

MAY 2011

EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH THE EYES OF A STUDENT TEACHER – article by Emily

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Emily, and I'm a third year Early Childhood student. I am at Bright Minds a couple of days a week, doing practical work for my course, and have been for the past year.

As a student teacher, it is often tricky working out how to use what we learn in class and then putting it into practice. How am I meant to take the theory and put it into action? How do I get from a child playing in the family corner to the theory that surrounds it?

In class, we are taught to look at things from a different point of view, to see the value in the little things that children do that helps them to learn. We often discuss the different traits of the different age groups and how we can use those traits to our advantage in our teaching plans.

Take toddlers for example, an age that can be dreadfully frustrating for the adults is equally so for the toddlers themselves. They have developed this awareness of how things are done, but do not yet necessarily have the language skills or the motor skills to do what they so desperately want to do, such as dressing themselves. Very common in this age group is a lot of repetition, whether it be reading the same story over and over again, or climbing the same ladder and slide. If you try to look at this repetition from their point of view, it's just cementing it into their minds, and reiterating that this is a new skill that they can do.

So next time you see a child doing something you don't understand, try to see it from their point of view, how it is valuable to them. What are they practising through their play?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND FAREWELL

Ollie, not only turns 5 yrs old this month, but he's off to school as well. Happy birthday Ollie and as always our good wishes go with you on your next big adventure out in the world.



Ollie, practising his board room seminar skills.

Also turning 2 yrs old on the 26th of May, is Alexis and she's moving up with the big kids!!



"No more "baby room for me" says Alexis –
"I'm outta here – see you later - babies!!"

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR "NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK"

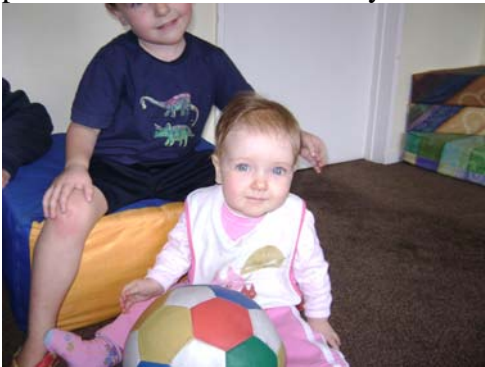
Five month old Baby Alexander – welcome!!



And three year old Benedict – welcome!!



And seven month old Jesse (baby sister of Sam)
Sorry we cut your head off Sam –but we can still see
the proud look on what’s left of your face



And two year old Cameron – welcome!!



And 2 year old Luke – welcome!!



MAGAZINE (full of helpful hints.)

This month’s “Littlies” magazine – apart from the adorable front cover; has a corresponding article on page 6 on “favourites” and is very interesting. Child care “goodbyes” on page 11 is constructive, and allergies on page 35 is good information. Even the very back page on plastic bottles is good stuff.

“House keeping”

Fees – a reminder that fees are to be paid weekly in advance, unless you have a special arrangement with Lynn or Noel. Otherwise 10% late fees will apply on overdue accounts
Further reminders: (1) Please ring us if your child will be away due to illness, or for any other reason.

TRAVELLING TEACHERS

Ines is enjoying an extended two month holiday visiting her family in Chile and Charlene is in Fiji for two weeks and taking part in, amongst other things, a soccer tournament - Go Charlene!!



MOTHER’S DAY

We hope all you wonderful mothers had a day of rest, treats, enjoyment, happiness and fun on Sunday 8th May. You all deserve it!!



PAST PUPILS

We’ve been very honoured to see some of our past pupils recently. Nick, Gabrielle, Alicia and Zoe, all paid us a visit at various times. All grown and looking very wise and learned after attending school for (some of them) several years. We treasure these visits and think that even the children get a lot out of coming back to their old stomping grounds. Great to see you kids!

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