



BONNY BABES CHILDCARE

# JULY – AUGUST 2019

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## BONNIES BLOG

**BONNIE FRASER**

Dear families,

How hard is it to believe that we are in the middle of the year already!! We are already planning our Christmas concerts. It is such a lovely time of year hearing children practice their songs and actions. We will be putting out the concert timetable very soon so keep an eye out for this.

At Bonny Babes we are always learning, and over the past few weeks we have had a number of professional developments on strategies to nurture children's developing minds. This is such an amazing topic and we are all benefiting from this. As parents and teachers, we know that sometimes we need extra knowledge to deal with our children as we endeavour to bring them up to be the best that they can be. By giving children strong and consistent guidelines to follow, we are instilling within them strategies to use as they navigate life's ups and downs. I would like to share some of these thoughts with you and we have placed some fridge moments in your daily programs.

On the following page is some interesting information about 'Picture Talks' - it is a great example of a way to start your children on their 'learn to read' journey. One of the most important aspects of education is giving children strong foundations before the beginning of formal school. One of the most important messages I can give, is to work on children's social and emotional well being, as this allows children's brains to be in an optimal position to learn. I would love you to have a go at trying this 'picture talk' I am sure you will love it as much as we all do.

Bonnie

# PICTURE TALKS

Learning to read is seen by many parents as an essential component in early education. The pressure is often on early years educators to be seen to be teaching children to read and for many that just means phonics instruction.

Learning to read is a complex process but one of the most important elements in this process is often overlooked and that is the good old picture discussion.

Once upon a time everyone in an early childhood education course had to be the proud owner of a picture collection. Times have changed and we no longer require this in our tool kit. This does not however mean that picture discussions are not a vital component for children who are learning to read. In fact we can use digital photography and our smart boards to really have some great picture discussions.

We learn to read by understanding what is on the page. This means the use of context. Context is provided by pictures and also by knowledge of the world and knowledge gained by life experiences.

(We have far better context and knowledge about the beach after we have visited the beach.)

Pictures are an important part of learning how to read.

Pictures help children to connect to the story and to the world. So next time you are planning a language session think about how you can use a picture to promote vocabulary development, critical thinking skills and problem solving skills using a picture and your questioning skills.

## Remember -

### A picture tells a thousand words

What's going on in this picture?

What can you see?

Can you predict what might happen next?

Where is this frog? Where could he be going?

What do you think is in his case?

Why has he/she packed a case?

Can you tell me a story about this picture?



# DIRECTORS BLOG

## HOPE ISLAND

### MISS BRIONEY

Winter is in full swing as we welcome the month of August! We have started to bring the children inside earlier of an afternoon and even though the days have been lovely, the afternoons can get chilly. Please ensure that you are packing a jumper for your child to wear later in the afternoon.

A big thank you to all of the families who supported us with “Earn and Learn” stickers from Woolworths. It was a huge success with 26,000 stickers being collected across the 3 centres. These stickers earn points for us to purchase free resources for classrooms.

The children thoroughly enjoyed celebrating NAIDOC week in July and there was some amazing Yarning circles and Dreamtime stories being shared. The theme for this year was “Voice, treaty, truth”. Bonny Babes always strives to embed indigenous culture in our daily curriculum.

The centre will be participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge from 12th-23rd August, which is a government initiative to encourage reading. We will be sending record sheets home for families to document how many stories they shared with their child for a week period. This will be documented in the National database and certificates are awarded to the children who participate. This is something that will continue each year through schooling, even when children can read the books independently..

