



Banks St Kindy News



March 2017

Issue One

Hello Bank Street Families and welcome again from me to 2017!

A brief introduction from me, Ben Pentelow, as the recently appointed and first time President of the Parents Management Committee for 2017. In my very short tenure so far I have had a fantastic time getting to know the people who make the Bank Street Kindy and family the wonderful place that it is. Early days for me and I am yet to meet some of the wonderful staff Ann, Judy, Michelle, Rachel, Elizabeth and Kath but I am slowly getting to know the faces and the names and it is shaping up to be a fantastic year for the staff, kids, families and community which support the Bank Street Kindy.

I am looking forward to meeting some of you at the upcoming **Bunnings BBQ fundraiser** to be held at Stafford Bunnings on **Sunday the 19th March** kicking off at 8:30am. Thank you to those that have already signed up to help turn and serve snags on the day! The BBQ is a very important fundraising event for our Kindy with funds aimed at supporting the purchase of a new "Mud Kitchen" to be installed in the Bark Area! I must admit, I was not aware of the concept of a Mud Kitchen until our recent committee meeting but have great confidence that its addition will only add the wonderful experience our kids already currently enjoy at Bank Street.

Finally, I hope that all/some of you have fuelled the blowers/lawnmowers/ gurneys and have shovels, brooms, rakes etc on the ready for the very important **working bee** to be held at Bank Street Kindy on **Saturday 25th March, 7-9am**. Again, this event is important to keeping the place looking as good as it can be and safe for the kids and the community and the committee greatly appreciates the generous support of families (even if only for a short time on the day) as many hands make light work (and also keeps costs to a minimum which we all appreciate as fee paying parents :)

Thanks for taking the time for my brief introduction and I look forward to meeting some of you during the year and look forward to a great 2017 for Bank Street Kindy.

Cheers

Ben Pentelow
President, Parents Management Committee
Bank Street Kindergarten"



Terms 1&2 Dates

Group A - Term 1 finishes 29th March
Group A - Term 2 starts 18th April (Tues)
Group B - Term 1 finishes 31st March
Group B - Term 2 starts 19th April (Wed)



OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

March

9th Butterflies group / Art Night

14th Art Night / Bees group

15th Ann and Judy noncontact / Michelle and Rachel to work with the Bees group – if you would like a chat with Ann and Judy about your child, please make a time with them for this day

19th Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser

22nd Michelle and Rachel noncontact / Ann and Judy to work with the Butterflies Group – similarly, if you would like to chat with Michelle and Rachel, please make a time with them.

24th 2016 Reunion

May

25th May Under 8s with Newmarket State School Michelle and Rachel will need at least 6 parents to participate in this event 8.30 – 11am.



FROM THE DIRECTOR—Ann Lock

*The staff thanks the outgoing 2016 Committee for their support and welcomes the incoming 2017 Committee.

President: Ben Pentelow (Grp B)
Vice President: Michelle Grothe (Grp A)
Treasurer: Julian Nichols (Grp A)
Secretary & Minutes: Toni Ayliffe (Grp A)

We also thank the parents who filled all the other vital committee roles.

*We look forward to you (the parents) joining us for a Playdate with your child's kindy group – this means just coming along and joining in! if you have time during the playdate, we would appreciate your support with some of the following jobs – checking the easel and clipboard paper, pens and pencils, books; wiping out the fridges, microwave and stove; and general support with joining in play, reading books, helping with puzzles and tidy away.

*World Science Festival

<http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au/>



Image courtesy of Queensland Museum

World Science Festival Brisbane was held for the first time in 2016, presented by Queensland Museum. World Science Festival Brisbane brings some of the world's greatest thought leaders to Queensland, showcasing local scientists and performers from the Asia Pacific region and hosting some of the brightest and best from previous events in New York. Queensland Museum secured World Science Festival Brisbane for six years in an exclusive licence agreement with World Science Festival in New York. World Science Festival Brisbane is an annual celebration of science, technology, engineering, maths and the arts and is held each March in Brisbane's Cultural Precinct

SOME EVENTS ARE ALREADY SOLD OUT, SO HOP ON TO THE WEBSITE TO VIEW THE PROGRAM AND SECURE YOUR BOOKINGS

*Banks Street Kindy has been granted a certificate of approval as a Sunsmart Centre from the Queensland Cancer Council. Thankyou for your support in this regard, by encouraging your children to wear hats, sunsafe clothes and sunscreen.



*Thankyou also for continuing to be mindful that the food you provide for your children does not contain nut products. Remember though, that all family members must wash their hands on arrival at Kindy or use the hand wash at the Sign in area.



*Early Childhood Australia (ECA) is pleased to provide the following report against our first Reconciliation Action Plan, Respect, Connect, Enact 2012–2016. Reconciliation is a journey: the further we go the more we understand the importance and the challenges involved. This is a priority for our organisation, our national network and our members. The actions we have taken and continue to take are a demonstration of our commitment to transformation that moves us from ignorance and racism to respect, from inequity and prejudice to justice and from inaction and fear to hope. They also demonstrate a commitment to valuing and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and strengths. If we are to achieve ECA's vision of all young children thriving and learning, we must progress reconciliation and teach children about the culture and heritage of Australia's first peoples.

