

Happenings



the infants' home
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

November/December 2017

www.theinfantshome.org.au

Carols by Twilight Friday 1st December

One of our favourite family events is Friday December 1st – Carols by Twilight. Please join us from 5.30-7.30pm on the main lawn for an evening of festive family fun. There will be a Dance-a-long with Santa's Elves, a Carols Sing-a-Long, Christmas raffle, BBQ dinner available to purchase and visits from Santa and Rudolf! So bring your picnic blanket and join in our last big celebration for 2017.

Crowdfunding Campaign for Rigby House

We are very excited to have launched The Infants' Home's first crowdfunding campaign in our final bid to raise funds to renovate Rigby House. Renovations will begin in late December and be complete for a fresh start in February 2018. Our target is at least \$10,000 and all funds raised will be matched by one of our generous donors – effectively doubling all donations.

If you have already supported this campaign—thank you! If not, we invite you to join in. Crowdfunding works best if everyone shares the message via email and social media, to help get lots of little donations to reach a target. We hope you can join us by donating a little to help achieve a big outcome.

Follow us on Facebook

Keep up to date on The Infants' Home's news and events, [here](#).



Seeking Records Search Volunteer

Are you interested in history, family trees, or are fascinated by old photographs and documents? We seek a volunteer with a keen eye for detail to help with records search enquiries, and to catalogue historical photographs and documents. If interested, please contact Anne-Marie: 8719 5002 or abyrne@theinfantshome.org.au

Children Move to New Rooms, Houses and Big School

Children in many of the Houses have been following new routines to help transition to a new room, a new centre or to 'big school' as their learning and development progresses. Educators have been working with children to help connect them to their new educators, teachers and environments to help children feel safe as well as to encourage both independence and interdependence.

This is also a momentous year for The Infants' Home. When our new Early Learning and Care Centre opened in 2013, it enabled us to increase the number of children in Murray and Gorton House's early education programs. Now, almost 100 children are ready to transition to 'big school', the largest group of 'graduates' we have ever had.

We are proud to see how ready children are for their next big adventure and, whilst it is hard to say goodbye to those children and families who are leaving us, we wish all of you the very best and hope you keep in touch.

End of Year House Parties

We welcome families to attend End of Year Parties at your child's House(s). Signs are up at the entrances of each House with dates, details and times as below.

Dates for Your Diary

- **Carols by Twilight**, Friday 1st Dec, 5.30-7.30

End of Year Parties for each House:

- **Gorton House:** Friday 1st December, 4-5.30pm
- **Johnson House Preschool:**
Wednesday 13th December, from 4.30pm
- **Johnson House Toddlers:**
Thursday 7th December, 4- 5.30pm
- **Murray House:** Wednesday 6th December 4-6pm
- **Robinson House:**
Tuesday 5th December, 4.30-5.45pm.



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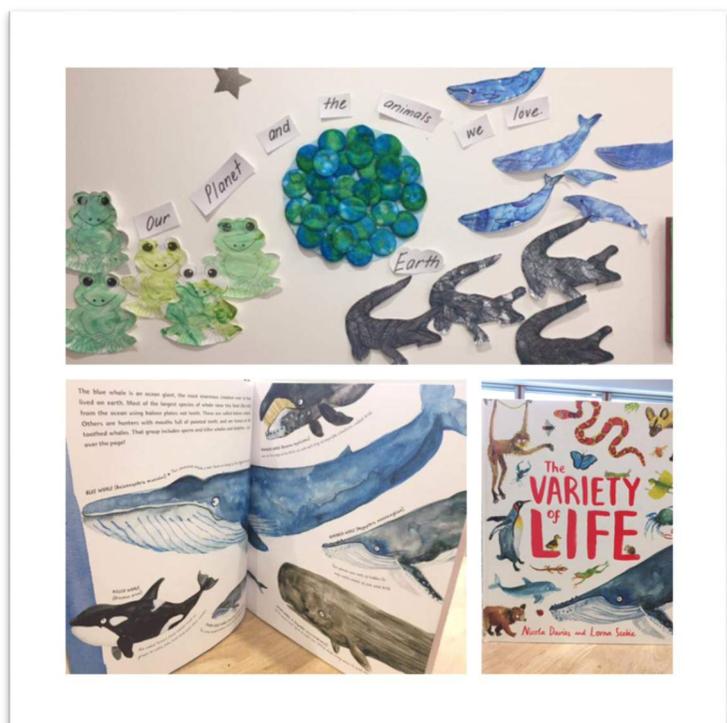
FDC Northern Beaches News

Halloween brought up some very interesting discussions at Little Gum Trees. Skeleton stories instigated many questions on bodies and being healthy through exercise. The children were interested in dancing skeletons so this extended the children's learning about bones and muscles. What a great learning opportunity to explore how the body works through music and craft.