Brioney 😊

## COOMERA

### MISS MEGAN

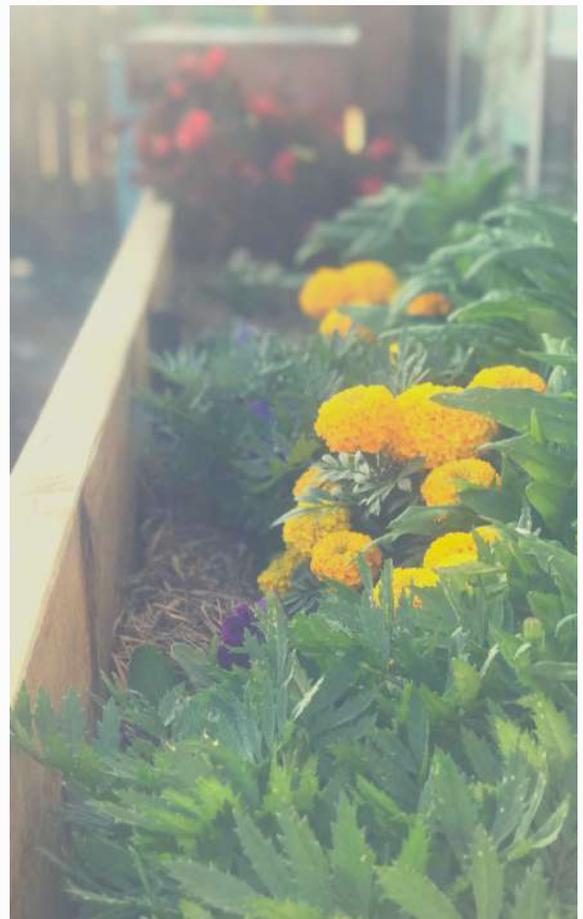
Bonny Babes Coomera has been having a fantastic time, we have been celebrating Naidoc week where we enriched ourselves in our indigenous and Torres Strait Island culture, and experiences.

Everyone was very excited to collect the Earn and learn stickers from Woolworths, so thank you to everyone who brought these in for us, as it goes towards sporting equipment for our centers.

In July we said farewell To Miss Jas who is leaving on maternity leave to prepare for the arrival of her little girl. Miss Abby will be stepping into the Lead Educator role working alongside Miss Fiona in our Infants room.

We are also welcoming back Miss Shayni who is returning from maternity leave, Miss Amy and Miss Shayni will be sharing the ECT role in our Pre prep room.

Our rooms are starting to get busier, if you require any further permanent days please see reception.





## OXENFORD

### MISS TRACEY & MISS NICOLLE

WOW! Can you believe that we are in August? How time flies when we are learning through play during our days here at Bonny Babes Oxenford! This month we have enjoyed the sensory experiences of crisp mornings, and noticing how the changing weather affects our gardens and outdoor spaces. Thank you for supporting us by dressing your children appropriately in warm clothing and enclosed footwear.

We have welcomed Miss Emem to our team, along with several TAFE students. You will begin to see these new faces around the centre and in our rooms as they become a part of our team.

What a blessing the Earn and Learn sticker promotion has been – and we thank everyone who contributed to this by sharing their stickers, putting them on sheets, or counting the thousands of coloured dots!! These stickers will be redeemed for equipment for our rooms.

Sharing the culture of the Yugambah people, this month the Oxenford Bonny Babes family all came together to promote the NAIDOC theme of “Voice, treaty, unity” through a large art installation, which each child contributed to. This artwork is hanging in the foyer for everyone to enjoy. We proudly explore and share our Indigenous knowledge and look for ways to embed this further through everyday practice and experiences.

Looking forward to August, we will be sharing Book Week and the Premiers reading challenge. Supporting this through our Abecedarian Approach, we will work towards exposing each child to a new book each day, to build the love of reading. You can support this at home, by recording the books you share on your child’s tally sheet. Each child who participates receives a certificate as a memory!

## BONNY BABES FACEBOOK PAGES

Have you liked our Facebook pages? Each of our three centres has its own Facebook page and we love to share information on the latest in child development, whats on in the local area and even our weekly menus are shared each Monday morning.

We often use Facebook to remind parents of a special dress up day coming up or if they need to bring something along to kindy that day etc, we know it can be hard to remember everything that we have on here at Bonny Babes.

Facebook is also a great tool for us to share what is happening in our centres each week. We love to share about staff training and if we have any shows or special visitors to our centre, we share that too!





## BONNY BABES SISTERHOOD

We have started collecting for our Fathers Day donation to the Gold Coast Hospital Day Oncology unit. We are so appreciative of all donations we receive and the patients always enjoy receiving our beautiful little bags that are painted by the children and filled with goodies for them.

Some of the items we are collecting for this donation are - Men's Beanies, Lollies, Men's Socks, Hand Sanitiser, Bottles of Water, Small Magazines or Books, Crossword Books and playing cards.

**"I love  
playing  
outside with  
my friends"**

- SKYLER  
AGE 3

## BONNY BABES EDUCATIONAL LEADER

### MISS INDIE

I can't believe how fast the first half of the year has gone. By now you should have been contacted by your child's educators in regards to their goals going forward into the year. This is a great time to have a midyear chat regarding your child's development and achievements so far.

