



Lil' Antz Trail

June/July 2019
Edition

ANYTIME ANYWHERE CHILDCARE

Welcome!

A warm welcome everyone to this edition of the Lil'Antz Trail. The Lil'Antz Trail is a bi-monthly newsletter that offers our families information regarding our service as a whole, as well as their individual rooms or locations.

We often talk about what is currently going on in the child care industry such as changes to the Child Care Subsidy System as well as any changes, updates that may be relevant to our families. The Lil'Antz trail is also a time for us to highlight important information regarding Lil'Antz, what we are up to, what our educators are up to and most importantly what our little ones are up to!

With close to 200 active families and 40 employees who read our newsletter we encourage our staff and families for input on anything from upcoming yard sales, local events or community notices.

The weather as expected has taken a nosedive to the teens during the day and the single digits over night and early morning. Our educators at the Long Day Care Centers have adapted the routine to allow for more indoor time, especially early morning, later in the afternoon and during morning tea. The children unlike us seem to have no issue with the cooler

weather and still have the desire to be outside playing! At times during the day we will still be going outside both on the veranda and in the sunshine on the playgrounds. Please be aware that this is still vital for their growth and education! Educators ensure children are rugged up appropriately and we are only spending short bursts outdoors in the cooler mid-morning/afternoons.

As many of you are aware both our OSHC Manager Lana Westerlund and OSHC Team Leader/Office Assistant Amy Vanderschuit have recently gone on maternity leave. I am happy to report Lana welcomed a baby girl, Jordan late April and Amy welcomed baby girl, Nirvana late May. Both Lana, Amy & their girls are doing well.

In July Akala Mittage will be taking her Long Service Leave and will be absent from the service for 3 months. During her absence we will have a change of Team Leader & Assistant in the Big Antz Room. Families will be notified towards the end of June who their contacts will be. We will also have Betty Strawbridge absent from the service from late November until late January 2020 for part of her Long Service Leave. As the end of the year creeps closer we will advise families who their contacts will be during this time. We are extremely proud of our educators' dedication to Lil'Antz. Along with Akala and Betty, Shirani, Joan, Cheryl and myself have

completed 10 years (and more!) at Lil'Antz. Mandy Tong will celebrate 10 years in August! It takes great dedication to take on a career in Early Childhood and we are extremely lucky to have educators who have been with us for their 10-year mark!

Our annual family celebration is just around the corner scheduled for Saturday 20 July. This year we will all come together at Lil'Antz Undoolya to celebrate their 15th Birthday. Opening in March of 2004 Undoolya was Lil'Antz first Long Day Care service. Originally, we were licensed for 36 children aged 0 – 5 years, we are now a 3 – 5-year-old center and have been for several years. Meals for After School Care and Undoolya were prepped and cooked entirely in our tiny little kitchen, we had 4 pre-school runs per day our current meeting room was our cot room and our little parent area was the main office! A lot has changed over the past 15 years to both the grounds and building as well as the structure and we excited to invite all our families to come celebrate with us. We will have a jumping castle and face painting as well as games and fun things for families to do! This year the Corkettes will be providing the BBQ for a gold coin donation. All proceeds will go towards their fundraising with Vairety NT, the bash car with Antz will be on display also! RSVP sheets will be posted at the sign in areas or you can email

childcare@lilantz.com.au

Lil'Antz prides itself on being an active face in the community and donates and supports many local organizations. If you know of a local sports team (children or adults!), fundraiser or event that needs some extra support please email childcare@lilantz.com.au so Management can review and see if we can be of assistance!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Deb on 08 89530015 or childcare@lilantz.com.au

-Holly

OK Kiosk & Lil'Antz Communication

Since implementing the Kiosk 12 months ago Lil'Antz as a company has greatly reduced our use of paper and printing. Between all services we would print 6 rolls per day which was around 10 -12 pages daily, around 2,500 pieces of paper each year just for rolls!

Recently parents would have noticed the removal of our Parent Pockets. To reduce our carbon footprint further notices such as your child being involved in an incident, notification of illness at our center, reminders about special events etc are all uploaded to your Kiosk system. Please ensure you read and acknowledge all communication listed. If you ever have any questions or want more information about what has been noted please speak with Management or your Team Leader!

Clothing at Care

Please ensure children have a spare set of clothes in their bags to cater to all weather conditions (jumper, shorts, T-shirt, socks, shoes etc!)

We also ask that parents clearly label all children's clothing with child's First & Last name! To ensure the correct item goes home with the correct child!

We have donated a large quantity of nice almost brand new jumpers to the Women's Shelter as they have not found their way home after being in our lost property for weeks.

Please also note that a beanie is not an acceptable form of sun protection and children will still be required to wear their hat.

Long Day Care News

As educators it is only natural to seek out the identifying interests of each of the children in our care observing from one child to the next in an effort to discover their individual personalities and diversities amongst them.

In doing this we get to know our children and can plan thorough programs and learning stories to build on various areas of their development through play.

I find it quite interesting to watch the children play alongside each other. Despite the individual situation or scenario, each child inevitably responds quite differently.

Some children carefully evaluate the situation, prior to being involved and would appear somewhat apprehensive or standoffish as opposed to being impulsive and rushing in. On the other hand, there are some who are always eager to jump right in acting first and thinking later, which is often seen as the risk taker and one with no fear.

As educators, we realize as children mature and learn more about the world around them that they will have the ability to discern cause and effect. With educators at the forefront of their path of learning children will except the challenges that life offers.

