



Lil' Antz Trail

Edition 1 2021

ANYTIME ANYWHERE CHILDCARE

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!

Wowee! March 2021 already! We have been SUPER busy in the administration office for this first part of 2021 that time has just flown by and we haven't touched base to say Hello!

I would like to welcome all our new families who have joined us from the end of 2020 and in to 2021. We have lots of new little faces in both of our Long Day Care services and all have settled in beautifully in to our Lil'Antz Family.

As you would all be aware by now our new software has launched and we are all navigating the new platform. We are super excited to be able to track things for our families in real time! It has been a bit of a nervous leap for us here having our documentation moving all cloud based but once everything went live, we instantly loved it!

Our learning documentation has seen a bit of a change, with families now having the ability to add comments to information your child is tagged in. I have already seen a couple little messages pop up this week, thank you, we love to see our parents' input! If you get the time please pop a comment in for the Educators to read over, or if you have something, we could add to an activity for next time we'd love to hear from you!

With the new online platform families can log in from home and notify us of their child's absence from care. We encourage families to use this feature as we will receive the notification, same as we would email or phone call.

Of course, with any new venture we have run into a few little snags, primarily on the software providers side of things! Please be patient with us, we are learning and discovering hiccups here and there. If you are having trouble with ANYTHING to do with

our new platform please pop by the office window, call or email and we can help.

We have recently said goodbye to a couple of our Educators. Bobby and her partner are relocating to be closer to family on the east coast and Kaylah is taking some time away from Early Childhood and Sam is heading up North to be with family. We wish them both the best in their future adventures. Our good friend Tiana has moved south to continue her studies in nursing, she will be back during Uni holidays!

We have recently welcomed Nagwa who has her Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care and Sarah who has her Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care. We have also welcomed Anastacia and Jessica who are brand new to our industry and looking to undertake their studies, we are excited to have some new faces to meet!

Risa is currently away on maternity leave; she welcomed her little boy Dristan in February. Mum & family are all doing well.

Shirani is on Long Service leave and we anticipate her return mid year! Rajitha is in the Mini Antz room leading the children and Educators, please see her if you have any questions about your child's day!

Congratulations to Elisa who has mailed her final workplace books for the completion of her Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care.

The past 6 months has seen the renewal for some of our Educators First Aid and CPR training, with a small handful who have completed this for the first time. The National Law states we are required to have 1 First Aid Qualified Educator on site at all time. We currently have 20 First Aid Qualified Educators employed at Lil'Antz. During 2021 we have scheduled our whole service Mandatory Reporting and Fire Safety Training. We like to keep our Team busy and up to date!!

After a little over 17 years operating from OLSH Bath street we closed the doors on Lil'Antz OLSH at the end of January. We are still planning on operating our OSHC in 2021 however our new location is still undergoing some major works, so we are yet to secure a reopening date! We will keep our families posted.

This year we celebrate 17 years of Long Day Care, with Undoolya turning 17 in March and Central turning 13 in February. As each year passes, we are

more and more proud of our Lil'Antz achievements and how far the Early Childhood industry has come over those years. Each year we come together for our Annual Family Event to celebrate Lil'Antz milestones, show off some fancy child artwork and enjoy something to eat and chat outside the busy Monday – Friday. Due to COVID our plans for 2020 were squashed so I am so looking forward to planning 2021 and making it double the fun! When the weather is a bit cooler and (hopefully) less flies we will organise and release invitations, keep your eye out!

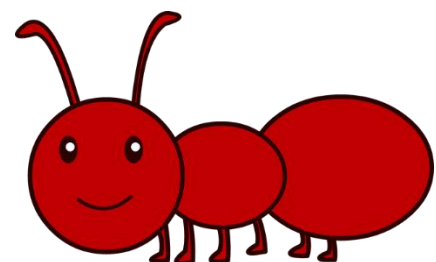
There have been some exciting little renovations undertaken at Central in the past month. To keep Claire our OSHC Manager busy while there is no OSHC we have set lots of new tasks for her to conquer, so far so good! Our hallway by the parent area has had 2 walls freshly painted ready for our Educator profile wall and Quality Improvement area. They should look awesome when completed and you all will be able to see who we have on site, what we are up to and what we are working on! We will also be putting the same up at Undoolya, we are still deciding on a suitable location and wall spacing!

If you see us moving furniture out of our office, please do not panic! In April our main administrative office will be getting new Carpet, this may result in our office being closed for 1 or 2 days as we move computers and equipment in and out, it will not disrupt or impact on the children!

