

## News Flash 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for supporting your child/ren at New Lambton District OOSH. Like every Term we are busy reflecting on our centre's program, policies and procedures and are committed to continuous improvement. As you know we aim to provide an environment for your child that is play and leisure focused, whilst giving children opportunities to learn and develop their knowledge and skills.

The additional 50 places that our service increased to at the start of 2019 has been positive in alleviating long wait lists and we have been able to provide care for many more families. This also has come with many changes to OOSH procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children.

Due to the increase in our centre's licensed numbers, the additional indoor space needed to fulfil these requirements has identified some areas of change and improvement. We identified that we needed to improve our signage and the communication of what indoor/outdoor spaces are in use with families each session. The implementation of an updated zone open and closed list and larger OOSH site map which clearly identifies where our OOSH rooms are is now on display in the sign in/out area. We have also implemented coloured flags for families to locate the appropriate play zone. We have already received positive feedback from families and if you have any other suggestions please feel free to talk to an educator or email the centre.

### Building Improvements

The recent painting that took place in the school holidays has allowed our children and families to return to a new and improved home away from home. OOSH would like to thank Andrew Pryce for his support during this building improvement.

### Staffing update

We have welcomed Kate, Beth and Erika as permanent qualified educators this Term. We are also lucky to introduce new casuals Olivia, Josie and Kenny. We have a lot of our current teachers in training who will be commencing Uni Pracs this term so please make our new casuals feel welcome. We also welcome back our Registered Nurse Lorraine on a part time basis. We don't quite farewell Felice and Jen as we are lucky to keep them on our casual list. We wish them all the best with their teaching careers. We are also happy to celebrate the safe arrival of Alannah's new baby boy, Jay.

### Assessment and Rating

We are excited to announce that we will be undergoing Assessment and Rating this Term. Assessment and Rating is designed to support continuous improvement in the provision of early childhood education and care services. The assessment process allows our service to demonstrate how we meet the requirements of the National Quality Standard. Authorised officers from the Department of Education will follow a structured assessment process to determine a rating for our service. We have recently submitted our centre's Quality Improvement Plan which is the first stage of the assessment process. A big thankyou goes out to our team for the work that they achieve in aiming for continuous improvement for the children and families at our centre.

### Recipe Wall

We are wanting to introduce a recipe wall where handwritten keepsakes, recipes, wall art or décor can be displayed. Cooking as a family or with loved ones brings us together as we are able to share our culture and heritage through food. OOSH welcomes families to please share a favourite or family recipe with us. If there are any parents or carer's out there who would love to come and share their recipe by cooking with our children one morning or afternoon, please see Elise. Please keep in mind that we are a nut free zone. Elise also has copies of her recipes available for families.

Looking forward to another exciting Term 2.

Your OOSH Team.