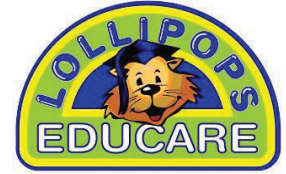


# Lollipops Educare Botany

Newsletter November 2011



Dear parents, caregivers and whānau,  
The year has gone by really quickly and Christmas is once again upon us. The weather is much warmer just in time for picnics on the beach, park or wonderful barbecues.

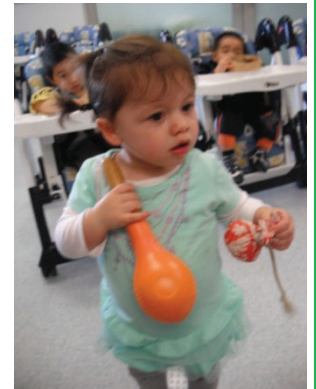
## Happy Diwali:

The children had a wonderful day celebrating Diwali, this is a great way for our young children to learn and experience diversity. The children danced, decorated their hands with mehndi and listened to the story about Diwali. We all sat down to a delicious shared lunch which was really yummy, thanks to our parents.



## Buzz from the Babies Room:

For the past month the babies have been interested in music and movement. To extend on this interest the teachers have been taking all opportunities to provide the babies with different music and musical instruments. When your child comes home singing and dancing it's their way of self expression, so join them and have fun (we do).



## Christmas Holidays

Please fill in the holiday attendance forms & return as soon as you can. It is important that we know how many children are attending at this time so we can roster our staff accordingly.  
Thank you!

## REMINDER

Please make sure all family members dropping off children have a 2011 Lollipops car sticker. Christmas is coming and people parking in our spaces will be clamped. Please do not use these parks at the weekend as we need them for delivering groceries, and for maintenance work.



### Supertots Say:

What fun it is to finally be able to run in the sunshine again! We have started our garden projects for the season, if you have any plants at home that you could donate we would love to have them and promise to take care of them. We have been having lots of fun on the obstacle course and our confidence is growing every day, running and jumping is also a great way to burn off all our energy. We delight in giving our baby dolls a bath outside, but that's just an excuse to splash around in the water with our friends.



### Rising Fives Rave:

Prior to our Lollipops disco evening, we all spent time practising our disco moves. Our Lollipops disco event was very successful and lots of fun. Some of the teachers danced with the children and many parents enjoyed dancing too. We can't wait to see what is planned for our big Christmas event!

### 2012 Calendars

We have begun working on our artwork for our calendars - a notice will come out next week for these. These are ideal for Christmas gifts. Please let us know if you would like to order one.



### Christmas Party

Don't forget our children's Christmas party on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10-12pm. Santa has RSVP'd for the event ☺ A sausage sizzle lunch will be provided. Can you please supply a present, preferably a book, for your child to the value of \$10.00. Please name and wrap the present and give to a staff member before the day of the party. I know this is an early notice but time seems to go so fast at this time of year. A reminder notice will be sent out closer to the date.

## The importance of outdoor play for children

Often parents ask not to let children go outdoors to play and this can be difficult when a child wants to play outside with their friends. Last year as part of our ongoing Professional Development, the teachers spent time with Anna from Natures Play learning the importance of outdoor play for young children.

The lives of children today are much different from the one's we experienced growing up. Some of our favourite childhood memories are outdoor activities. Children today have few opportunities for outdoor free play and regular contact with the natural world.

There are two fundamental reasons why outdoor play is critical for young children in our early childhood programmes. Firstly, many of the developmental tasks that children must achieve—exploring, risk-taking, fine and gross motor development and the absorption of vast amounts of basic knowledge—can be most effectively learned through outdoor play. Children need opportunities to explore, experiment, manipulate, reconfigure, expand, influence, change, marvel, discover, practice, dam up, push their limits, yell, sing, and create. Second, our culture is taking outdoor play away from young children through excessive TV and computer use, busy and tired parents, over protective parents thus taking time away from play.

Everyone who works with young children in the centre knows how quickly bacteria and viruses spread. One way to reduce the spread of infection is through lots and lots of fresh air, this also helps build young children's immune systems making them stronger. Using open space to fulfil basic childhood needs—jumping, running, climbing, swinging, racing, yelling, rolling, hiding, and making a big mess—is what childhood is all about! For a variety of obvious reasons many of these things cannot occur indoors. Children must have these important experiences to learn about and from nature.

Each room in the centre has a garden and children are learning to grow and take care of plants. We often have fresh veggies for lunch from our gardens and this is an amazing learning process for even our young babies. I asked the Rising Fives “where do carrots come from?” and the response was “New World”. “Where does meat for the burgers come from?” and the response “McDonalds”. This alone shows that children need to share more experiences in nature and to care for the natural environments. Therefore we try to provide our children with the best possible start to develop a curiosity for nature and to be outdoors, after all that's where the fun is!!!!

Thanks for being amazing parents!

### Summer time fun in the sun!

The weathers hot and finally we can shed off the heavy jumpers and layers of clothing for shorts and Tee's. Please can the children have two sets of spare clothes in their bags. We often have lots of water play this time of year and this will ensure that the children have something else to wear.

Cathy, Maree, Jeanine  
and team.