

# The Infants' Home - Family Day Care Newsletter Jan 2009



the infants' home  
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

## **Happy New Year - 2009**

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and that the New Year brings you great satisfaction. I believe that part of the role of the co-ordination unit is to support the development of positive relationships, for the benefit of children and their families. Please contact us if you require any assistance. Looking forward to working with you again. We would also like to welcome all of our new families who started care recently. Please let us know if we can help with anything.

### **Scheme Update:**

Penelope Savage (CDO) has decided to leave us to become a 'Queenslander'. Penelope's last day will be 16 January. We are all so sad to see her leave. Her great professionalism, energy and drive will be missed.

Due to our current number of carers and children in care we may not be replacing the CDO role in the current form. Karina has agreed to increase her working hours with FDC and will undertake administration support visits to carers and our ever reliable CDO Cath Mitchell will oversee and support carers in their day to day work.

We hope to employ a playgroup co-coordinator early February 2009 to oversee the FDC playgroup and the Red Bug community playgroup held in Ashfield Park, Monday mornings during school terms.

### **Name change of Child Development Officer (CDO's)**

The CDO's employed by The Infants' Home FDC will now be known as Child Care Advisors (CCA) as we feel this reflects their role more appropriately. The CCA role is to support and resource the highest standard of family day care for children. They are there to discuss your childcare needs, to provide information about child care and to assist you to find the right carer and environment for your child. They are also there to monitor your child's wellbeing, learning and progress.

The coordination unit works in partnership with carers to uphold organisational values, meet required legislation, National Standards and the formal Family Day Care Quality Assurance system. Carers are visited regularly by trained staff (CCA) who also run play sessions and offer toy library services to ensure that children have a variety of stimulating play experiences.



Many family day care schemes offer newsletters for parent and carer communication. If your carer is sick or plans to take leave, the coordination unit may be able to offer a relief carer or back up service arrangement with minimal disruption to your child. Family fee subsidies (Child Care Benefit (CCB) are administered by the coordination unit.

## Playgroup

Unfortunately due to the change in staffing the recommencement of the FDC playgroup will be delayed until we can recruit a playgroup co-coordinator. We will inform carers of the commencement date for playgroup as soon as we can. Apologies for any inconvenienced caused.

## Upcoming events

**Carer Training for 2009** - Our first session will be held on **18<sup>th</sup> February 2009 7 – 9pm**

**Housekeeping Evening** - Fire Equipment Checks, Bring your fire blankets/ extinguisher in a bag with your name on it and \$10 per item that is being checked. Also please bring your administration/ forms folder for updating.

**Senior First Aid Course** - Parents, Carers and Friends are welcome to attend.

Saturday 7 February and 21 February	Senior First Aid ( 2 days) 8.30am – 4.30 pm (bring your own lunch, pen, paper, two large towels). NB: \$145 per person for 20 participants or more \$180 per person if less than 15 participants So bring you friends	<b>The Infants Home Ashfield</b> Payment options: cheque made out to TIHC&FS or EFTPOS, and credit card (2% charges applied).
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Bookings essential – call FDC on 9799 4844 or email [chunter@theinfantshome.org.au](mailto:chunter@theinfantshome.org.au)

Please note: Carers - this will be the only first aid course on offer through FDC this year, please check your first aid certificate renewal dates. Without a current first aid certificate you cannot operate your FDC service.

## Parent Information Sessions 2009

In 2009 we will be holding four information sessions for families. The dates and topics are;

- 11/02/09 Fussy eaters & nutrition
- 10/03/09 Discipline & guidance (0 – 3 years)
- 13/05/09 Discipline & guidance ( 3 – 6 years)
- 1/07/09 Common colds and medication

Bookings essential – call FDC on 9799 4844 or email [chunter@theinfantshome.org.au](mailto:chunter@theinfantshome.org.au)

## Volunteer's required.....

We are looking for regular volunteers to assist with the Red Bug playgroup held in Ashfield Park Monday mornings during school term from approximately 9am – 12.30. This is a free community playgroup supported in partnership with Ashfield Council and The Infants' Home. Please call Penelope on PH: 9799 4844 if you think you would like to assist.