Learning outcome 3 – children have a strong sense of well-being



Riverview FDC has been working on a wonderful project learning about our planet and the children's favourite animals. To extend on our learning the children explored the book "The variety of Life" for all who love, and fight for, the treasures of biodiversity. We have many more animals to explore and our book will help us explore our curiosities. What a great way to connect children to their world (learning outcome 2)



FDC: Randwick/SS News

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On Saturday the 28th of October we celebrated with Gabriela Gasinska, a Family Day Care educator with Family Day Care Sydney Wide – Randwick /South Sydney who was awarded with **“The Educator of the year for the CBD, Inner West and Eastern Suburbs region” at the Family Day Care Australia Excellence in Family Day Care awards.**

The event was held at the Novatel in Parramatta and included members of the Family Day Care community from all over Australia. The Infants’ Home were kind enough to support Cath Mitchell, Barbara Millist and Catherine Jackson from the Randwick/South Sydney Hub to attend as support for Gabi. The event was hosted by our national body – Family Day Care Australia



Gabi with her award!



Cath, Gabi, Catherine and Barbara



Gabi and Cath

The Family Day Care Australia Excellence in Family Day Care Awards are the only national awards dedicated entirely to the Family Day Care sector. Families and educators are invited to submit in their own words, what makes their educator or approved service such an integral and special contributor to their lives and to the lives of the children in their care.

Several educators throughout our scheme were nominated by their families and we are very proud to see our educators recognised for the hard work and dedication they put into caring for families in our community. Hopefully there will be even more next year. Congratulations Gabi!

With Summer upon us we need to be extremely aware of sun protection for all the family.

Sun safety: why it's important Source: <http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/sunburn.html>

Too much sun can lead to sunburn, skin damage, eye damage, skin cancer and a weakened immune system.

Your child needs some sun to help their body to make vitamin D, which is important for things like strong bones and muscles.

But you have to **be careful about how much sun** your child gets on their skin.

Sun safety at different times of year and day

Your child's sun protection needs change at different times of year and different times of day. That's because ultraviolet (UV) radiation varies during the year and across Australia depending on the season.

UV radiation levels are highest between about 9 am and 4 pm, depending on where you are in Australia and the time of year.

Your child needs sun protection when the **UV radiation level is 3 or above**.

You can check the UV levels for your area using the SunSmart app on this page or the Bureau of Meteorology UV and sun protection guide.

In summer, it's best to make trips to the playground, the park or the beach in the early morning and late afternoon.

Shade

Shade gives you and your child some protection from UV radiation. Dense shade that creates a dark shadow is best.

But UV can still reach you in the shade. So even if you're sitting in the shade, make sure you and your child wear protective clothing, including sunglasses and a broad-brimmed hat. Use sunscreen on any exposed skin.

If you're using a pram, cover it with a shade cloth that lets air get through to your child. Alternatively, some prams have adjustable canopy tops that can move and offer shade as the sun's position changes.

If you can't find shade, make your own using an umbrella or sunshade. Always keep window shades in your car to stick on side windows and protect your child while you're driving.

Protective clothing

Here are some things to think about when you're looking for sun-protective clothing for your child:

- Tightly woven fabric helps protect your child's skin from the sun. Hold the fabric up to the light to see how much sun gets through. If the fabric lets a lot of light through, it'll probably let a lot of UV through too.
- Long sleeves and long pants cover up more of your child's skin. Elbow-length sleeves and knee-length shorts are best if it's too warm for full-length clothing.
- Wetsuits and rash vests are a great way to protect your child from the sun when swimming or doing other water activities.
- Cotton clothing is cooler than clothing made from acrylic fibers.
- Loose-fitting clothing is cooler.

Look out for sun-protective clothing with an **ultraviolet protection factor (UPF) rating of 50+**. This rating gives your child the best available protection from the sun.

Hats

A hat protects your child's face, neck and ears from the sun's UV. Bucket, broad-brimmed and legionnaire's hats give the best protection. Caps aren't recommended.

For babies, look for a soft hat so that your baby can still lie down comfortably while he's wearing it. A chin strap will help keep it on your baby's head. Many babies and toddlers don't like wearing hats – keep trying and eventually hats will become part of your child's routine.

Sunglasses

Wearing sunglasses as well as a hat can help protect your child's eyes. Look for close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet Australian Standard AS/NZS 1067:2003. Prolonged exposure to UV is a risk factor for cataracts.

Check your child's position, hat and clothing regularly to make sure she's out of the direct sunlight.

Sunscreen

Use a **sun protection factor (SPF) 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen** on your child's face, hands and any other parts of his skin that aren't covered by clothes. Make sure to use plenty of sunscreen – many people don't use enough, so they don't get the protection they need.

