Welcome to Warriewood Child Care and a big hello to all our new families! We are sure that your child/ren will enjoy the time they spend here at our centre and will have many happy learning moments to add to their already creative and imaginative minds.

As we head towards the second half of 2009 it promises to be an exciting time for the centre. Kristin together with staff will be developing an Events Calendar that will highlight some special times we will be holding here at Warriewood Child Care. This will include in-house excursions, visitors and cultural and community celebrations. If you have any suggestions please feel free to speak to Kristin and she can add this onto the calendar.

It is very important to remember that this is your child’s centre so please feel free to offer ideas and suggestions throughout the year. If you have any concerns also please talk to us so we are aware and can address these immediately.

Our newsletter we be evolving over the next few months and we welcome any ideas or topics that you would like to see in future issues.

Each day we reflect on the day’s activities and experiences the children have enjoyed throughout the day. The emphasis is to get more family input/feedback into our program so we can meet the needs of our families. The children are always so proud of their work and they love to share it with you. Families are asked to take a minute or two to have a look at the page and write a comment or two in our family suggestion area. We look forward to your feedback.

Thought for the day

‘Making the decision to have a child - it’s momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking outside your body.’

(Elizabeth Stone)
Welcome to the Cocoon Room!

It is true your child is playing. They are choosing what to do and enjoying it, but there is much more to just playing. They are observing, interacting, absorbing, exploring and most importantly, they are learning how children are supposed to learn: by playing according to their own individual developmental stage. When children are playing, they are being genuine. It is the way they live, share and coexist as a mini society. Exploratory and creative activities that young children initiate themselves in are the basic ways in which they develop concepts and understanding about the world. We all know that language is essential, but sometimes we forget that it needs to happen in the appropriate environment for it to matter and to be memorable. For a child, what is memorable play? When a child spends hours playing with blocks, play-dough, sand and water, they are having fun and making a mess! But they are also developing skills in logic, statistics and visual-spatial relations. They are starting to understand scientific concepts, such as cause and effect balance and gravity, as well as mathematical ideas like quantity, classification, counting, sorting and sequencing. They are predicting, hypothesising and evaluating. This is the starting point for understanding math and science, quantities, shapes and sizes. So, is your child just playing?????

In the Cocoons’ Room we have been doing just that......‘playing to learn’. Hayley & Christine having been spending quality time with all the children offering activities based upon each child individual developmental stage underpinned by what interests each child. The environment in the 0 -2 year room offers choice and variety whereby needs, strengths and interests are all meet.

We have some wonderful eaters in the Cocoon Room and would love it if you could share some family recipes with Melissa our cook so that she can include this in our repertoire of food offered to our children.

Our program is located on the sign in/out bench and gives all families the opportunity to see what their children have been doing throughout the day. There is also a section that encourages parents to participate in the program so please share any ideas that you would like included.

Thank you from the Cocoon Room Staff
We would like to welcome all toddlers to our room and we hope that you enjoy being a part of our special little family.

The Explorers (2-3yrs) have certainly been living up to their name. The last month has been very enjoyable with the children exploring their new surroundings, making new friends and for some, adjusting to child care for the first time. Home corner has proved to be a favourite with our dress-up box, kitchen and baby dolls. The explorers seem to be quite the budding artists whether it be with collage, paint or drawing, as you must know already know with the creative artworks that are taken home. Their knowledge of colour is very good. We have also been enjoying counting songs, rhymes and dancing and with the unpredictable weather of late, we have been alternating between our outdoor yard and the inside/outdoor play area. We have thoroughly enjoyed meeting all our new families and we are excited to have a positive impact on your child’s early development.

**Some of the activities that we are enjoying in the room are:**

*Visual story times – Stories with puppets “Old MacDonald” “5 Little Ducks” and the most popular “There was an Old Lady that swallowed a fly” and the children fed the insects and animals to the old lady.
*Learning new songs and actions at various times through the day, “Five cheeky monkeys” “Where going on a bear hunt” “Three jelly fish” “Hammer, Hammer” “Twinkle Twinkle” “Baa Baa Black Sheep”
*We have been grooving away to new songs and learning new dances. “The stomp” “Bob the Builder” and “Hi 5” We have been dancing with instruments and streamers, we pretend to be crocodiles, aeroplanes, helicopters and kangaroos with the streamers, and the babies also joined in playing and dancing with the instruments. We also do a lot of counting songs in our every day routines, when we walk up the steps to nappy change etc
* One of the most favourite activities for the children is the play dough; we enjoy rolling, cutting, and making monsters, animals and stars with the cutters.

Thank you from Explorer Room Staff
We would like to welcome all preschoolers to our room and we hope that you enjoy being a part of our special little family.

The children in the Discovery Room have been very busy getting to know one another and discovering all their new toys, facilities and routines. We have also been actively working on our transition to school program. We have a few children who will be attending school in 2010 and look forward to working extensively with the children and families on an effective transition to school. Could you please advise Sarah or Kristin on the school in which your child will be attending in 2010 so that we can contact school and organise an excursion as part of the transition. Please find some information below in regards to Transition to School from the Department of Education and Training.

