



**BENOWA
EARLY LEARNING**
Children's Centre of Excellence



Parent Newsletter

January/February 2016

Director's News

Welcome back to Benowa Early Learning Centre for 2016: we have had a very busy start to the year so far.

We would like to welcome our new families into our little community and thank the families who have returned for your loyalty and support. Again over the Christmas break we have done some renovations to our beautiful 23 years old centre. We had the new floors put down just before the Christmas break, we made our two new rooms of Toddlers 2 and Junior Kindy out of what used to be our Pre Kindy room and we will also have our new tables arriving shortly.

We would really like to thank the families of these rooms for being so patient with us as our rooms were not completely finished when we recommenced on January 4th. We still have our Junior Kindy toilets to go in, work will start on the 6th of February and be completed by the 17th of February.

Here at Benowa Early Learning Centre we pride ourselves on creating smaller class sizes rather than large, so when the new regulations commenced on 1st of January 2016, we decided to make two smaller rooms rather than place more educators and children into a big room. This is how we came to having a Toddlers 2 room and a smaller Junior Kindy room. All of our age ranges in our rooms are roughly 6 months. Therefore, children are playing with, and learning with, children directly around their age and the children can stay in the room for the whole year which promotes consistency and continuity for both educators and the beautiful

children who we care for.

Our educators have been doing a great job of settling our new children, making families feel comfortable and secure, so I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

We have also purchased some chickens which the kindergarten children are doing an amazing job of caring for under Miss Claire's guidance. They have their little chicken house out the back of the kindergarten rooms and all the children have loved visiting them. We will have our chicken eggs at the front desk if anyone would like some to take home.



Thank you to all those families who attended the orientation nights, we certainly appreciate your support and commitment to your children by attending events like this. These nights help both educators and families to work in partnership to grow and develop these precious children in our care.

Families, if you ever have any concerns no matter how small I would like to know about them. My email is: Kylie@benowaeearlylearning.com.au. I will always listen and try my utmost to accommodate any concern or suggestion.

With our new centre now open, I will be there each morning until 10am and then at BELC from about 10am until close. On Mondays and Wednesdays, I will be at BELC all day to help you with any concerns. Miss Leigh is also available on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in the office. Miss Sharon is my assistant director and if I am not here she will be available to aid in any concerns.

I will leave you with this little quote:

“Our task, regarding creativity, is to help children climb their own mountains, as high as possible. No one can do more”.

Please stop in and have a chat to me any time.

Miss Kylie

Owner/Director



"It is vital that when educating our children's brains that we do not neglect to educate their hearts"

Dalai Lama

Educator News

Congratulations to Miss Kerry who welcomed a new daughter Adelaide late last year and also to Miss Tegan who has a new son, Jusse. We are so happy for both of them and miss them dearly. We hope they have a lovely time with their new babies while on maternity leave.

We congratulate Mr Nathan who is now full time with us. Nathan has worked really hard in a relief position to obtain permanent employment and is now in the kindergarten room as a floater.

Miss Naomi has become a permanent

Current Vacancies

The centre is filling very quickly and we only have a few vacancies left, so if you are thinking of picking up extra days now is the time to do so. Also if you have family and friends that would like to attend the centre, please have them come in and see us, we love having a close family community.

Babies: no vacancies

Toddlers 1: no vacancies

Toddlers 2: no vacancies

Junior Kindy: Mon, Wed and Fri

Senior Kindy: Mon, Tue, Wed,

Thu, Fri

member of staff in our Babies room.

Miss Angela has started in Senior Kindy, we were very lucky to have her commence work after doing her practical placement here with us.

Miss Dana is moving to Senior Kindy as Certified Supervisor on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday replacing Miss Rachelle who has left to spend more time with her family.

We welcome a new Miss Lauren to our Kindergarten 1 room assisting Miss Natalie Monday to Friday. Lauren is qualified with her Certificate III in Children's Services.

Miss Chloe has commenced work and will be the assistant educator in Toddlers 2 with Miss Marlies moving across to join our float staff.

Please make our new educators feel welcome and congratulations to our educators who have received new roles within our team.

Educators who transitioned to the new centre Benowa Hills:

The following educators have moved over to our new centre and we miss them a lot but are so happy that they can step up in their careers at the new Benowa Hills Early Learning Centre:

Pre Kindergarten: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri

Kindergarten 1: Mon

Kindergarten 2: Mon

If you are wanting extra days and we are full on those days, please ensure the office has a record of the day you require and we will try very hard to accommodate your request prior to going to our waitlist.

Weekly Activities

Monday:

Miss Kamilla from the Healthy Lifestyle Clinic comes in around 10.15am for the Kindergarten, Senior Kindy and Pre Kindy children. This month the children's activities will be warm ups, squats, lunge walks and side steps, parachute game, reaction game, obstacle course, races, team throwing and fish in the net game, as well as relay runs. The children love the activities they do with Miss Kamilla and the sessions are a great way for them to learn about physical fitness and health and also helps with their gross motor skills.