## Important CCB Information

With the transition to CCMS, comes change. Please note it is very important that families keep the Family Assistance Office informed of any changes to their circumstances that may affect their Child Care Benefit. If the information is not kept up-to-date the scheme may not be able to pay CCB as a weekly deduction and families will be required to wait and claim this at the end of the financial year as a lump sum.

It is also important that new parents contact the scheme to inform us of their / their child CRN in order to obtain Child Care Benefit.

## Timesheets

**Signing in & out** Children must be signed in on their arrival and out of care at the end of care each day. *It is important* to note the timesheets / attendance records must not be signed in advance as this would be a compliance breach.

**CCB will not be paid** until attendance records are signed to reflect a valid attendance. This also applies to child absences as this is considered best practice.

**42 absence days per year** this will include holidays, sick days, public holidays etc. When a family uses their 42 absence days per child they will be required to pay the **Full Fee as CCB will not be paid.**

## Australia Day



**Australia Day**, the 26<sup>th</sup> January, is for all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to celebrate what makes us great, to consider where we've come from, where we are now, and what kind of a future we want to build together. We all have a contribution to make.

Australia is a natural wonderland of beautiful beaches, crystal blue waters, amazing ancient rock formations and pristine rainforests. Occupying an entire continent of some 7.6 million square kilometres, Australia is the sixth largest country in the world.

Our ocean territory is the world's third largest, spanning three oceans and covering around 12 million square kilometres.

Our country is one of the most urbanised and coast-dwelling populations in the world. More than 80 per cent of Australians live within 100 kilometres of the coast.

Australia has 16 world heritage listed properties with its historic townships, bustling cities, vivid landscapes and exotic flora and fauna all adding to its unique appeal. Actually, much of our exotic flora and fauna cannot be found anywhere else in the world. The culture and customs consists of a rich tapestry of nationalities including traditions, legends, myths and folklore. The Indigenous 'Dream Time' forms the base of tens of thousands of years of spiritual aboriginal art and culture.

In Australia over 200 different languages and dialects are spoken, including 45 Indigenous languages. The most commonly spoken languages (other than English) are Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin.

Australia is a stable, democratic society with a skilled workforce and a strong, competitive economy. With a population of 20 million, Australia is the only nation to govern an entire continent and is the sixth largest country in the world in land area. Australia's multicultural society includes its Indigenous peoples and migrants from some 200 countries.

(source [www.australiaday.com.au/studentresources](http://www.australiaday.com.au/studentresources))

## Chinese New Year - 26 January 2009

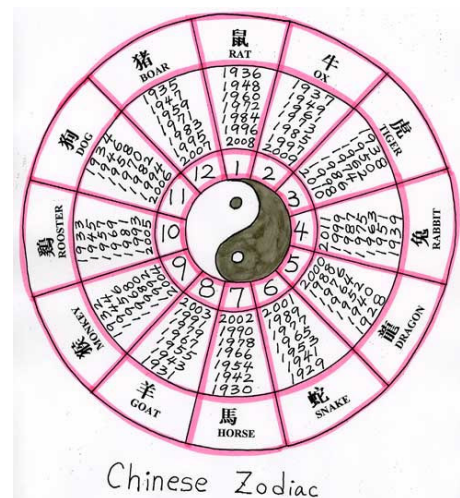
According to the Chinese Zodiac, the Year of 2009 is the Year of the Ox. The Ox, or the Buffalo sign symbolizes prosperity through fortitude and hard work. Those born under the influence of the Ox or Buffalo (1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997 & 2009) are fortunate to be stable and



persevering.

The typical Ox is a tolerant person with strong character. Not many people could equal the resolution and fearlessness that the Ox exhibits when deciding to accomplish a task. Ox people work hard without complaints at work or at home. They know that they will succeed through hard work and sustained efforts, and do not

believe in get-rich-quick schemes.



## Newsletter Format

*We are trying a revised format for our 2009 newsletters - please let us know if you like it.*

*All families and carers will be given the scheme newsletter 1/4ly.*

*In the past we repeated certain information in each newsletter (this was generally for new families in attempt to make sure they have additional information such as staff names and contact details/ CCB /CCMS / Father's playgroup/ The Infants' Home's Services etc). This information will now become available as an additional 'INSERT' to each newsletter. Copies will be provided to carers to distribute to the new families in their care. Existing families can also request a copy of the insert at any time.*

**Until next time - Cath, Penelope, Karina and Catherine**

