

NEW YEAR, NEW FEELS, NEW CHANCES, SAME DREAMS,
FRESH STARTS - UNKNOWN



2019

ON *this* MONTH

At Smarty Pants Early Learning Centre

Tennis Lessons	Wednesdays for 2.5 years (additional fee)
Molly's Birthday	Monday 28 th January
Soccer junior sports	Trials start in 2 weeks (additional fee)

AROUND THE COUNTRY

National Bird Day	January 5 th , 2019
Kid Inventors Day	January 17 th , 2019
Australia Day	January 26 th , 2019

Please note the centre will be closed on Monday 28th January, 2019 for the Australia Day Public Holiday. (and Molly's Birthday ☺)



Happy New Year & Welcome to 2019

We would like to welcome back all of our families to Smarty Pants and wish you all a prosperous 2019. We also extend a warm welcome to our new families who have joined Smarty Pants this year. We trust you will settle in quickly and we look forward to building valuable and special relationships with both you and your children.

As always it will be a busy year for both the centre and our families. The team at Smarty Pants has already been hard at work to settle children into their new rooms and establish familiar routines. We encourage you to please take the time to meet the teachers and familiarize yourself with both the centre and your room routines. Changing your child's room is a big milestone and you will be given a transition form that will help you to work with the staff to settle your child into the new environment.

If you would like to spend some one-on-one time with your child's room leader, please do not hesitate to set up a time to meet. We welcome feedback and are happy to work with our families to ensure children feel safe, supported and secure at all times.

I look forward to another great year.
Andrea & the Smarty Pants team



KID INVENTORS DAY – 17TH JANUARY

Television. Water skis. Earmuffs. The Popsicle. What do they have in common? All were invented by kids! 500,000 children and teens invent gadgets and games each year. These innovations help make our lives easier, and more fun! Celebrate the ingenuity and value of young

brainstormers on KID INVENTORS' DAY! Recognised annually on January 17th, the birth anniversary of Benjamin Franklin, who invented the first swim flippers almost 300 years ago at age 12! Find out more at kidinventorsday.com

AUSTRALIA DAY – 26TH JANUARY

Australia Day is a day to reflect on what it means to be Australian, to celebrate contemporary Australia and to acknowledge our history. On Australia Day we celebrate all the things we love about Australia: land, sense of fair go, lifestyle, democracy, the freedoms we enjoy but particularly our people. www.australiaday.org.au



PUMPKIN CHOC PANCAKES

PREP 30 min | COOK 10 min | SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

- 400 grams pumpkin, peeled and diced
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon, ground
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 1/2 cups self raising flour
- 1 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup dark chocolate chips
- butter, to grease
- to serve; Greek yoghurt, fresh strawberries and maple syrup

METHOD: Preheat oven to 180.C. Place the pumpkin on a baking tray, sprinkle with cinnamon, drizzle with oil and toss to coat. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until tender and cooked. Place pumpkin into a food processor and blitz until smooth. Set aside 1 cup of the puree and allow to cool. Place the flour and baking powder into a large mixing bowl and whisk to create a well in the centre. Place the milk, egg, maple syrup and vanilla into a jug and whisk to combine. Pour the wet ingredients into the well of the dry and whisk to create a smooth batter. Add the pumpkin puree and whisk to combine. Fold through the choc chips. Heat a nonstick fry pan to medium heat and brush with butter. Use a 1/4 measuring cup to ladle the batter into the pan, cook for 2-3 minutes or until bubbles appear on the surface, turn and cook for another minute. Repeat with remaining batter, brushing pan with butter in between batches. Serve the still warm pancakes alongside a good dollop of Greek yoghurt, fresh strawberries and a drizzle of maple syrup. Enjoy x

Enjoy x Remember to always supervise kids in the kitchen.



IMPORTANT: Sign In/Out reminder via iPad

As of Monday 14th January, 2019 it is a Government requirement that all children's time in and out of the centre are recorded. We make this task very simple at Smarty pants via QikKids Kiosk on our tablets. You can access the sign in/out via the tablet at the front desk or directly with the staff member on duty in your room.

This record of attendance is also sent to the department weekly for you to be able to access your rebates.



Have you returned your Paper work?

Please ensure you have updated your file with any recent immunisation that your child may have had.

Kinder children will also require a copy of their birth certificate and any health care cards. This will ensure you get the correct entitlements applied to your account.

Smarty Pants tee shirts are available in blue for all rooms. Kinder children also have the personalised red option.

Many Families may want to order additional T-Shirts. We have plenty in stock so please see Andrea in the office if you wish to purchase.



FOCUS ARTICLE: Handling the highs and lows of toddlers



Nothing compares to the overwhelming frustration and absolute joy, of parenting a toddler, writes Megan Blandford. Independence is the word that describes it all: a toddler is undergoing the change between being a baby who is reliant on their parents, to being a child who can do things on their own. Watching and being a part of this transformation is not just amazing; it's an honour.

Screaming, hitting, feet stomping, tears, tantrums. The tiredness and frustration have hit once again, but this time it's beyond any of my usual tactics. Distraction, ignoring, calming her down... nothing is working. She's not happy and there's no way around that fact. Not tonight.

We'll laugh about these moments some time in the distant future, and tell our children of the meltdowns they once had. My parents love telling me about the time I was dragged out of the shops, screaming in dramatic desperation: "You don't know how to look after little girls!" Or the time a sibling was in the same situation, calling "Help! Help me!" to a bemused bunch of strangers, while being told off. These are the stories that are told again and again over family dinners.

What we don't hear so much of are the wonderful stories. Because, as much as toddlers can be frustrating and hard work, so too can they be an absolute pleasure. Just last night my two-year-old daughter pulled me close as she was falling asleep and whispered, "I love you, Mummy" in my ear. That was a moment I'll tuck away in my memory forever. And there are so many more times as heart-warming as that. Such as when she's having a tea party with her teddy bear and chatting to him; or quietly singing to herself as I watch unnoticed by her; or the time I asked her what she'd like to do on a particular day and she replied, "Ummm... I'd like to eat

baked beans". Those moments are the ones that make me laugh.

They will try new things without fear, declare themselves clever and beautiful with absolute certainty, and trust adults unconditionally. Tell a toddler you love them, and they'll know for sure that you do. Say something in front of them and they'll trust it's worthy of repeating.

Toddlers are fun. My daughter will splash in any puddle she sees and turn the most mundane task into an exciting adventure. A walk to the shops becomes a hunt for stones and other treasures, and folding the washing is her time to be my helper, rushing busily around the house as she puts things in their rightful place. A sad moment will be turned around within minutes, as she tries to make everyone around her cheerful with a little joke and a big laugh.

Independence is the word that describes it all: a toddler is undergoing the change between being a baby who is reliant on their parents, to being a child who can do things on their own. Watching and being a part of this transformation is not just amazing; it's an honour.

From squeal-worthy good times to crashing lows, toddlers live life with everything they have. They feel things from the very bottom of their souls and try so hard to understand the world around them.

When I see older people – especially women – around the streets and at the shops, I can see that they remember it all. When my toddler has a tantrum in the middle of a shopping centre, these women will often catch my eye with a wry, knowing grin. Equally, though, I notice their faces when they see my daughter and me walking hand in hand, chatting. Their eyes fill with joy, and I can see them thinking back to all those good times.

Because they are good times. No, scrap that – they're great times. Toddlers are amazing, beautiful people who bring so much joy and happiness to the world. The carefree fun, the confidence and the excitement for life; these are qualities to admire.

Tonight, through the screaming, I can still hear the "I love you, Mummy" of the night before. Right now, though, it's all too much for her to handle. And she's allowed to have her moment. After all, don't we all feel like stomping our feet sometimes?

