‘Looking at baby photos together is a great way of boosting your child’s confidence, especially if they are nervous about the arrival of a new baby...’

We all love photos, because they provide a visual record of our lives and because they so often bring back happy memories.

Building up a visual store of good, happy memories will help your child to look back on their childhood with pleasure.

Try to take a camera (or phone) with you whenever you go out for the day, to a family celebration or even to the park. As well as posed shots, try to take a few funny pictures as well – perhaps one of the baby with ice-cream all over his face, or the wind blowing Daddy’s hair on end. You can guarantee these will be the favourites in years to come!

These photos can be brought to Pre-Prep for Show-and-Tell (fill in a ‘What did we do over the weekend?’ form, found in the front Foyer).

Looking at baby photos together is also a great way of boosting your child’s confidence, especially if they are feeling anxious about the arrival of a new baby or are having trouble adjusting to a new role as big brother or sister. It gives you the opportunity to reinforce how big, grown-up and clever they are now and how the baby will look up to them in the future.

Mrs Cornelia Johnson
Director
Pre-Prep Learning Centre
**Mother’s Day**

To celebrate Mother’s Day at Pre-Prep we had a mother’s day of pampering. Our beautiful mums were invited to spend the afternoon with us. We did lots of activities together to make our mum’s feel special and to thank them for all they do for us. The children gave them hand massages, they did some threading to make mum some special necklaces, we decorated cupcakes for them, had a ‘Photo Booth’ and the children enjoyed reading a story with mum.

**The Wombats**

Have you ever been to the doctor? Why did you have to go? What did the surgery look like? What did the doctor do? These are some of the questions we looked at today to build on our imaginative play from yesterday. We also made doctor head bands, sang ‘Miss Polly’ and ‘Five Cheeky Monkeys Jumping on the Bed.’

We also did a germ experiment - Mrs Johnson sneezed and we saw all the germs flying across the room, even though she did have her hands in front of her nose - these were special glitter germs - then she came to shake our hands, we all ended up with germs on our hands and the only way to get them off was by washing our hands with soap and water. We had to make bubble gloves!

With so much interest in our doctor corner we thought we might get a real doctor to come in. Dr Brits will be talking to us on Tuesday 2nd June.

**Vegetable Garden**

We ask if each family could please bring in a seedling to plant with their child. We would like to have all our seedlings in by the end of this term. Here is a list of vegetables and herbs we would be able to use (please bring the seedling in the morning to your child’s teacher so they may show you where to plant it):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetable</th>
<th>Herbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Celery</td>
<td>Zucchini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinich</td>
<td>Thyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marigolds</td>
<td>Petunias</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beetroot</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parsley</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Pest deterrent flowers)</td>
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**The Kookaburras**

The Kookaburras are soaring and rising to the challenge and fun of the ‘Letterland’ program. Wednesday 27th May we were introduced to Eddy Elephant. We brainstormed things beginning with ‘Ee’, one of them being ‘egg’. So, we did some ‘eggs-periments’.

We made a bottle suck in an egg, we learnt how to tell if an egg is cooked or raw, we attempted to make a raw egg float (this one didn’t go ‘egg-sactly’ to plan), we made a raw egg bounce and we tested the strength of eggs.

You may like to try these again with your child at home. Overall it was an ‘egg-citing’ endeavour.

**The Koalas**

We continued to explore Letterland and the characters that live there – we met Clever Cat, Dippy Duck and Eddy Elephant.

We did some camping and cooking during imaginative play and became doctors too.

**Housekeeping**

Are you spring cleaning? Remember Pre - Prep and feel free to donate lost treasures: Handbags, hats, scarfs, wallets, shoes, Tupperware, cooking utensils, pots, pans etc.

Please keep on saving all your CLEAN junk for us: bottles, boxes, tops, etc.

Please put sunscreen on your child before coming to Pre-Prep.

Remember to pack a healthy morning tea (fruit, yogurt, cheese, crackers, boiled eggs, dried fruit) and lunch (fruit muffins, sandwiches, cold meat with salad, tuna, tinned spaghetti and baked beans, wraps, quiche).

Please ensure we only have water in the water bottles, no cordial.

Must haves in your child’s bag - water bottle, hat, sheets, spare clothes.

If for any reason you want to withdraw from Pre-Prep you will need to complete a College Withdrawal Form and provide 4 weeks notice. A Withdrawal Form can be obtained from the College Office or Junior School Reception. You will continue to be billed until 4 weeks notice is received in writing.

Dinosaurs bones were dug up and fossils created and we even measured a Dino footprint we found in our classroom. It was really big!

This month we have also started focusing on our name writing skills and our Koalas are doing so well with tracking and writing the letters in their names.

Our doctors surgery will stay open for business and we look forward to learning about other jobs too as the term progresses.
National Quality Framework Hotspot
Child Care Centre ratings are now available online. (Posted on May 7, 2013 by Early Learning Review).

Parents and guardians who want to know how their child’s Child Care Centre is faring in terms of the new national standards may now check the ratings online.

This was announced by Early Childhood and Child Care Minister Kate Ellis, who said that the first National Quality Standard ratings for Child Care Centres have been published on the MyChild website that was established by the Australian Government.

The move to publish the ratings online is part of the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care.

According to Ellis, parents can now go to the MyChild website to search for Child Care service providers in their neighborhood. They may also look up the location, fees, service vacancies, and now the quality ratings of the Child Care Service they are interested in and how the service provider is evaluated for the National Quality Standard.

There are seven areas for which the Child Care Centre will be rated under the National Quality Standard, as well as an overall rating that will depend on the quality of each of these areas. The level of rating for each of the seven areas will be **Excellent** (awarded by Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority); **Exceeding** National Quality Standard; **Meeting** National Quality Standard; **Working Towards** National Quality Standard; and **Significant Improvement Required**.

Ellis explained that the ‘Working Towards National Quality Standard’ rating does not signify a decrease in performance for the provider, but only means that the centre has been evaluated under a more challenging metric system.

She said that a Service Provider should meet requirements for ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of children in a safe learning environment, and that getting a ‘Working Towards National Quality Standard’ rating means that some standards are not met in one of the seven specific areas.

The Child Care Centre ratings may be found at [www.mychild.gov.au](http://www.mychild.gov.au) and are also seen at the centre.

(This entry was posted in front page, industry, news, Top Stories and tagged Early Childhood and Child Care Minister Kate Ellis, MyChild website, National Quality Standard, [www.mychild.gov.au](http://www.mychild.gov.au). Bookmark the permalink)

### Save the Date - Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 3rd - Thursday 4th June</td>
<td>Pre-Prep Class Photos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8th June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday <em>(Public Holiday)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th June</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 2: PP1A &amp; PP2A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 19th June</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 2: PP2B</td>
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