



ANYTIME ANYWHERE CHILDCARE



LIL'ANTZ TRAIL EDITION 2 2022

## Welcome!

A warm welcome everyone to this edition of the Lil'Antz Trail. The Lil'Antz Trail is a periodic 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!

It has been a stretch of time since our Edition 1 2022, welcome to all the new families who have joined us in the first half of 2022.

Well the stretch of below 0 degree weather has certainly outstayed it's welcome and our Antz are more than ready to get back out to playing outside in the sunshine! Over the coming month we anticipate it to still be fresh in the mornings but by lunchtime we should have beautiful warm sunshine to play in. Please remember to pack spare clothes for your little ones that will suit any and all weather! We are used to

the seasonal changes where jackets, jumpers and beanies are needed at drop off but by lunchtime it's a long sleeve shirt type of weather for the rest of our day. Please ensure everything your child wears to care, including their spares, are adequately labelled with your child's first and last name! We endeavor to get everything back to its owner however with 50+ children per day it's likely items will be taken off during play and returned to lockers later in the day. Without a label we cannot always remember who had what dinosaur jumper or Bluey jacket! Our lost property is located under the sign in bench, please make sure you have a dig through if you are missing any items.

I would like to take this time to congratulate Kaylana Harris who has recently completed her Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care. We currently have Tay, Isobel, Grace and Udari studying towards their Diploma in ECEC and Sean our school-based apprentice who is more than halfway in completing his Certificate III in ECEC.

We recently held our annual First Aid training. 7 Educators spent 2 Saturdays with Eagle Training either refreshing their skills or undertaking training for the first time. More than 80% of our Employees are First Aid trained at any one time across both services.

It is a big commitment to take on study as well as balancing a work and family life, we appreciate the efforts all our Educators put in towards their studies as well as Professional Development.

As the weather begins to warm and we hope for a couple months of less heat and flies it is time for us here to think about our Lil'Antz Family Day. We have penciled in Saturday 17 September, please mark your calendars! At this stage we have yet to confirm theme and location however invites will be out to families end of July or early August.

As it has for the beginning of 2022 I am certain the second half of 2022 will zip past in the blink of an eye! Just a reminder that Lil'Antz closes only for the Public Holidays over the Christmas and New Year period. Our administrative office will be closed from 23 December 2022 – 9 January 2023. Deb will still be around, checking emails and available to return calls throughout the day as well as our emergency mobile number if you need to get in touch with us. If your family is planning time away from Care, please remember you can update your Xplor App any time to advise us of your child's absence.

We have said goodbye to Lauren Moody on Friday 22 July. Lauren has been with us just shy of 12 months and has worked across all out rooms at Central & Undoolya. We will miss her love and care for the children and wish her all the best in her move to Melbourne.

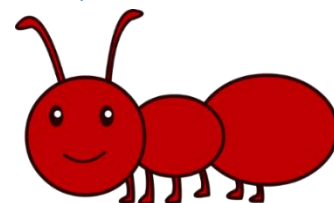
Over the recent month or so we have welcomed back to Lil'Antz Isabella Armstrong, she has returned from time away interstate with family. We have also welcomed Bella, Laynie and Sophie who are high school students working in the afternoons and school holidays assisting the Educators in the end of day clean up, next day prep and spending time with children. Anjana and Preeti have recently joined our team, this is their first experiences working in ChildCare. Prashani joins us, she has her Early Childhood Qualifications in 2020. Lastly, we welcome Inder and Lemuna who are both studying towards their Early Childhood Teaching. Lemuna has recently moved to a Senior Educator role and will commence as the Senior on duty at opening and closing time.

Please make them all feel welcome!

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](mailto: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](mailto:childcare@lilantz.com.au)

-Holly



## Lunchboxes

Lunchboxes are always a tedious task! Is there enough, is there too much, will they even eat today?!

Please remember that children enjoy Morning Tea between 9am – 930am, lunch & Afternoon Tea between 2pm – 230pm as well as a late snack around 4pm. Accompanying their fruit at morning and afternoon tea children have a snack from our menu that ranges from cereal, yoghurt fruit cake, chicken noodle soup, quiche and rotates each week. It's safe to say their little bellies don't go hungry!

We have found children's lunchboxes are jam packed full of goodies, sometimes there is quite a lot left over or wasted. With the rapidly rising cost of food, we hate to see items you have packed go to waste or in the bin.

We encourage families to pack either a sandwich/wrap, leftover dinner, or finger food (meat, cheese and veggie sticks as example) and 1 or 2 snack items (like a yoghurt, muesli bar).

If you pack a little lighter than normal and want to ensure your child has eaten everything and has had enough to eat, please feel free to call the office at lunchtime and we can go out and check. If the Educators notice there is not quite enough in their lunchbox we will send a text for a bit extra packed in their lunch for the next day!