Apply sunscreen at least 20 minutes before you go outside, and reapply it every two hours, even if the tube or bottle says four hours.

Make sure sunscreen is within its use-by date, and keep it stored in a cool, shady place under 30°C.

Remember that sunscreen filters UV radiation, but doesn't completely block it out. You need to seek shade and put your child in sun-protective clothing as well.

Sunscreen and babies

If your child is less than six months of age, it's best not to put sunscreen on them regularly – shade, clothing and hats are the most important way to protect your child.

Sunscreens labelled 'for babies' or 'sensitive' are less likely to cause skin irritation. Always test the sunscreen on a small area of your baby's skin to check for any skin reactions.

Role-modelling

You are your child's most important role model, and your child copies what you do. If you take sun safety precautions yourself, your child is more likely to do it too.



Benefits of play dough:

- * Children enjoy every aspect of the exploration of play dough
- * Using this amazing material is a never ending tactile learning experience for all children
- * They squeeze it, poke it, squash it, pick it up and pat it down
- * explore its soft and responsive sensory qualities
- * Working play dough with their hands develops the child's large and small muscles and aids eye-hand coordination
- * play dough is a calming activity
- * It helps to strengthen small fingers, hands and wrists
- * It helps to build your child's imagination
- * It helps children develop self esteem -there is no right or wrong way to use play dough
- * Playing with dough with others helps children understand the importance of sharing
- * Discussing what has been made helps build communication skills and develops imagination.
- * Dividing it up can be used to help children learn about numbers and counting

No Cook No Fail Playdough Recipe

2 C P Flour,

4 tbs Cream of Tartar

2 tbs cooking oil

1 C salt

2 C Hot water Food Colouring of choice

Mix all dry ingredients together & combine well. Mix all liquids together & stir. Make a well in dry ingredients & add the hot liquid & stir slowly until it forms together into thick dough. Use of extra flour if too sticky. Also can add, essential oils, flower petals, plastic toys, lavender, rice etc

Amina in Arncliffe has challenged her children's thinking and creativity with playdough

"I am making fire works"

Making birthday cake and lollipops



FDC: Inner West News

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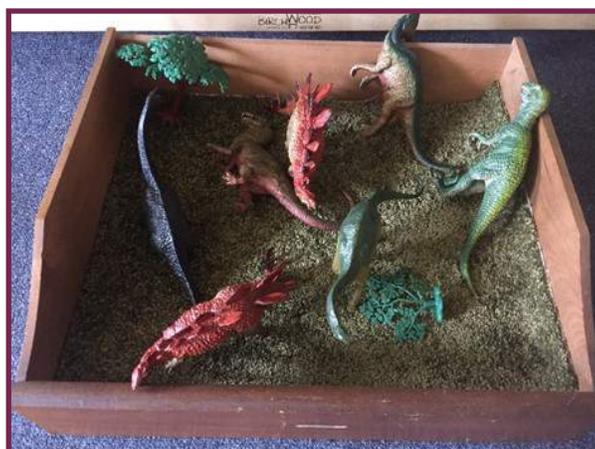
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Inner West play session news with Debbie J

We are implementing new ideas and experiences into the weekly play group including interest areas, provocation pictures and the use of natural materials as resources. Both the educators and children are responding with enthusiasm and intrigue. This seems to be igniting a sense of curiosity and inquiring which is leading to an extension of learning. Educators are inquiring where the resources can be purchased or sourced. To link the learning from the play group to their service I have made a small resource package for the educators to take with them to their service. This will allow the children to revisit experiences that they engaged in at play group and provide the educators with new resources.



Small world play experiences....



We have been making some great changes to the indoor play space at play group too! With much consideration to the age group currently visiting play session, we have introduced 'small world play experiences' throughout our dramatic and sensory play areas. Small world play is creating a play scene using natural resources or miniature sized replicas of real life items. Pictured above are just 2 examples of some of the enchanting and detailed play scenes offered to the children all contained in unwanted furniture drawers!!

FDC Vacancies

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We have childcare vacancies in the following areas:

Inner West	Randwick/South	Northern Beaches	Hurstville/St George
Concord	Maroubra	Avalon	Bexley
Five dock	Kingsford	Mona Vale	Bexley North
Croydon Park	East Gardens	Warriewood	Brighton Le Sands
Croydon	Pagewood	Elanora Heights	Beverly Hills
Ashfield	Phillip Bay	Collaroy	Arncliffe
Earlwood	Rosebery	Terry Hills	Mortdale
Canterbury	Matraville		Penshurst
Drummoyne	Bondi Junction		Peakhurst
Abbottsford			Kogarah
			Carlton
			Hurstville
			Hurstville Grove
			South Hurstville
			Kingsgrove