See the full report at https://gallery.mailchimp.com/51bc7642e4d03c2d2994a370c/files/554ad2e0-2dff-417f-be1c-449869918052/ECA_RAP_2012_16_Report.pdf

*Storypark—don't forget to get your child involved with Storypark at home; what a great conversation starter to help you and your child/ren talk about what has happened at kindy that day!



Communicating with teachers

Storypark provides a number of ways to communicate with teachers based on the content or context of the conversation. You could discuss your child's individual development with teachers in your child's private notes area, start a conversation with a teacher or create a story that's shared with your child's whole learning community.

Observing your child's progression

Storypark gives you the ability to explore your child's progression and development over time in relation to aspects of the curriculum that you've tagged. You can then easily search and explore the stories that are of interest by filtering these tags.

Inviting others to contribute to your child's learning

You choose the people who are invited to your child's Storypark profile, eg. teachers, grandparents, speech language therapists, separated parents or close friends. Sharing stories, observations and encouragement helps the people you select to work more closely together and be more responsive to your child's current interests.

IDEAS TO HELP OUR CHILDREN THRIVE

"M" IS FOR MONKEYBARS: Getting Ready for Writing

With all credit to <http://movingsmartblog.blogspot.com.au/2011/05/m-is-for-monkeybars-getting-ready-for.html?m=1>

A child's hand is a powerful tool for learning. With his hands he can control the world around him, build and create all that he can imagine, and express himself, first in gestures, then with scribbles, and eventually with the written word.

Parents know the importance of fine motor control -- especially when it comes to handwriting -- which is probably why I'm frequently asked for advice on this subject. Here's what I say...

Put your pencils down and go play on the monkeybars.

NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS

Children's muscle control and coordination is developed in a natural, orderly way -- from the top down and from the inside out -- starting at the head and working towards the toes while building out from the torso to the limbs. This order of priority, established by the brain, insures that the large muscles necessary for coordination and locomotion (getting from here to there) are well organized and in control, before taking on the complex mastery of the more than 60 combined muscles in the hands (let alone the dozens of bones, hundreds of ligaments and tendons, etc., etc.)

So you see, on the developmental totem pole, the hands come last.

WHAT IS FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT?

Now, that doesn't mean that your child's hands aren't active as he's growing. Young hands begin with simple, reflexive, whole-hand grasping. Over time, early reflexes integrate and the pincer grip kicks in, allowing him to use his forefinger and thumb together in unison. Each day, you'll see more and more deliberate hand and finger movements. But that's not fine motor skill -- not yet.

Fine Motor Skills are the highly precise motor control necessary to bring all five fingers together to do detailed work requiring minute, almost imperceptible movements, such as using a pencil to write your name.

But writing your name isn't all in the wrist, so to speak. In fact, it involves much of whole body.

IN ORDER TO WRITE MY NAME

1. The upper body must be strong enough to hold the body in an upright standing or sitting position.
2. The shoulders muscles must be strong enough to control the weight of the arm, and flexible enough to rotate freely to position the arm for writing.
3. The upper arm holds the weight of the lower arm and hand, delivering the hand to the page.
4. The lower arm provides a sturdy fulcrum on which the wrist rotates.
5. The wrist holds the hand steady and rotates to the appropriate position.
6. The fingers fold around the pencil which is held in place by the thumb.
7. Together, all five fingers do a precision dance on the page: a. placing the pencil at the exact angle to meet the page, b. pressing down and maintaining the right amount of pressure to leave the imprint, and c. coordinating the tiny up, down, left, and right movements across the page.

If any of those muscles in that chain of events don't do their job, writing his name will be a very hard thing to do.

Which brings us full circle back to the monkeybars...

PLAYING "WRITE"

Climbing, hanging, swinging, and any other high-energy activities that build strength in his upper body and core muscles are vital precursors to fine motor skills.

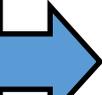
Twisting, turning, dangling, and swinging helps develop the flexibility and agility necessary for rotating the shoulders, elbows, wrists, and fingers.

Pushing, pulling, tugging, and lifting himself up builds strength while developing an intuitive understanding of simple physics such as weight, pressure, and resistance.

And when he comes off the monkeybars, messy play is ideal for building up strength and dexterity in the hand muscles. Play-Doh, sand and water play, mud (yes, mud!), and any other tactile play is great sensory experience for the brain and hands which one day may mean neater handwriting!

So remember. When it comes to getting ready for writing, "M" is for Monkeybars!

Sometimes, it's just not possible to make it over to the playground for a turn on the monkeybars, so here are a couple of my favourites you can do at home to build upper body and core strength while the hands "wait their turn" in the developmental chain of events.