## Nappies

Children are changed across 4 scheduled nappy rounds per day: 9am, 11am, 2pm and 4pm (with the occasional explosion outside of these times!) Please ensure you are packing enough nappies to last your child's whole day. In the past week we have gone through an entire packet of our spare supplies as children have run out after the first couple rounds. Educators are doing 20 – 25 nappies per round, the additional time of coming to the office to get spare nappies adds additional time to an already lengthy process.

We have also found sometimes nappy packets are falling out of lockers and are not labelled, we then have to hunt down their owners. Please write your child's name on the nappy packet as we have 10 children in the same size Huggies in the Mini Antz!! If you need a marker, please see Deb at the window!

## Please Close the Gate & Doors

Across all our services we have measures in place to keep children safe. This includes the entry/exit of our facilities.

At Undoolya please ensure the gate fully shuts behind you and does not bounce back. Our center has a security code lock to enter the children's play space, please pull this door closed behind you fully and do not allow anyone unfamiliar to you through. We also ask you please refrain from letting children open doors. They pull down on the lever and it breaks the mechanism leaving the door handle droop and need immediate replacing to ensure they are fully functional.

At Central please ensure the gate fully shuts behind you. Our center has a security code lock to enter the building past admin. Please pull this door fully closed behind you and do not allow anyone unfamiliar to you through. Please close your child's room doors behind you, little fingers caught in doors is something we want to avoid! We also ask you please refrain from letting children open doors. They pull down on the lever and it breaks the mechanism leaving the door handle droop and need immediate replacing to ensure they are fully functional.

## Please Remember!

**If another Family Member or Educator closes the door and asks you to enter the code, be kind. They are keeping your little ones safe by denying access to anyone unfamiliar to them.**

# Long Day Care

By Heidi Campbell

We are excited to welcome back Kate Burbeck as our Early Childhood Teacher. Kate spent time with us in 2021 whilst on placement for her Masters in Education (Early Childhood) and spent time with us again earlier in 2022. You may also see Kate from time to time collecting her chicken buckets from the front garden at Central that our wonderful BigAntz keep topped up with their leftovers each day!

Kate will commence her role with us in Term 3 sharing moments with Educators and children 4 mornings per week and all day Friday.

Kate comes with a wealth of knowledge to share and we look forward to what our journey has in store for us.

Kate will have the wonderful job of documenting and recording stories on your children & the developmental outcome stage they are at. It will be a story that reflects our relationship with children and the learning that is achieved as a result of feeling safe and secure.

*In our Babies Room - Tay is spending some quality time with Thomas while our friends Iris and Grace are sound asleep. Thomas is on the mat playing happily when he suddenly sees a blue rattle on the side that he wants. He goes to reach for it but instead pushes it further away. This time he leans forward and stretches his arms out some more to reach for it but pushes it even further. Now he is even more determined to get it. Thomas slowly shuffles his legs over, leans over and stretches out his hand and he finally gets it! Thomas gives a proud smile and giggle. Well done Thomas 😊*

We see this type of fun each day and celebrate not only the happiness that the children have in their achievement but also the learning that is happening. Strength and skills that come from being curious and the desire to reach that object has had Thomas be proud in this moment.

In each room we have the thrill of seeing stories like this every day, our Educators are sharing some snippets of their day with the children and the learning they've shared in or simply a story that melts our hearts. If you read one that gives you this same thrill please comment - sharing with us all.

Heidi



## BOOKS

Our wonderful Sukh wrote an observation earlier in July sharing a wonderful story time between the children and herself. In the story one of the children was coming to care for the start of their day and needed a little extra time to settle, so mum sat with him, Sukh and the group and read stories with her little one.

Upon reflection of these interactions Sukh suggested we collect books in our families' home languages and cultures to share together. We endeavour to provide a welcoming space for all families and nurture all our children to belong in our Antz family.

We think Sukh's idea is brilliant!

If you have any books or resources from your families culture you would like to donate or share with us please email Deb so we can arrange!



## Office News

By Deb Sizemore

I often get asked “how to notify of absent days and holidays” and “how to toggle between Central and Undoolya” Did you know that Xplor has a great help site with many articles to view? Instructions are step by step and easy to follow. I am always happy to help, but sometimes our schedules don't match up.

Here are some of the subjects available:

Logging in to Home

Learning

Health

Sign In & Out

Bookings

Finance

Notifications

Users & Permissions

Check it out!!

<https://support.ourxplor.com/hc/en-us/categories/203542608-Home-Parent->

Don't forget to keep your Child Care Subsidy details up to date – your activity level and your income. These two items determine your Subsidized Hours and your Subsidy Percentage. Updates can be made via your MyGov Account.

As always, I am here to help.

## Spare Nappy Fee

Please note we are making changes to our spare nappy fees.

If we are required to contact, you by phone or Xplor txt to request a resupply and provide your child with a nappy the fee will be \$10.

Educators fill up buckets on a rotation throughout the day. If your child has no nappies left in their locker at collection time it is best to bring a supply the next time they attend care.

If you notice your child is out of nappies and you are stuck and unable to provide a resupply that day, please chat with the office.



## Contact Us

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Office Hours: 830am – 4pm Mon – Fri