Our small group of children are enjoying the activities and facilities at Warriewood Child Care and have spent many hours reading, writing, dancing and painting plus using the chalk pens to create fantastic artwork on our windows. Our program is located on the sign in/out bench and gives all families the opportunity to see what their children have been doing throughout the day. There is also a section that encourages parents to participate in the program so please share any ideas that you would like included.

Thank you from the Discovery Room staff.

What is Transition to School?

Schools and prior to school services working together with families to help facilitate a smooth and seamless transition of young children into school.

A Transition to School program is a set of planned activities or a process established collaboratively by a range of players that make starting school as successful as possible for children, families and teachers.

There is not a one size fits all Transition to School program, as all communities vary. The program should be developed according to the local context.

The duration of an effective Transition to School program may be for approximately 1-2 hours each week for up to several weeks, or in some communities several months.

Good practice Transition to School programs usually involve activities for the children as well as parent information sessions, workshops or getting to know you opportunities. Transition programs work most effectively when parents participate for short sessions in the program with their children. Prior-to-school staff may also
be invited to participate in activities and this may be the beginning of a collaborative partnership between schools, parents, prior-to-school services and where relevant other community organisations.

Children at transition  Families play and chat over play dough at playgroup  Transition to School is a big deal for young children, their families, schools and communities. Dockett & Perry, (2004) found:

- children are often eager to demonstrate that they are big kids going to big school while sometimes they can still feel a little anxious about what school might be like
- parents are excited about the move to school, while worried about their role at school
- staff in prior-to-school settings are both amazed at what children have achieved in their prior-to-school years and concerned about the change in structure and formality they expect children to meet at school
- teachers in schools are keen to meet their new students, but also realise that getting to know a new class of children and their families is a big task.

How is the school environment different from the prior-to-school setting?

- academic expectations of school
- the physical environment of school
- communication strategies between teachers and families
- social environments at school
- philosophical underpinnings of teaching and learning

When children start school they move from a play-based environment to a more formal learning environment. There are many more people and relationships for children to navigate and the physical surroundings are often quite different. Transition to School programs need to recognise the nature of these differences and build in experiences and understandings to accommodate them.

Our Staff for 2009

Kristin - Director
Kristin holds her Bachelor of Teaching in Early Childhood and has been working in the field for over 5 years. During this time Kristin has worked in both management and teaching roles focusing on quality care for all children.

Bronwyn - Centre Manager
Bronwyn holds her Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood) as well as her Associate Diploma in Community Services (Children’s Services) and more.... Bronwyn is keen to keep her knowledge up to date and has recently completed an auditor training course. Bronwyn has an extensive profile of commitment in the child care industry evolving over 17 years and has established, co-ordinated and administrated licensed and highly accredited centre based children’s services during this time.

Sarah - Child Care Worker
Sarah is currently studying her Degree in Child Care at University and brings her knowledge and understanding of the school system into the program. Sarah works in the Discovery Room.

Cassie - Child Care Worker
Cassie is currently studying to obtain a certificate III in Children’s Service. Cassie works with us as a carer in all our rooms.
Christine- Mother Craft Nurse

Christine works in our Cocoon Room as a Mothercraft Nurse and carer. Christine comes with a wealth of experience and knowledge working with children from birth to 2 years.

Hayley- Diploma Trained

Hayley works in the Cocoon Room as an Advanced Childcare Worker Qualified (Diploma of Children’s Services) and comes to Warriewood Child Care as an experienced carer full of enthusiasm, fun and dedication.

Melinda- Child Care Worker

Melinda works in the Explorer Room as a Certificate III carer. Melinda has many years experience working with children and looks forward to getting to know the children and families.

Melissa – Cook

Melissa is a qualified cook and holds her qualifications in Food Hygiene and Handling as well as Menu Planning in Children’s Services. Melissa has worked previously in child care and has many years of experience working with and preparing food of nutritious and healthy value.

Monica- Child Care Worker

Monica works in our Explorer Room as a Child Care Worker. Monica is from Romania and can speak English, Romanian, French & German (writing & reading). Monica brings a wealth of cultural knowledge to our centre and looks forward to teaching your children key words and songs in different languages.
• **Labelling Items** - Please remember to label all your children's belongings for example bottles, dummies, jumpers, socks, shoes and especially children's bags, as items which are unlabelled tend to become lost. It also helps relief staff know exactly where things go so there are no mix-ups. Please also remember if your child requires a dummy during the day to send along a cover for it (for hygiene), for when not in use. Bottles should also be clearly labelled otherwise they will not be given out as we would hate for any mix-ups to occur.

• **Safety** - Safety around the centre is very important and as you know we like to be very proactive. Please remember to hold your child's hand when leaving the centre as the car park can be a very dangerous place. Please remember to shut all doors or gates when entering or leaving a room or the yard and if you see any OH&S concerns please feel free to approach staff so they can be rectify immediately.

