

Art Tastic 2009



NCN's Annual Art Exhibition

We will once again be celebrating Children's Week by holding our annual art exhibition "Art Tastic" at Amy Road from Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October.

Winter is a great time to start planning for this by encouraging your budding artists to create an art piece. Entries are open for children aged up to 16 years.

Please phone the office on 6341 1555 for more information. Entry forms will be available soon.

Robert the Robot painted by Jake aged 6

Amy Road OSHC is Going Green

Amy Road After School Care and Vacation Care were recently successful in obtaining a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund to establish a children's enviro-garden at the service. Soon work will begin involving the children in the design of

and planning for an organic, water friendly garden that will include a worm farm and fruit trees. The service wants to acknowledge that this project would not have been possible without the grant from Tasmanian Community Fund for

the amount of \$4,300. Parents will be most welcome in supporting the children and staff in establishing and maintaining an organic and water wise garden at our Amy Rd premises.

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Learning Through Play

NCN introduces 'Creative Playtime', a new look program for children and their families to explore the wonders of childhood by learning through play.

We invite you to join us on Fridays at 59D Amy Road

Newstead, from 10.00am – 11.30am, cost is \$4 for the first child, \$3 for each additional child and children under 6 months are free.

Please phone the office on 6341 1555 for information or to book a place.



Parent Usage Statements

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) have advised that from the 1 July 2009 each service must provide families with a parent usage statement monthly. Previously a quarterly statement was posted to parents. Parents using our centres will receive their Parent Usage Statements with their accounts each month.

However providing this information to families using In Home and Family Day Care will have a huge impact on staff hours as well as printing and postage costs to NCN. A decision has been made to distribute this information via carers each month.

To ensure that parents receive this information, we will continue to post out a quarterly statement direct to parents. We are hoping that in the future our software providers will provide an upgrade enabling us to email these statements direct to parents who have email access.

You should always check your Parent Usage Statement as it contains important information on the amount of care and costs that has been provided to your child/ren. This information is used by the DEEWR to calculate your 50% Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR). Any queries with a usage statement should be directed to NCN on 6341 1555.

Board AGM

NCN's next AGM will be held on Wednesday 16 September at 7.00pm. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Unpaid Debts

Parents should note that if you leave one of our services, whether it is Long Day Care, After School Care, Vacation Care, Family Day Care or In Home Care, with an unpaid debt, our database will be noted with the details. If you request a placement with another NCN child care service we will be unable to proceed with this until the outstanding debt has been paid in full.

Vacation Care – September School Holidays

The vacation care programs for our Amy Road and East Coast centres will be available shortly and a copy will be posted to all parents that have used these services previously.

We encourage you all to take the time to read the program and book early to avoid disappointment.

Licensing

The Department of Education - Child Care Unit are responsible for the licensing of all forms of child care in the state. All of our NCN services have completed their latest round of licensing requirements and are fully compliant with all legislative and regulatory requirements. More information about child care licensing is available on the Education Department web site: www.childcare.tas.gov.au

Quality Assurance

The National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC) conducts a rigorous process in ensuring all families accessing approved services (services that qualify for Child Care Benefit reductions for parents) meet consistent standards of quality child care. Our services participate in this accreditation process. Late in 2008 our Family Day Care service achieved high standards of care provision. On the NCAC web site parents can view the accreditation status of all approved child care services www.ncac.gov.au

Our Amy Road After School Care and Vacation Care has just completed its Quality Assurance validation process. The validator visited the program spending three afternoons in our After School Care Program working with staff and children. Whilst we are awaiting the official report, early indications are that our service will be rated High Quality in all areas.

Our St Marys Child Care Centre, Scottsdale Child Care Centre and East Coast Vacation Care Program are due for their self study as part of Quality Assurance later this year.

NCN Website

The CCB Calculator has now been updated with the new fees for this financial year.

If you would like a fee estimate or would just like to know how much it will cost you for care, please log on to our website at www.ncn.org.au select the CCB Calculator tab then choose which service you would like an estimate for. It is that simple.