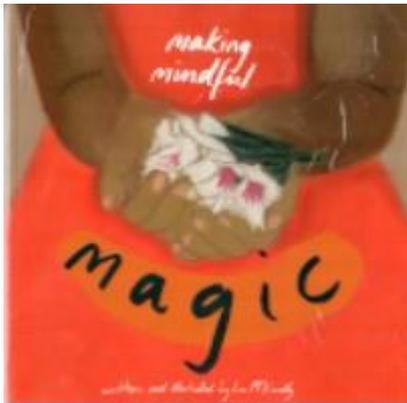
This is a complimentary session for our Monday children and is a small way we try to pay it forward for all the

Miss Desiree is in our Toddlers room, Miss Katrina has gone to our new Babies room, Mr Lachie has gone to our new Kindergarten room and Miss Jo has gone to our Toddlers room as a contact Director. We will miss them all from our centre but happy to have them working at our new centre.

Book Review

Making Mindful Magic

written and illustrated by Lea McNoulty



What a special find this beautiful book is!

After 24 years of teaching, reading and guiding the future generation, I believe this book is such a positive, important tool for teachers and parents.

Our centre practices the mind up approach and all the educators have been trained in mind up. So this book is such a useful teaching tool for being mindful: which means to pay attention to the moment you are living right now.

public holidays that occur during the kindy year. We have some limited vacancies on a Monday.



Tuesday and Friday:

Tennis with Miss Carol starting from 9am. The cost is \$12 for weekly lesson or \$55 for five lessons. There are envelopes with information pamphlets on the front desk.

Friday:

Arakan Martial Arts with Mr Ben at 9.30am for Kindergarten, Pre-kindy and Senior Kindy. This is compulsory for these age groups and only costs \$1.50 extra as the centre pays \$6 for each child.



Practising mindfulness makes us more grounded, brings inner calm and clarity of thought. It encourages us to live authentically and be happy with what we have and who we are. Who wouldn't want to offer these gifts to their children?

The experiences in this book are mostly spent in nature and devoid of technology. They encourage slow, purposeful engagement with the world and the inner self. For many children today there is little time to be alone, to deeply connect with an activity or surroundings.

Making Mindful Magic is a book for doing, to ignite the senses and the imagination, to encourage focused interaction with an experience. Our children deserve to be exposed to mindfulness and its benefits, so they may continue to incorporate and expand upon it for the rest of their lives.

This book can be for the young as they can explore the pictures and the actions e.g. walking bare feet on the grass! We can do that as we have lovely, natural grass here at our centre.

Older children can read the book and initiate their own activity.

We have a few copies of this beautiful book on our book shelf in the office if you would like to view it.



Donation for Rotary Food Drive

Ashmore Rotary Club is currently holding a Community Food Drive, collecting non-perishable food items to help those families in our community who may be disadvantaged and in need of assistance.

We are helping Ashmore Rotary with their collection: you will see their purple collection bin in our office area. All donations will be gratefully accepted. Thank you for your support.



"Every child you encounter is a divine appointment."

Wess Stafford

This could be a great way for the whole family to practice mindfulness together. Please stop and be in the moment with your beautiful children.

Written by
Miss Kylie

Further information can be found: www.makingmindfulchildren.com

Warning Signs of Language Delay

As a teacher for 24 years, I see many children struggle with language delays and parents struggling to see or hear the problems. Correcting and aiding in speech development should be acted on as soon as you notice it. It really is a fallacy to think children will grow out of it. I thought I would set this year up for success with a little reminder of the warning signs of language delay.

These are the signs you should seek help for or with if your child by the age of ...

12 months:

- Doesn't babble with changes in tone- e.g. dadadadadadadadad.
- Doesn't use gestures like waving "bye bye" or shaking head for "no".
- Doesn't respond to her/his name.
- Doesn't communicate in some way when s/heneeds help with something.

15 months:

- Doesn't understand and respond to words like "no" and "up".
- Says no words.

- Doesn't point to objects or pictures when asked "where's the?".
- Doesn't point to things of interest as if to say "look at that! And then look right at you."

18 months:

- Doesn't understand simple commands like "don't touch".
- Isn't using at least 20 single words like "Mommy" or "up".
- Doesn't respond with a word or gesture to a question such as "What's that?" or "Where's your shoe?".
- Can't point to two or three major body parts such as head, nose, eyes, feet.

By 24 months:

- Says fewer than 100 words.
- Isn't consistently joining two words together like "Daddy go" or "Shoes on".
- Doesn't imitate actions or words.
- Doesn't pretend with toys, such as feeding doll or making toy man drive toy car.

By 30 months:

- Says fewer than 300 words.
- Isn't using action words like "run", "eat", "fall".
- Isn't using some adult grammar, such as "two babies" and "doggie sleeping".

3-4 years:

- Doesn't ask questions by 3 years.
- Isn't using sentences (e.g. "I don't want that" or "My truck is broken") by three years.
- Isn't able to tell a simple story by four or five years.

If you've noticed one or more of these warning signs in your child, it's important that you take action right away to ensure that they receive the help they need. We can thoroughly recommend the following speech therapists:

Michelle Witty

379 Benowa Road

Benowa Waters, ph 5597 5011

[*mwspeech@me.com*](mailto:mwspeech@me.com)

Little Language

Suite 4, 122 Olsen Ave

Arundel, ph 0410 466 877

[*Danielle@litttlelanguage.com.au*](mailto:Danielle@litttlelanguage.com.au)



"When children come into contact with nature, they reveal their strength."

Maria Montessori

Copyright © 2016 Early Learning Centres, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email as part of our community at Benowa Early Learning Centre.

Our mailing address is:

Early Learning Centres

15 Sapium Rd

Southport, QLD 4215

Australia

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp.