

GUNDAGAI TRANSITION TO SCHOOL WORKING TEAM

ESTABLISHED JULY 2006

HIGHLIGHTS

- From discussion at Children's Services Group Meeting decided to form a Transition to School Team. Participants invited from all local schools and prior to school services. Contact through email and notice through Local Answers Newsletter "On the Road to..." in community, schools, services and agencies.
- Team; Local Answers, Franklin School, Gumnut, Gundagai Preschool, SWR FDC St Patrick's School, North Primary School, South Gundagai School, Nangus School, Home Start, Gundagai Community Health, Gaye Norris, TTS Project Officer Families First
- Purpose; To review present TTS practices; discuss ideas for planning and implementation to meet the needs of families and develop principles for better outcomes for children. To view new guidelines as positive approach to TTS programs.
- Gumnut and Preschool devised a list of expectations for the school ready child, their development and skills. Distributed in the Local Answers Newsletter, and included in School Readiness Packs.
- Preschool has planned their own TTS calendar for 2007. Presented at August meeting.
- After discussions at meeting both Preschool and Gumnut develop a Child Link – up profile to be passed on to child's school with parent's approval. These profiles were sent to schools before their orientation days.
- Schools considering allowing release time for Kindergarten teachers to visit prior to school services. APPRECIATED
- Gumnut invitation to schools to visit for morning tea
- Prior to school services, local organisations, agencies and schools participate in 'Fun in the Park' to celebrate Children's Week. Raise profile of services and schools in the community. Collaborating together for families and children.
- Gumnut initiated the School readiness packs to be handed out to all children's families starting school the following year. Contains information on nutrition, services directory, every school's orientation days and school information and contacts, immunisation, health, literacy and numeracy information, preparing your child for school. Also packs were handed out at 'Fun at the Park'.
- Propose photo books of each schools' environments, to be available in prior to school settings for children to see/borrow.
- Visit from Illawarra Children's Services Coordinator to speak at November meeting to discuss new approaches and ideas for TTS resources
- Information Night on Transition to School to be held earlier in the year. Proposed March 2007.
- Through Local Answers Project, in consultation with school Principal, Support Worker started Supported Playgroups (Paint and Play) at South Gundagai School in term 4, as initiative to transition to school practices.
- Regular TTS experiences held at Jugiong Public School with supported playgroups facilitated through the year. Shared morning with the school.

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November 2006