• **Singing in and out** - Please remember to sign your child in and out each day. This is very important for two main reasons. The first is so that staff member's are aware of the number of children at the centre at any given time and who have left for the day. This becomes very important in the event of an emergency evacuation so that everyone is accounted for and for the end of the day safety checks. Families are also reminded that as part of receiving fee relief, the government requires all families to sign in and out and that they use their signature and not just initials as this is a legal requirement. Families that continue to forget to sign their child in or out may have their fee relief cancelled, so please remember.

• **Clothing** - Please remember to send your children into preschool in comfortable clothing. As the children spend time playing outside on climbing equipment it is very important that they have practical clothing which is safe such as enclosed shoes, not thongs or crocs and clothes that do not have long ties or strings which can become caught on climbing equipment. Aprons are provided for messy art or science activities but children sometimes get caught up in the creative side, so please send them in clothes that are not too good and can be washed easily.
• OH&S - Safety at the centre

If you see a concern around the centre regarding the safety of the buildings or equipment please let our staff member know immediately so that it can be rectified as quickly as possible.

• Toilet Training

Toilet training is a very exciting time in a child’s life. It is important to remember to pack several spare sets of clothing so if an accident occurs during the day, your child can be changed immediately so that they are comfortable. Please feel free to talk to the staff about your child’s readiness to start or if you would like to check on their progress or plan strategies with one another. We have attached some information on toilet training to this newsletter.

• Immunisation Reminder

Have you remembered to submit your child’s current immunisation status with the centre? It is a legal requirement for all centres’ within Australia to keep up to date records on children attending centres. Our centre policy follows current health department guidelines which state that if an outbreak of an immunisable disease occurs within the centre that any non immunized children are excluded till the end of the outbreak. If for religious or personal reasons your child is not immunised a letter of exemption is required by the government to be placed on your child’s file.

• Bedding for sleep/rest time

Families are asked to supply their child with sheets and a blanket for rest time so that your child is comfortable during the rest period. Bedding can be brought in a pillow slip cover however we do not allow pillows in the centre for safety and hygiene purposes. Please do not send them in a plastic bag as this can also be a safety risk. Bedding must be taken home at the end of each day and washed each week. Bedding is supplied for children under 2 years of age.
Warriewood Child Care has a variety of policies which guide our centre’s operation.

Each newsletter we will include some extracts for families. Our full policies can be viewed at anytime by our families. Our policy folders are kept in the foyer and you are most welcome to ask questions about our policies to staff.

**Food Safety and Nutrition (Extract)**

If your child is on a special diet and/or has any specific allergies the centre requires a statement from your child’s doctor describing the type of diet needed and a management plan for any allergies. The centre will make the necessary arrangements to accommodate this need.

**Management of Unwell Children (Extract)**

Unwell children as defined below cannot be admitted to the centre to safeguard the health of other children and staff members.

**Exclusion criteria:**

*A child who has any of the following symptoms cannot be admitted to the centre:*

- Ear, eye or discoloured nasal discharge
- An undiagnosed rash
- High temperature
- Infectious sores or diseases (children need a Doctor’s clearance before re-admittance)
- Vomiting and/or abnormally loose bowel actions for that child (exclude for 24 hours after last bout)
- Any obvious signs of ill health (children with asthma – obvious difficulty breathing, barking cough, rib retractions etc).

However while it is a doctor’s role to provide a medical certificate, it is the centre Director who has the ultimate responsibility for deciding if a child is well enough to return to the centre.
One Hundred Ways a Parent can Praise a Child

Hey, I love you! * Way to go * You're special * Outstanding * Excellent You are fun * You're a real trooper * You're on target * Outstanding performance * Great * Looking good * You brighten my day ☺️ Good Well done ♥ Remarkable * Super * I knew you could do it * Nice work What an imagination * I'm proud of you ♫ Super star * Fantastic You're on top of it * You're catching on * Now you've got it * How smart Good job * You are the clever one * You are just delightful * That's incredible * Remarkable job * You're Beautiful ❤️ You're a winner You make me happy * Dynamite * Hip, Hip Hooray * You're important Magnificent ♬ Beautiful * Super job ♫ You're the best ☺️ You're on your way How nice * You're Spectacular * You are a Darling * Beautiful work Good for you ● Nothing can stop you now * You're fantastic * Wow You're a legend ❤️ Great Discovery ♦ You've discovered the secret Fantastic job ● You're a champion * Awesome * You're precious Marvellous * You are responsible * Terrific * You are exciting * You're growing up * You tried hard ❤️ Neat * You figured it out 🎉 You're unique * What a good listener * You're a treasure * Super work You mean a lot to me * You're a good friend * You deserve a big hug You are an absolute gem * You're incredible❤️ I like you❤️ Now you're flying I respect you * You're sensational ♬ Phenomenal * Hooray for you * You care Creative job * You belong * You made my day * You are nice to be with You mean the world to me * You're important * You've got a friend You're a joy * You make me laugh ● You're A-OK * You're my buddy I trust you ☺️ You're perfect * Bravo * You're wonderful ☺️ A big kiss ❤️ Exceptional performance ♫ That's correct * Hey, I love you!

PS Remember a HUG is worth 1000 words!