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



Please Close the Gate & Doors

Across all of 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 closed behind you fully 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.

Central Carpark

We understand for 55 children and minimum 20 employees daily our Carpark is not always overflowing with Carparks!

Children's safety is always our number 1 priority and sadly this does not always align with convenience. Please refrain from parking in our Carpark anywhere besides the marked spaces.

We please ask that parents take a quick trip around the block if there are no spaces.

Please also ensure your car is turned off and secure at both Long Day Care Services. We have had a family member have personal items taken from their unlocked vehicle by a passerby.

We also ask that you avoid leaving your children in vehicles in our carpark, especially on hot days. Children are welcome into our service to collect siblings, there is also seating and toys in the foyer for all to enjoy.

We appreciate your assistance in keeping our Carpark safe!

Clothing

We are about to see a beautiful cool change in weather, hopefully for some time before we are hit with the 0-degree mornings!

Please ensure your child has at least 1 set of spare clothes to suit any weather over the cooler months, as we quite often can be chilly in the morning and beautiful, sunny and warm in the afternoon.

We suggest:

- 2 shirts (one being long sleeves in cooler months)
- 2 pants (one being longer in cooler months)
- 2 underwear (more if toilet training!)
- Jumper
- Socks

We change children more frequently during the day in the cooler months. Children often spill water at meal times, have their sleeves become wet during hand washing and craft etc. it makes it easier for everyone if each child has ample supplies to change into, we have very limited spare clothing!

PLEASE make sure you label **EVERYTHING** so we can make sure items go home with the right children.

Long Day Care

By Joan Archibald & Heidi Campbell

Play Based Learning

Children are naturally curious, from the moment they are born they are looking and taking in the world around them. They are watching and listening. Moving and feeling. The daily interactions and experiences you share with your children is how they learn about the world around them. These interactions involve play.

Play is a powerful and important activity. It has a natural and positive influence on children's social, physical, emotional and cognitive development. The best learning happens when children play. It is important to let your children play every day.

Children will find many things to play with inside and outside the home, and in parks and playgrounds. Being with your child and seeing what they are doing will give you ideas about the things they like to play with. All you need is imagination!

Whether it is playing dress ups, constructing grand designs with building blocks, singing songs, telling stories, playing with containers or having fun outside with sand and water – play can be built into everyday routines and activities. Let your children see you having fun!

A play-based learning environment encourages talking, reading, thinking and writing. Through this, your child sees literacy and numeracy as part of their everyday experience.

Play along with them and you will be amazed at what you can learn together!

Sourced from the Department of Education



Our new software has been exciting to navigate, we are still learning things each and every time we log on. Every day we have LOTS to share with our families! Our days are never ending with games, singing, craft and play. We are trying to ensure these are being uploaded and published in a timely fashion however it is taking us some time to work out the kinks and how best we can get our information to you all as quick as possible. Undoolya has had a small delay as we have had to have Xplor investigate some issues on their end for our set up. Our Mini and Big Antz families may have seen in our Daily Reflections recordings of their children during play, this is something we are particularly excited to share with you all as it isn't often you can see your child play with their peers, at collection time they are ready to end their day and come home!

We encourage you all to have a look through and make comments about your child's learning. When developing the program, we base our days around the children's likes and dislikes as well as their individual developmental needs. If you ever have any ideas or comments that we can then add to our program or to an activity you are reading about, please drop us a comment!

With Easter around the corner all of the children are enjoying making bunnies, chicks and eggs! We're hoping the Easter Bunny visits us on Thursday while the children are having their rest time and leave something special for all to take home, please keep your eye out in the parent area 😊

In the coming month across the services, we are talking about reptiles, bugs, dinosaurs, fruits & vegetables, winter and wheels!! Something for everyone!!

Office News

By Deb Sizemore

As you have already read our new software platform has been a bit of a learning curve. With so many new ways of doing administrative tasks I used to do in my sleep you can imagine how busy I have been.

Thank you to all the families who have persevered through the hiccups with the sign in Hub and the new Xplor Home Accounts.

I am still experiencing a few issues around accounts and ask in advance for your patience. If you see anything amiss with your account

- No payment deducted
- Incorrect bank details used
- Incorrect amount deducted

Please shoot me a quick email or give me a call.

I will join Holly in reminding you to take advantage of using Xplor Home to mark your child absent or late attending. This information goes directly to the educators and is helpful for their daily planning.

As always, I am here to help 😊





Contact Us

Phone: 08 8953 0015

Email: childcare@lilantz.com.au

Office Hours: 830am – 4pm Mon – Fri

