Dear Parents,

I would like to thank my colleagues and our families for their ongoing support this term as I ease into my new role as Acting Head of Special Education Services. I am thoroughly enjoying the challenges this new role offers me and have enjoyed welcoming many new families to our centre.

In October this year Queensland Health are hosting their biannual Healthy Hearing Symposium in Brisbane, celebrating 10 years of newborn hearing screening. We submitted two abstracts and both have been accepted for the symposium. Staff are very busy working on one of our submissions, titled Reflecting on Family Centred Early Intervention. The other submission is a presentation by Sheridan and her daughter Jamie titled Observations and reflections on a teenager’s sequential cochlear implant journey. If you are interested in attending the Healthy Hearing Symposium we will forward information to parents as it becomes available.

Welcome Ella
Ella will be working as a teacher aide in Caroline’s room on Fridays for the remainder of the term. Ella will also be available for relief work in other classrooms. Ella is in her final year studying a Bachelor of Speech Pathology and is passionate about working with children. Ella’s skills and experience will be a wonderful addition to our team at Yeerongpilly.

Children’s Book Week
Book Week begins on 16th August and the centre will celebrate with Auslan storytelling on Thursday 21st August. Remember it is never too early to start reading to your child and research indicates that this practice is the single best predictor for reading success when a child goes to school. Look for bright clear picture books (paraphrase the words if they are very lengthy) and encourage your child to find items and actions in pictures. Reluctant readers may enjoy books with ‘flaps’ and textures. Books with repeating phrases that encourage predicting and anticipating are lots of fun, nursery rhymes encourage an awareness of rhyme, rhythm and intonation and ‘Where’s Wally?’ / picture dictionaries encourage children to find items visually and can also help to reinforce positional words (next to, at the top, beside, etc). Keep books in the car and in your bag, try reading stories instead of watching TV together, and know that you are giving your child wonderful exposure to language. Brisbane City Libraries are free for all Brisbane residents and you are able to borrow unlimited numbers of books at a time.
Winter Coughs and Colds......
With many of our staff and children unwell over the past few weeks, we are very grateful when you keep your child at home when they show signs of a cold or flu, we also appreciate a phone call to let us know.

Cold Weather
Our glorious Queensland winter weather means crisp mornings and sunny days, but it can be cool outside when the group children eat morning tea or when we first go outside to play. Please continue to send a warm jumper as well as the usual change of clothes and sun hat in your child’s bag (clearly named please). We have limited supplies of spare clothing at school.

Did you know Hearing Awareness Week runs from the 24th to 30th August?

Attached to this newsletter is a fact sheet about protecting your hearing. For more information go to; http://www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au/

Deaf Sport Australia Fundraiser
Deaf Sports Australia (DSA) is embarking on a new fundraising campaign that needs you to take a photo of your ear, post it to your Facebook page / Instagram / Twitter account and tag the fundraising link.

With your help and that of your family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances, the social media campaign will help DSA reach thousands of Australians to help create and build awareness of the Active Deaf Kids (ADK) program, and generate much needed funds. The campaign focuses on ADK, a program that provides health and social benefits to deaf and hard of hearing children that they can take into adulthood. The ambassador of ADK is Jamie-Lee Lewis, a champion water polo player with the Brisbane Barracudas.

How do I get involved?
Take a photo of your ear, either as it is, or maybe dress it up with a flower, earring or brightly coloured hearing aid or cochlear implant. Using your Facebook page, Twitter or Instagram site, post the image with the comment:

I'm supporting Active Deaf Kid's #earselfieADK campaign. Please join me in donating at http://www.mycause.com.au/events/active deafkids

The campaign begins on the 1st August 2014 and will run until 30th September.
Donations Needed
If any families have some old single/double/queen/king sized cotton sheets or cotton doona covers that they could donate to the centre to cover the mattresses in the Physio Room it would be greatly appreciated.

Playgroup dates for Term 3

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<tr>
<th>Friday Toddler Playgroup</th>
<th>Friday Baby Playgroup</th>
<th>Tuesday Combined Playgroup</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>August 22</td>
<td>August 19 Support Parent &amp; Adult Mentor Visit</td>
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<td>August 29 Photo Day &amp; Australian Hearing Visit</td>
<td>August 29 Photo Day</td>
<td>Friday August 29 Photo Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12 Describing our group programs information session</td>
<td>September 5 Better Start information session</td>
<td>September 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 19 Australian Hearing Visit</td>
<td>September 16</td>
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Parent Information Sessions for Term 3
Parent Information sessions are held in the Playgroup Room and run from 9:15 to 10:15am

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<tr>
<th>Thursday 21 August</th>
<th>The role of the physiotherapist and occupational therapist</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5 September</td>
<td>Better Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12 September</td>
<td>Describing our group programs</td>
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School Levy
The school levy is voluntary but much appreciated. As you would be aware, schools run on very limited budgets and the levy money helps to pay for such things as paint, glue, flour for play dough and cardboard. Experimenting with paint, dough, cooking and creating art and craft items helps our children to consolidate knowledge, make new connections with prior experience and is integral to any preschool program. It’s also lots of fun!

Please see your child’s teacher for a payment envelope or collect one from the front desk.

School Holidays are only 5 weeks away!
Friday the 19th September is the last day of term 3. We can all enjoy two weeks break and recommence individual sessions on Tuesday 7th October and the group program on Thursday 9th October.

Thanking you for your ongoing support.
Sheridan and all the staff at Yeerongpilly
Yeerongpilly ECDP General Purpose Fees

Name: ..........................................................

Please tick below.

☐ $10  Individual session + playgroup
☐ $20  Group program (Thursday & Friday)
☐ $20  Families with 2 children accessing both programs
☐ $10  CODA families accessing baby or toddler playgroup