So, we go with energy and enthusiasm reaching out to the children with love care and the wonderful opportunity to be part of their lives.

Joan & Heidi



Outside School Hours Care News

Welcome everyone 😊,

We welcomed back Ben after being off for a couple of months and our 2 new educators Laissa and Jed who have both been fantastic with the children! We have an awesome team this year!

This term we focused on learning about culture, the children have enjoyed learning about different cultures and countries and doing some awesome Crafts/activities! Some of the cultures we have looked at are Egypt, Brazil, Jamaica, Canada, Sri Lanka and Australia!

We have tried out different activities such as Pom Poms soccer, tug of war, making Maracas, Carnival Crowns, Snake Bookmarks, Sunset over Rio, Egyptian Bracelets, Ancient Egyptian Treasure Hunt, Dream Catchers, Hama Bead Key Rings and so much more!

Some of the spontaneous activities the children have done are creating Volcanos in the sand, making bubbles and making their own forts!

Now that it is Winter the children have been outside a lot more, there has been quite a bit of interest in playing Cricket, basketball and hide and seek chasey. It is great to see when the children are running around, throwing a ball and laughing with each other.

Throughout the term we have been using the Sports Bands as a way to gain points for our new teams. Children gain points by packing up the hall, helping their peers and doing small jobs for the educators!

We are aiming to do a Sports Day in week 10 for the children to gain more points and find out who the winner is for Term 2!

The wrist bands are working very well but unfortunately some children aren't returning them. This means then that some teammates may go without. I encourage all students along with their parents to have a good look in school bags and bedrooms and return any wristbands you may find.

This term we re-introduced Rough Play/Rough Housing/Rough-and-Tumble. Rough play is one of those activities that goes hand in hand with the Responsible Person wrist band or badge. For those students who want to participate in Rough Play it gives them motivation to make good choices throughout the week to ensure they still

have their wrist band or badge in order to take part in Rough Play that week 😊

I have been observing Rough play for a couple of weeks and all I can say is the children are being fantastic! They are following the rules beforehand and listening to our educators throughout the afternoon.

In the coming weeks, we will be working on an art piece for the children to enter the Alice Springs Show as a group! Stay tuned to find out what we will be doing! 😊

The July Vacation Care is just around the corner and the program is out now! I'm looking forward to it and I'm very excited for the children to have a great time!

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback, please come have a chat with me at Afterschool Care or call/email our office during business hours.

Claire 😊



News from the Office

By Deb Sizemore

Lost Property:

- Our Lost Property box is overflowing with items that have no name on them. Please put your child's name on everything. Take a moment to look through the lost property at your service for anything that might belong at your house.
- From today – the first Friday of every month will be our Lost Property clean out. Any items left in the lost property box will be donated to charity. This applies to all our services.

Long Day Care Nappy Changes:

- On 1 May 2019 we announced changes to our nappy process, offering for parents to provide their own nappies or for Lil'Antz to continue to provide nappies for a small fee. This is to help cover the ever-increasing cost of consumables and shipping to Alice Springs.
- Please note you can only change your nappy preference the first of every month.
- Don't forget to email the office about holidays – nappy fees are not charged for two or more consecutive absences with notification.
- Notifications of nappy supplies will be posted on the Kiosk and/or verbally by educators.

Absent Days:

As you may be aware the Child Care Subsidy System allows all children 42 authorized absent days in a financial year. As we near the end of this financial year some families have exceeded these days. Please note for additional absent days a medical certificate by a medical practitioner must be provided. Without a certificate from your doctor with your child's name and dates absent you will not receive Child Care Subsidy. This only applies for the days absent that are over this 42 allowable. These 42 allowable absent days will refresh on 1 July 2019.

Who to Contact:

- **Please speak to your child's team leader**
 - regarding your child's schedule
 - regarding medication
 - any lost property – including a missing lunch box
 - behaviour or development issues or concerns
- **Please contact the office for**
 - questions about your account
 - issues regarding the Child Care Subsidy
 - extended time away (i.e. serious illness or planned holiday)
 - questions about Lil'Antz as a Company and the services we provide
 - concerns that you feel have not been addressed by your child's team leader



Lil' Antz Undoolya Turns 15!

COME DRESSED IN YOUR JUNGLE BEST!

JULY 20 11AM - 1PM
Lil'Antz Undoolya 1 Undoolya rd

BBQ PROVIDED BY VARIETY NT (GOLD COIN DONATION)
JUMPING CASTLE, FACE PAINTING & GAMES

RSVP 8953 0015 or
childcare@lilantz.com.au

SEE YOU THERE!

Sustainable Couture - Opening Night

10 eco fashion designers from Alice Springs and interstate, including a number from Eco Fashion Week Australia, will launch their unique collections under the wings of an iconic DC3 aircraft in the

Date 27 June

Time 5:00pm to 10:00pm

Event Location Central Australian Aviation Museum



Alice Springs Beanie Festival

The Alice Springs Beanie Festival (Beanie Festival) is a community arts event that provides opportunities for artists from remote Indigenous communities and the wider community to make, exhibit and sell their beanies.

Date 28 Jun to 1 Jul

Time 10:00am to 5:00pm

Event Location Araluen Arts Centre 61 Larapinta Drive Araluen NT





Contact Us

Phone: 08 8953 0015

Email: childcare@lilantz.com.au

Office Hours: 830am – 4pm Mon – Fri