Source: Motherly (2018, November 29). Handling the highs... Retrieved from <https://www.childmags.com.au/handling-the-highs-and-lows-of-toddlers/>

DIY FAMILY 2019 CALENDAR

YOU NEED: Month Print outs (you can use Word or Publisher to pre-generate the months for you), 12 pieces of cardboard labelled with each month, markers, crayons, glue, photos, old magazines.

Choose one month to begin with, talk about why this month is special to your family, what season is it apart of or what events happen in this month. You might like to read books about that time of the year. For example for January you may read "Magic Beach" By Alison Lester, and illustrate the January page with activities you do as a family. This could be a painting, a collage of photos or a drawing. It is your family calendar!



Once you have finished decorating all your months compile and bind together.

Fun with
LITERACY

You don't need to complete every month, straight away. This could be an activity you complete every rainy day until it is finished. At the end of 2019 you will have a beautiful keepsake to look back on.

Image: sturdyforcommonthings.com



HEALTH & SAFETY: The Mental Health Benefits of Exercise



How do you feel after a workout? Even when you're purple faced and desperate for a lie-down, you feel pretty pleased with yourself for giving it a go, right? Once the initial breathlessness subsides after a workout, it's common to feel like you have more energy and those troublesome problems might not seem quite so big as before. While they might seem intangible these benefits are as real as – and arguably more important than – the results you see around your waistline.

“A prescription of exercise can help you have a healthy mind,” says GP Dr Paul Stillman, from Media Medics. “Exercise stimulates positive endorphins, clears your head and lifts your mood. I think we'll see more and more people prescribed exercise as a mood-booster.”

Healthy body = healthy mind

We're starting to realise just how vital exercise is for our wellbeing, both mental and physical. New research from the Department of Health published in October 2017, reported 12 per cent of cases of depression could be prevented with an hour of exercise each week. Up your workouts to three a week and you could reduce your risk of depression by 30 per cent.

Can exercise help you handle stress?

Sure thing. A team of neurologists at Stanford Medical School, U.S., studied brain scans and found regular exercisers have more grey matter in the prefrontal cortex, which governs stress-management. But when we feel down, everything can feel overwhelming. Time to crawl into a hole? In fact, the more stressed out you feel, the more you need to look after yourself – and a workout can be the happiest medicine. Research has shown that exercise is clinically proven to stimulate serotonin, your natural feel-good neurotransmitter.

Does exercise help anxiety?

“Running gives me the headspace to focus on what I'm feeling when my anxiety gets really bad,” says Cardiff student Seren Pritchard-Bland, 21, who ran the London Marathon for the mental health charity Heads Together. “I get panic attacks when I'm stressed out, but I find simply getting out of the house with my trainers on makes me feel like I've achieved something positive. Running is therapeutic – it's so much healthier than being alone at home with thoughts spinning around my head.”

Why is exercise such a mood-booster?

“Exercise is fantastic for releasing tension, reducing stress and giving joy,” says Hayley Jarvis, programme manager for sport at the mental health charity Mind. “Being active is one of the best things you can do to help yourself bounce back in times of adversity. Getting out of your head and into your body can actually improve your ability to think clearly and break up your racing thoughts.”

Find your mood-boosting workout

If the thought of hauling yourself out of bed to jump around feels as impossible as climbing Everest, start slow. You can always stop if you're not feeling it, but all it takes is a few minutes of low-intensity exercise – even just walking – to trigger the release of pain-relieving endorphins. Every stretch releases tension and every movement makes oxygen flow a little faster. Look out for your tipping point, because the more aware you are of the moment your mood warms up, the better it feels.

Which workout will make you happy?

To build friendships... try team sports like football and netball. “Social connectivity is incredibly important,” says Hayley. “When we're struggling we tend to isolate ourselves, but being with other people can motivate you to get out there. Playing team sports is great if you feel lonely.”

