

Kidditech Newsletter

A DAY AT KIDDITECH

The day here starts at 8am, when children start arriving, most before 9am. We have a hui/mat time to let the children know what is happening during the day. Morning tea before free play inside and outside. At around 10am two teachers lead project learning and exploration based around our planned curriculum and following the children's interests. After this there is more time for the children to chose their own play. A quick story to calm down before lunch time 11:30 - 12. Then time for a play before the morning session children head home at 12:30.



A NOTE FROM LOU AND MATT KIDDITECH OWNERS

Wow it's now officially the second half of the year!!

Recently Matt has been supporting the team by setting up the systems and ICT for a smooth roll out of Storypark ePortfolios. We are all very excited about ePortfolios and Storypark is already proving to be great. Matt is also working on lots of new IT systems and equipment to support the team.

Lou has been leading the project work and supporting the team in building rich relationships with all of our families. Our recent ERO visit highlighted lots of the things we do well as a team and what we provide for children and families.

In the afternoon we have another hui/mat time around 1pm and then free play. We have project time followed by free play and exploration then afternoon tea together as a group. Lots of time to choose their own activities inside and out during the afternoon until the children start heading off home before 5pm. Often around 4:30 we will give the children a small snack we call 'late snack to keep them going until tea time.

EPORTFOLIOS

We have recently moved from paper based portfolios to document the children's learning to ePortfolios in Storypark. We have had great feedback about it from parents so far and it is certainly a great tool for sharing what is happening at Kidditech.

We are no longer making up paper portfolios and it is important that every child has an ePortfolio so we can share what is going on for them at Kidditech and to document their learning. If you have not yet signed up please see Lou so she can help you to do so. Thanks.

Please feel free to ask if you have any questions about using storypark, ideas on what you and your family can add, or if you need to use a computer or tablet to view your child's ePortfolio, we are happy to help.

Please note the new \$10 charge per month is an admin charge and not just to cover the cost of Storypark, if you have any questions relating to this please see Lou.

BRR WINTER IS HERE...

It's really cold in the mornings and often gets cold quickly in the afternoon. Please remember to bring a warm jacket for your child each day. You might like to also bring gumboots on wet days. It's a good idea to dress your child in layers as it often gets quite warm in the middle of the day and layers make it easier for children to regulate their body temperature.



SARAH ON LEAVE

Our lovely Sarah is heading off on a three month OE to Europe at the beginning of August and she will be back in October. We will miss her while she is away but hope she has an amazing time exploring some new countries and enjoying the hot weather.

TEAM CHANGES

We have had Emma working at Kidditech to cover Lou while she does some of the administrative work but Emma is on leave while she recovers from some tiring health issues. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Ell will be with us three days a week (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday) 9-3 for the next three months, she is currently studying towards her Early Childhood Degree. Ell has a 1 year old and loves working with children.

We are currently interviewing teachers to cover Sarah's full time teaching position while she is away on leave and we will let you know who that will be ASAP.

SHEPHERDS PIE

A lovely hearty winter one-dish meal.

1 tablespoon olive oil, 1 brown onion finely chopped
1 carrot, peeled, finely chopped, 500g lamb mince
2 tablespoons plain flour, 500ml (2 cups) Beef Stock
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon tomato paste, Salt & pepper
4 medium potatoes, peeled, chopped
40g butter & 125ml (1/2 cup) milk

Method

Step 1

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onion, and carrot and cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until soft. Add lamb mince and cook, stirring to break up any lumps, for 5 minutes or until lamb changes colour.

Step 2

Add the flour and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes or until combined. Add stock, Worcestershire sauce and tomato paste. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low and cook, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes or until sauce thickens. Taste and season with salt and pepper.

Step 3

Meanwhile: cook potato in a saucepan of salted boiling water for 15 minutes or until tender. Drain well. Return to the pan with the butter. Use a potato masher or fork to mash until smooth. Add milk and use a wooden spoon to stir until combined. Taste and season with salt and pepper.

Step 4

Preheat oven to 200°C. Spoon lamb mixture into a 2L (8-cup) capacity oven-proof baking dish. Top with mashed potato and use a fork to spread over lamb mixture. Brush with butter. Bake in preheated oven for 20 minutes or until mashed potato is golden brown. Enjoy



BUGS AND INSECTS PROJECT

This term we have been very busy learning about bugs and insects. The interest started in term one when many of the children were interested in searching for bugs in the garden, not many days went by when we weren't searching! The children made a list of the bugs and insects they wanted to find out more about to investigate. Flies were near the top of the list as here at Kidditech we catch them to feed the frogs. This then lead onto growing our own fruit flies so we can keep the frogs feed throughout the colder winter months.

With so many bugs and insects to investigate there were a wide variety of experiences offered in all curriculum areas. We made a giant spider, worm, centipede, snails and a beehive. We have

also made some yummy food such as a bumble and butterfly cake and bread dough worms. We have also been on a number of expeditions to the park in search of bugs and insects, we also went to see the butterfly tree at Pioneer.

We also had some interesting insects come into Kidditech that we wouldn't find here, such as huhu grubs, they were very interesting! We even got to see inside a beehive and dress as a beekeeper.

With each new insect there were many thought provoking questions and some pretty fun questions asked. The teachers find it great being able to research fascinating pieces of information and provide the children with many fun hands on activities and experiences.



**WE LOVE
PARENT
INVOLVEMENT**

Our next project is shaping up to be a monumental one as we prepare to investigate dinosaurs and geology. If you have a special interest in these areas or know someone who could be valuable to our project work and explorations we would love to hear about it. We will be going on some trips and may need parent helpers too so let us know if you would like to be involved.

WELCOME

We would like to offer a very warm welcome to the following children and their families who have recently joined Kidditech.

Tayla, Blake, Eden, Caelan, Sadaf & Thomas.

DISCO

Friday 29th July 5 - 6:30pm is our annual Disco.

Please bring a plate of food to share for the children's tea.

The theme is fancy dress.

Keep an eye out for the dates of future events, we put them up on the screen calendar at Kidditech and often post about them on our Facebook page.



CALENDAR

JULY 25 - TERM 3 PROJECT

Venturing into our next project - from the children's interests - Dinosaurs and geology.



29 JULY - KIDDITECH DISCO

Winter is well and truly here so why not make it extra fun with our annual Disco 5-6:30 pm at Kidditech.

OCTOBER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

At the end of another term we don't close during school holidays but instead run a different programme with themed days and a focus on fun.



LOU FYFE

Kidditech owner manager and early childhood teacher



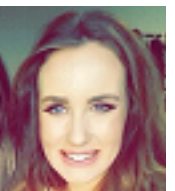
ANNE DOWLE

Early childhood teacher and person responsible.



CHERRILL WILLIAMS

Early childhood teacher



NICOLE BATTY

Early childhood teacher



SARAH MCEACHEN

Early childhood teacher



RECYCLED MATERIALS

If you are out adventuring in nature or wish to collect clean cardboard tubes and the likes, please bring them in for us to use at Kidditech. The children are very creative and enjoy variety in their play. Thanks.