

BIALA 2009

Dear families

Welcome to Biala in 2009, some you are continuing on at Biala and some of you are joining us in 2009.

Your child.....

Is in group/program.....

Day/time.....

Commencing

Enclosed in this package is:

- A Biala flyer with all our contact details
- A coloured flyer insert about the group/program your child is enrolled in.
- An introductory letter from the staff team involved in your child's program/group, including a timetable for term 1

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BIALA

At Biala Peninsula we continually review the ways we can work with families and look at the options for service delivery. The changes we have made this year are supported by best practice documents and current research and are in response to feedback from our 2008 parent survey and focus groups and ideas developed by staff teams.

This year, some changes we have made to enhance the programs, groups and service delivery options include:

GENERAL CHANGES.....

- : All group sessions will be of 2 hours duration
- : Support visits to child care and kindergarten will be incorporated into the general service provision for children and planned for throughout the year. Children attending both child care and kindergarten can receive support visits in both services.
- : Each child will have a 'key worker' as a contact person for information and support
- : Individual music sessions are available on Thursdays and can be accessed in a block for up to a term at a time. This program can be accessed by all children, but we have limited spaces, so discuss with your team staff or contact the music therapist (Mary) on Thursdays if you are interested in music therapy for your child.

PLAYGROUP PROGRAMS & AUTISM SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.....

- : 8 group sessions per term**
- : Will have staff team each week & some consultation visits from additional staff**

Groups:

Learning Through Play (Monday – Mornington)

Biala at Bentons - Play Partners (Tuesdays -Mornington East)
Babies on the Move (Wednesdays - Mornington)
Biala at Tootgarook (Fridays - Tootgarook)
S.L.I.P. – (Fridays - Mornington)

BIG KIDS PROGRAMS

: A focused 6 group sessions program per term with additional visits to child care &/or home &/or kindergarten for the other 2 weeks

The term focus could be: *'Communication', 'Social Skills', 'School Readiness' ' Body Awareness'* for example & will be developed to meet the needs of children in the group.

: Will have a staff team each week and some consultation visits from additional staff

Groups:

Ready Set Go (Tuesdays- Mornington)
Biala at Frankston (Wednesdays – Frankston Central)
Biala at Hasting (Wednesdays- Hastings))
Biala at Rosebud (Thursdays- Rosebud)
Sing, Learn & Play (Thursdays- Mornington).

BENTONS INCLUSIVE KINDERGARTEN – BIALA SUPPORT.....

: A specialist teacher will support the Biala children within the kindergarten program each Tuesday from lunchtime and therapy staff will rotate through the program each week.

Program:

Bentons Inclusive Kindergarten – Purple group (Tuesday all day & Thursday half day – Mornington East)

HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAM OPTION.....

: Fortnightly contact/ individual visits/consultation session at home/kindergarten/ child care

: Will have a staff team managing this program with consultation visits from other staff as needed.

Program:

Biala out & about Program (flexible delivery)

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS.....

: 2 or 3 sessions in small groups in the school term holidays

: A range of programs to be developed for the year to be offered each school holidays they can be accessed by any children at Biala Peninsula if the programs are suitable to their needs and age group.

A small additional fee is charged for these groups.

HELPING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM PACKAGES – EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

: Biala Peninsula is a registered service provider for the Helping Children with Autism Packages. We will shortly be listed on the Fascia website – www.fascia.gov.au – which will list our service details and the services we are approved to provide to families who have been interviewed and approved for a funding package, by Autism Victoria Advisors.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

: A Parent Information Booklet will be handed out at your child's first visit or group session & this will include a copy of the updated Biala Fee Policy.

: Please ensure we have all your information up to date so you can be contacted and we have your child's health information recorded accurately – if your child has ASTHMA OR ANAPHYLAXIS we need

to have a management plan completed for these conditions prior to commencement. Please check the details on your child's enrolment form.

All family will be asked to complete and sign an information form in relation to ambulance cover as part of the enrolment process

All families will be contacted prior to the group programs commencing the week beginning Monday 9th February by a Biala staff team member to discuss the start of the year, make arrangements for family service and support plan meetings if needed and confirm your children group/program details and commencement times. Please let us know if your needs have changed & you need to discuss a change of program or day – this can be discussed in the first instance with Manager **Marlene Fox** or Family Services and Support Co-Ordinator **Margaret Harris**.

The parent room at Biala & the computer in that room are available for parents to access at any time Biala Peninsula is open.

We are open 9am – 4.30pm every day.

Marlene Fox = Manager – Biala Peninsula