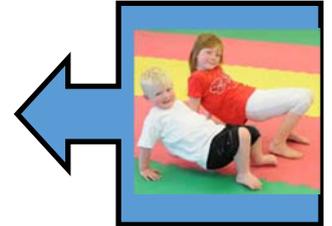


WHEELBARROWING

Wheelbarrowing around the playroom or out in the backyard is great for building up arm strength (in between the giggling, of course.) Importantly, I recommend holding your child at the hips rather than by the feet. This prevents an unnatural bow in the back, while lightening the load on those little arms.

CRAB WALKING

Kids love this and you'll be amazed how far they can go with a little practice. Sit on the floor and raise up your seat using your hands and feet. Then crab - crab - crab along as far as you can go. Have kids go forwards and backwards too!



CATERPILLAR WALKING

See how slow you can go, inching along like a caterpillar! Walk your hands out in front of you, then walk your feet up to your hands.



<http://www.mumtastic.com.au/parenting/659947-21-questions-improve-reading-comprehension/>

21 Questions to Improve Reading Comprehension



By Megan Daley

1. Can you find the authors name on the cover? The illustrator?
2. What do you think of the illustrations in the book? Are they painted? Drawn? Collaged? Photographs?
3. What do you think might happen next in the story?
4. If you were the author of the story would you have ended it the same way?
5. What did you like or dislike about this book?
6. What do you think the author was trying to say to us? What helped you figure out the message?
7. What part of the story was the most exciting or interesting?
8. Which character was your favourite? Why?
9. Did any of the characters remind you of anyone that you know?
10. Can you think of any other books that are similar to this one?
11. Which is your favourite illustration? Why? Can you describe the illustration?
12. Look at the cover... did it give you clues about the story?
13. Point to these parts of the book when I call them: spine, front cover, back cover, blurb, title!
14. How did this book make you feel? Was it a happy book? Thoughtful? A bit scary? An adventure?
15. What would be a good food to eat while reading this book?
16. What is the setting of this story?
17. Can you ask *me* a question about the book we just read?
18. Can you retell the story?
19. Who is telling the story? (Point of view)
20. Can you think of a friend who might also like this book? Why do you think they would like it?
21. Do you know a story that is like this story?



Development of Sounds

h
here

w
water

g
gone

p
up
pop

t
ta

n
no
mine

m
mum

b
ball

k
car
duck

y
yes

d
dad



These are the first sounds I'll learn

l
leg

s
sun
house

ch
chip
ouch

sh
shoe
push

z
zoo

j
jump

f
fish



I'll be able to say these sounds at preschool

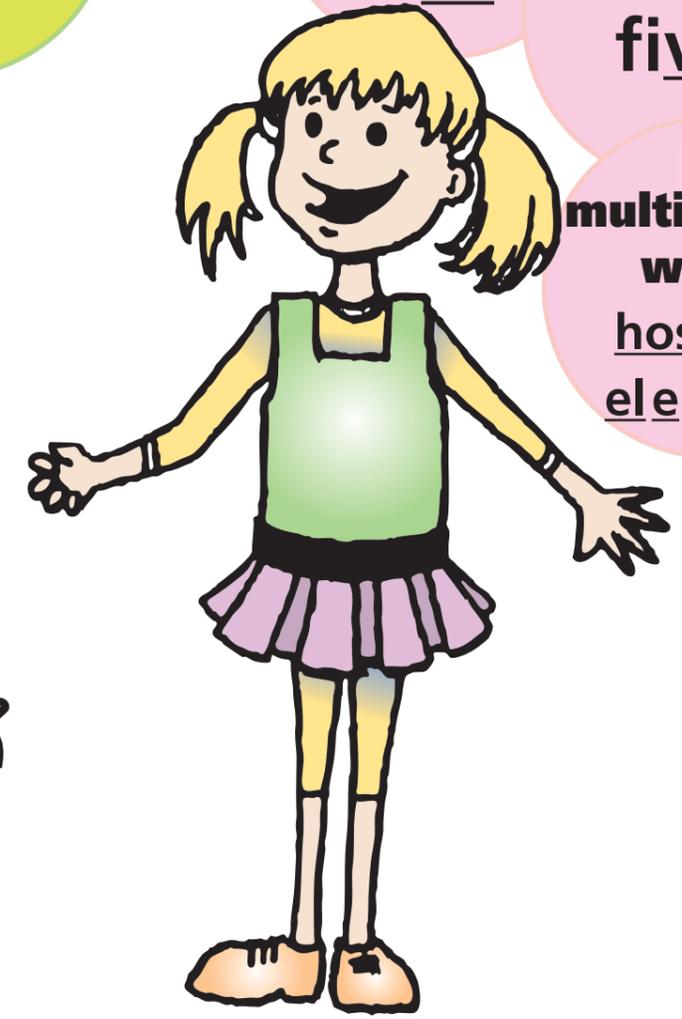
blends
fl-flower
sp-spoon
tr-tree

r
run

th
thumb
bath

v
vive

multisyllabic words
hospi tal
ele phant



I'll be able to say these sounds at first year of school