New Outdoor Play Area

We have now seen the finishing touches on the new outdoor play area for the Rural Care children. We would like to thank the Lions Club and all the members involved. A special mention to Gary Jukes for some extra little touches, such as attaching a new gate closure that works.

Thank you to Graham Richardson for voluntarily laying the artificial lawn. The first morning the children were allowed on the lawn they ran and pretended to be planes swooping each other, laughing and having such a special time. It is their special place and they know that. All staff have and will continue to value this extension of our room. Thank you all.

Language and Literacy—A Parent’s Song

The last newsletter we shared the story of little Arnabella song from Matilda and her mum Kerrie. We have another story to tell you about a brave mouse. The mouse with the large ears is afraid of nothing. A lady asked the mouse are you afraid of an Owl a Cat or a Mousetrap, “Well yes I am, but I am not afraid of anything else”. We invited Jonathan’s mum Judith to come and tell us a story in their second language Afrikaans. Judith and Jonathan sang the story in Afrikaans. We then watched the song with actors on the TV. The children listened well and when it was over Alby kept asking, where is the mouse with the big

Staff sourced some simple words with pictures from Novita and we asked Judith and Jonathan to say these words. We found that some words are similar to our words, eg mum— mamma, dad— pappa and toilet is toilet. We then played with our animals and we found animals that live in Africa and animals that only live in Australia. We incorporate language and literacy in many ways.

Professional Development—Training

August 14th - A Early Childhood Forum is being held in Pt Lincoln. Early Years Learning Framework will be presented by Gowrie SA and DEC’s. Exploring behaviour guidance approaches and strategies presented by Gowrie Training Centre.

September 9th— Fed up with Children’s Behaviour-Effects of food on Children’s behaviour with Sue Dengeate.

We would like to welcome Leanne Butler to our staff team. Leanne is studying her Certificate III in Children’s Services and is doing a 5 week placement at Rural Care. Leanne told us she is learning a great deal from the placement and we are also learning from Leanne.

Support on line for parenting tips from Michael Gross web www.parentingideas.com.au

Written LWS July 2010
Our Shared Philosophy

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you part of our Philosophy in relation to families.

In respect to families we will

- Engage in open, communicative relationships, that allows for the exchange of information and shared decision making.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Acknowledge and respect the uniqueness of each family, including their beliefs, culture or religion.
- Encourage their participation within the program.
- Assist them to access appropriate community services when needed.

If you would like to give any constructive feedback about this part of our Philosophy or would like to view all the Philosophy, please feel comfortable to speak to any of the staff.

The Campfire Adventure.

Alby and Archer went for a walk and found little segments of wood to fill a wheelbarrow. Elke watched the boys and then went and filled another wheelbarrow with some sand. Then they all began to unload the wood in the sandpit, we could hear them say ‘Let’s make a Campfire’. Jonathan and Elke were at the campfire when Archer and Alby returned with a new load of wood. Elke picked up pieces of wood carefully and handed them to Jonathan. They all worked together and put one layer of wood down before they began to lay a second layer. As the campfire grew so did the attendance of more children.

Rusty came to lend a hand and went to find more wood.

Children pretended to cook all sorts of edible things on the campfire. ‘I caught a Tommy and I am going to cook it’ said a child. Archer sat in the campfire and told us he was getting warm but he was not getting burnt, because he was being careful.

Merredy began to use a shovel and put sand on the campfire. Alby and Jonathan picked up shovels and started putting sand on the fire. ‘Sand puts out fire’ said a child.

‘We need water, to put fire out;’ said another child. Then we discussed sand and water and how they work to put out fire.

We believe that learning takes place in many different forms and by taking advantage of spontaneous experiences alongside the written programme, an holistic curriculum is delivered.