Our pre-prep teachers have also been engaging in a professional development program taking their professional practice from 'good to great'. This has required them to sit down with families to chat about life in our busy community. Our aim is for our educators to gain a better insight into what families are thinking, what they find enjoyable and or challenging about raising families and what you hope for your child, in the long term, from their education and form their teachers. It has been so exciting watching the rich discussions and passion from our Early years teachers and we are positive this will continue into their practice with your child.



## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We are so excited to have our extra curricular sports at Bonny Babes. Children who are engaging in physical activity are increasing their skills in walking, running, balance, climbing, kicking & catching, they are also working on their social play with turn taking, listening to the coach and following simple step directions. This is all helping their development and they are having so much fun.

### SWIMMING

Gullivers offer direct debit and weekly payments - Please contact Lara or Michelle at Gullivers on 5561 7733 if you would like to your child to attend. Enrolment forms can be found at reception. (pre prep & kindy children only) Also as the weather is cooler, please dont forget to pack a jacket for your child to wear after swimming.

Hope Island: Wednesdays

Coomera: Wednesdays

Oxenford: Fridays

### FUNKY FEET DANCING 3-5YRS

Hope Island: Mondays & Thursdays

Coomera: Subject to interest and enrolments

Oxenford: Mondays

### COMPUTER GYM 3-5YRS

Hope Island: Tuesdays

Coomera: Subject to interest and enrollments

Oxenford: Tuesdays

### SIBA SOCCER 3-5YRS

Hope Island: Tuesdays

Coomera: Thursdays (3-5yrs)

Oxenford: Wednesdays

### BILLIES BUDDIES 2-5YRS

Coomera: Wednesdays

Oxenford: Mondays

If you would like your child to take part in any of these extra-curricular activities please fill out the forms in reception and we can ensure that your child is added.

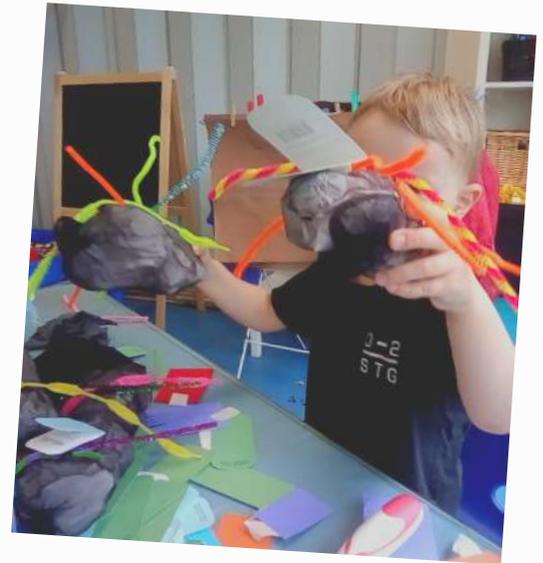
# What we have been up to at Bonny Babes...

The children loved icing their biscuits to make the aboriginal flag!

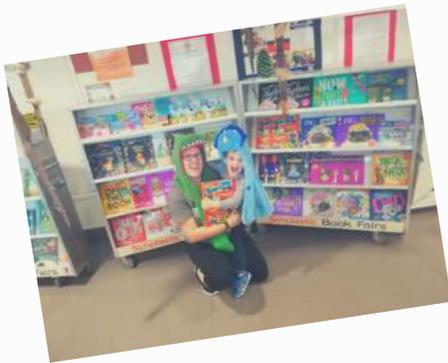


'Each child's hand has a voice'  
Coming together in unity for  
our community.  
Voice Treaty Truth

## Oxenford



Our Kindy room made some beautiful 'Rainbow Birds' just like the birds in the dreamtime story they read called 'how the birds got their colours' by Pamela Lofts & Mary Albert.



We had book week and loved reading all of the wonderful books! Here is Miss Amy and Finn dressed up like dinosaurs and about to enjoy a book from the collection.

We painted biscuits to create the aboriginal flag for naidoc week.



Miss Jas started her maternity leave in July.. We had a baby shower for her here at Coomera and are looking forward to the arrival of her baby girl!

## Coomera

# What we have been up to at Bonny Babes...

# Hope Island

Our kindy and juniors room children placed red, yellow and black hand prints on the big tree in their yard for Naidoc week 2019



We had a PJ day to raise money for children in foster care! We all had so much fun dressing in our PJ's for the day.



Our friends made a yarning circle and then came together to read a dreamtime story around it.



