

### WELCOME

## Meet our new Director

Acorn Child Care Centre on Branyan Street has a new director! Jasmine Jeffrey took up the new position on Tuesday after Easter and worked for two days with Cassandra finding out where everything is kept and learning everyone's names. Jasmine has moved from Brisbane where she was director of a centre for five years. "I wanted to move to Bundaberg to be close to family and I'm so excited to be part of Acorn Child Care Centre" said Jasmine.

Jasmine is passionate about improving quality, working with the staff and providing the very best possible service for families. At her centre in Brisbane, Jasmine was able to facilitate numerous improvements and increase occupancy. She is already missed by her old centre.

Please make yourself known to Jasmine as she begins the daunting task of becoming acquainted with all our families.



### EDUCA

## Have you used our new app?

The Educa app will allow you to view all your child's pictures, learning stories, observations and "What we did today" at the touch of your finger. You can even reply and send messages and photos back to your child's room, allowing Educators to further extend learning. You will also be able to review and see all centre policies, newsletters, centre updates and general information.

If you would like help setting up the app please see your director or room educators.



## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

### Part 1

Although it is great for children to learn protective behaviours, experience has taught us that actions by adults can be more effective than relying on children to protect themselves from sexual abuse. This article and the ones to follow will focus on ways adults can protect children. Clear communication is a cornerstone of effective prevention. Make sure other adults and older children understand the expectations younger children will have of them and how their cooperation will help keep children safe.

When teaching children about others' behaviour towards them, use concrete examples.

Remember that in as many as 90% of situations where a child is sexually abused/harmed, the child (and often their family) knows the adult, youth or child who is acting in an abusive way. When talking with children about child sexual abuse, use examples and situations that make that reality clear. For example:

- "What if you are at a friend's house and her older brother asks you to play a game that makes you feel weird or

uncomfortable or involves something like touching or taking off your clothes?"

- "Sometimes relatives, like grandparents or uncles or cousins, don't understand the rules and touch kids in ways they're not supposed to. If that ever happens, be sure to tell Mum or Dad or another adult you trust so that we can help that person learn the rules."

#### Model healthy boundaries

Sometimes we unintentionally confuse children by insisting they hug Grandma even when they don't want to, or by saying, "Do whatever the baby sitter tells you to do." Help your children practice setting healthy boundaries. When children tell us they don't want to hug and kiss everyone at a family gathering, support them by helping them find another way to show respect to family members (such as shaking hands, just saying goodbye). Model saying "no" and assure your children that their "no" will be respected. If others disrespect or ignore your child's limits, it's your job to explain your family rules and insist on your child's rights to set boundaries.

If you have any questions or concerns in relation to this article please contact Phoenix House on 4153 4299.

## ACORN EAST

### Wollemi room

Over the past two weeks we have been doing a multicultural unit in the Wollemi room. This tied in with Cultural Diversity week and harmony day. Harmony day was a dress up day where children and educators were asked to come dressed up as a different culture. We had different nationalities represented including Hawaiian, Spanish, Italian, Korean and Australian.

During this unit we have set up different cultural environments for the children to engage in. Miss Jamie was very creative and made a UK telephone booth while Miss Jess made us a London tour bus. We have been very busy painting flags and colouring in pictures and have even been lucky enough to have a couple of high teas where we enjoyed incorporating our heritages into our play.

### Dental Visit

To celebrate our teeth, the dentist from Van Der Walt Dental, Dr Mal, came to visit us with two of his assistants. All the children sat in a big circle while Dr Mal shared with us some really good tips on how to take care of our teeth. We learned that it is important to brush behind our teeth, right to the top of our teeth and to brush all the way up to our gums so they stay strong and healthy. We even got to practice brushing our own teeth.

Dr Mal gave us all a new toothbrush and some yummy mint toothpaste. He also gave us step by step instructions on how to correctly brush our teeth. We now know that our teeth are the most important part of your smile and they also help us chew foods like crunchy apples or yummy pizza. All the children are excited for their next visit to the dentist!

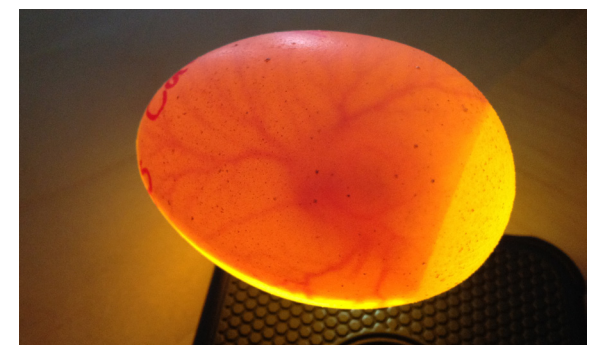
### Eggsellent news

Over the last 21 days our friends in the wattle room have been observing the development of chickens in their eggs. Each day we have watched the chickens going through each stage of development by shining a torch through the egg. We have been counting down the days on our room chart, turning the eggs daily and checking them to see how they have been developing.

All of the children in the Wattle Room have been very excited and very patient over this time. After sitting in the incubator at the perfect temperature for 21 days, it was on Monday 29th that Miss Carly and Miss Emma both discovered that one small egg shell had begun to crack and not long afterward the others began to crack. Throughout the day there were three little chicks pecking their way through the shell to greet us. The children in the Wattle Room were all very excited to see the little crack and to hear the little chicks inside pecking and chirping! We are still waiting for them to hatch out completely and this can take a couple of days. We will be sure to update you very soon on their progress.



**Harmony Day:** Exploring all of our different cultures



**Hatching chicks:** Learning about the life cycle of chickens