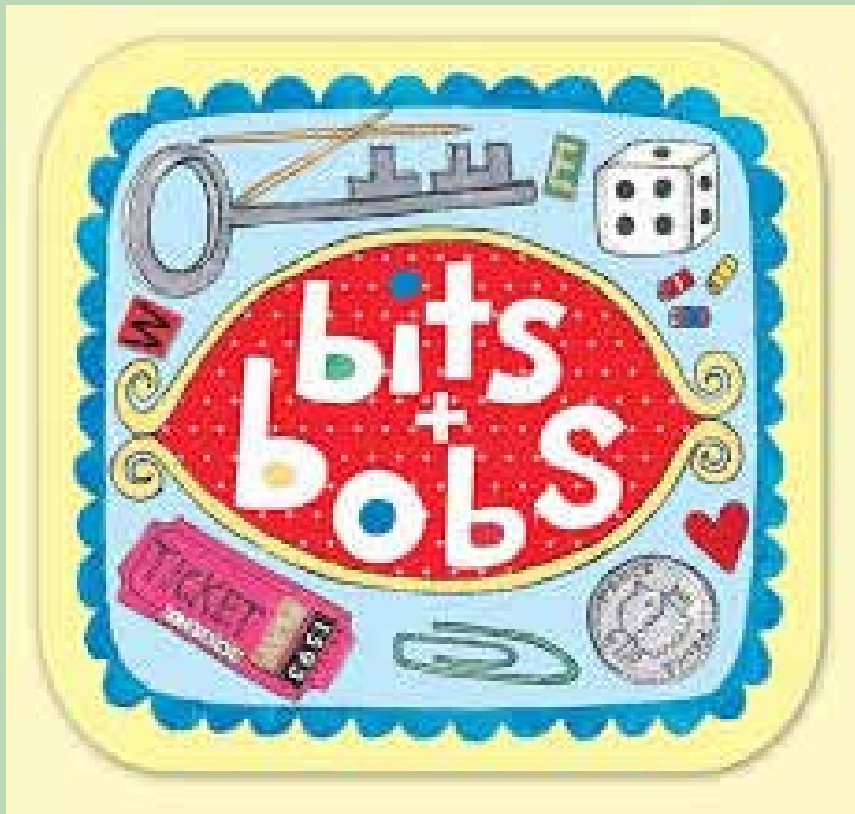
Belonging is the basis for a fulfilling life – relationships with family, community, culture and place are paramount,
Being is about living the here and now. Childhood is a special time in life and children need time to just ‘be’ – time to play, try new things, have fun, and
Becoming is about the learning and development that young children are capable of.

OTHER BITS AND PIECES

Kindy Wishlist

When you have your next spring clean please keep us in mind. There are lots of things we can reuse at Kindy:

- Mobile phones
- Laptops
- Small flat screens
- Cardboard boxes of all shapes and sizes including very big ones.
- Lengths of material
- Ribbons
- Paper – any shape, size, colour, thickness, lined and plain
- Used envelopes
- Cardboard rolls – toilet, gladwrap
- Old saucepans and plastic cookware



Kindy T-Shirts

Our kindy shirts are a great way to avoid wear and tear on other clothes and also advertise our centre!!

They are currently on sale: 3 for \$20.

(If you bought 2 at the end of last year, please see me and we will give you an additional shirt for free! If you have already bought 1 Tshirt another \$10 will buy you 2 more!!)

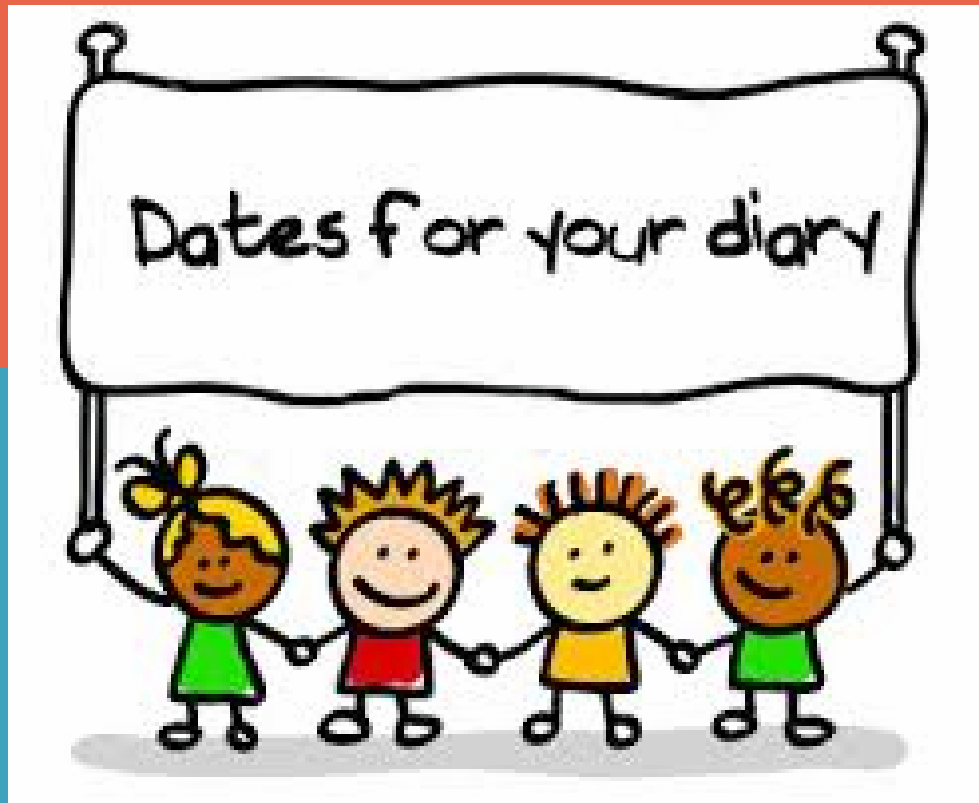


Telstra Employees??

Are you, or someone in your family an employee of Telstra? If so, you may be able to assist the kindy with a community grant. Please see Desley or Chris in the office.

SAVE THE DATE

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Ballymore Kindy "Meet & Greet" and AGM

Please join us for a glass of wine on Monday the 2nd of February at 7pm. This will be followed by our AGM which (from past experience) should take no more than 20 minutes.

We hope you can make it.



ALUMNI FAMILY GET TOGETHER



Our Alumni event is being held on Sunday 1st March this year. All Ballymore families, past and present are invited to come along. It is a great way to keep in touch with the Kindy. We will be meeting from 10am – 12noon at the Gould Road Park, which is just off Fagan Road behind the Kindy. BYO: toys and food/drink.

This is an annual event, always held on the first Sunday in March.