## ADMIN TEAM

MISS ELAINE, MISS VENETIA & MISS TRACEY

### Centrelink

As a Centre we do our best to inform families of any changes to their CCS approved percentage and hours of care as soon as the change occurs. Please be aware that these decisions are made solely by Centrelink based on your personal circumstances.

As a Centre we are responsible for submitting the correct hours of attendance including arrival and departure times. Centrelink are responsible for the payment of the Child Care Subsidy.

If you do believe at any time that your assessment for CCS is incorrect then please call Centrelink on 13 61 50 to have this investigated.

You can also log into your MYGOV account to check and update your details at any time.

### Admin Hub Hours

Monday 8.30am - 4.30pm  
Tuesday 8.30am - 4pm  
Wednesday 8.30am - 4.30pm  
Thursday 8.30am - 4pm  
Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm

Lunch is typically between 1pm and 2pm with the phones unattended at this time.

Your weekly fees are processed on Wednesday morning. Please contact Admin before 10am Wednesday if you have any questions in regards to your account prior to the payments being uploaded.

If you have any questions regarding your account please contact  
Miss Venetia on 5580 5544 for Hope Island & Coomera  
Miss Tracey on 5519 3300 for Oxenford.

# IMPORTANT CCS UPDATE

## CHILD CARE SUBSIDY (CCS) BALANCING PROCESS

Please be aware that the Federal Government's CCS balancing process (also referred to as 'reconciliation' or 'income review' process) will commence from July 29, 2019.

This is a process that occurs after the end of each financial year, whereby the Department of Human Services (ie. Centrelink) compares your family's income estimates and working hours in your CCS "activity test" with your family's actual adjusted taxable income and other data, which you have declared to the Australian Tax Office through your tax return for that particular financial year.

Centrelink undertakes this comparison to ensure that you have received your correct CCS entitlement for that financial year, based on your family's single or combined income level(s) and activity.

This balancing process is not new and took place every year under the former system of the Child Care Rebate (CCR) and Child Care Benefit (CCB). However there are some subtle changes which will be new to everyone under the CCS.

When this balancing process takes place, your family will receive a notification from Centrelink stating one of the three possible outcomes:

1. Your family has not used all of the CCS that you were entitled to during the last financial year and you don't owe any money to the Australian Government, and you will receive some form of credit.
2. Your family has used all of your entitled CCS and you don't owe any money to the Australian Government.
3. Your family has used more CCS than you were entitled to during the last financial year, and you therefore owe a specified amount of money to the Australian Government.

As part of the regular CCS payment process, Centrelink holds onto to 5% of your family's CCS until the end of the financial year, to hopefully cover any over-payments resulting from a difference in the estimated CCS (paid throughout the year) and the amount you were actually entitled to (calculated after all family members have lodged their tax return). If your family owes money and this withholding amount does not cover this difference, your family will owe the remaining debt to the Australian Government.

If your family has been overpaid CCS and therefore owes money to the Australian Government, you will need to contact Centrelink to discuss how you may rectify this debt. You may be asked to pay an invoice, possibly by instalments or possibly balance this debt by having an adjustment made to your family's CCS to be processed in the following financial year.

Please note that this process is managed by the Australian Government, and as your early learning service provider, we cannot influence this process in any way. For more information, we encourage you to access the following Department of Education link: <https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-subsidy-balancing>



# HOMEMADE PLAYDOUGH

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup flour
- 2 tsp cream of tartar
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 tbsp cooking oil Olive oil or vegetable oil
- 1 cup water
- food colouring

## METHOD

- In a large bowl, combine all of your dry ingredients (flour, salt, cream of tartar) and mix well.
- Mix food colouring with your water first. Then add the vegetable oil and water with food colouring to a large pot. Mix together.
- Add the dry ingredients to your pot and mix well. Cook over low to medium heat until the dough starts to form and becomes dry.
- Once it starts to form a ball together and looks fully cooked, take off the heat. Let the dough cool first before touching.
- Once cool, knead the dough for 5 minutes to make the dough soft.

If your dough is not soft, continue kneading for another 5 minutes. If you find it is still too dry add a little bit more oil and knead in.



We would love to have some recipes from our Bonny Babes families in our next newsletter! If you have a recipe to share, please email it to [karenbonnybabes@outlook.com](mailto:karenbonnybabes@outlook.com)

**Children learn  
to smile from  
their parents.**

**Shinichi Suzuki**



**FYNCH**