To calm your mind... try yoga, pilates and t'ai chi. Hayley explains: “Exercise that works with your breath is particularly good for improving mindfulness, which can also calm a spinning head and improve your mood.”

Source: [thebodycoach.com](https://www.thebodycoach.com) (2018, November 29). The Mental Health Benefits of Exercise Retrieved from https://www.thebodycoach.com/blog/the-mental-health-benefits-of-exercise143.html?fbclid=IwAR2BvHmw8NQcUUVz0WtUqXoR40_Ie8CLo7dKcJNMxebYTawadhOVnKupPo



TAKE 3 FOR THE SEA

Take 3 pieces of rubbish when you leave the beach, waterway or...anywhere! Help us reduce global plastic pollution. Plastic pollution is devastating our oceans and killing innocent wildlife. Unless we act, by 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish (by weight).

Take 3 is an Australian not-for-profit organisation, founded in 2009 by surfing enthusiast, Amanda Marechal,

marine ecologist, Roberta Dixon-Valk and environmentalist, Tim Silverwood. Take 3 are committed to reducing plastic pollution and promoting the transition to a circular economy through education and participation.

Our message is simple: Take 3 pieces of rubbish with you when you leave the beach, waterway... or anywhere special, and you've made a difference.



MUSIC AND DANCE



If you've ever witnessed pre-schoolers grooving to music, you can't help but smile. They obviously love the feeling of moving to the tunes we play for them. But music and dance are much more than just fun activities for children. In fact, it's very beneficial for pre-schoolers to participate in these "performing arts". Here's why:

Music and dance engages the brain: Children learn new things, like sounds, words and patterns through music. And with dance, they can explore and control their body movements. These activities are great for development and stimulate connections in the growing brain.

It helps cultivate communication skills: Bringing together kids with songs, rhymes and actions lets them discover how to interact and connect with others. They develop listening and social skills that will give them self-confidence and better prepare them for school.

Music and Dance allows kids to express themselves Happy, nervous, tired? Engaging in creative activities lets kids release their emotions and express their feelings. It's a fantastic opportunity for children who aren't yet able to put their thoughts into words.

It helps foster physical skills: Young musicians and dancers learn skills like balance, control and coordination. Singing and movement is also good aerobic exercise- linked to stress reduction, physical fitness and overall good health.

Music and dance contribute to creativity and imagination: With children spending more time in front of screens rather than physically playing, music and dance encourages them to be curious and imaginative. This creative outlet can also give them opportunities to learn about other cultures through the arts.

Source: <https://www.nvrc.ca/notices-events-blog/active-living-blog/5-benefits-music-and-dancing-preschoolers>

National Quality Framework | Quality Area 1:
Element 1.1 – *Program*. The educational program enhances each child's learning and development.



Kindergarten (Emus Room) announcement

Smarty Pants welcomes our new Kindergarten teacher, Renae to the team.

I am very pleased to announce that Renae Hudson will be joining us as our new Kindergarten Teacher starting this week.

Renae is a local Pomona mother and a highly experienced Kindergarten teacher. She has taught in schools for 5 years and has also been a Kindergarten teacher in another long day care centre.

We would also like to announce that along with the appointment of Renae we will be increasing the Kindergarten program at Smarty Pants to 4 days a week. If you wish to increase your days please do not hesitate to contact Andrea either in office or by email.

We invite you to come and meet Renae and welcome her to the Smarty Pants family.



BALANCE AND FOLLOW THE LEADER

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

EQUIPMENT: Bean bags or folded hand towels

Participants place a beanbag or folded hand towel on their head. Choose a leader to begin. The leader must then challenge their followers balance. Over, under, around, jumps, fast pace ect.

The leader swaps over when they loose their bean bag or all those who are following do.

Feedback 
is always welcome

How can we make our newsletter even better?

What information would you like us to include?

