

L I M U R R U

NOTES FROM RYE STAFF CONFERENCE - APRIL 5-6, 1984

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

Reviewing the things we identified at the Woodend Conference in October, 1983, we found that many things have been achieved already; some are well on their way and others need re-consideration.

General comments on some of areas needing to be developed:

- Parents who are already involved in activities need to encourage other adults, (e.g., those without kids at sewing group), to become involved in other activities, e.g., Health Seekers, Babysitting, etc.
- We need more activities for men, (e.g., social, camps, toy-maker's Co-op, etc.), - means of involving the men in Limurru and reducing prospective threat felt by their spouse's links with Limurru.
- Newsletter - involvement needs to be broadened, especially fringe parents.
- For the Babysitting Club to operate without staff - may not develop until parents gain greater trust in each other - perhaps from joint involvements in day care and greater clarity, (and operation), of rules re discipline ?
- Parents' outside involvements still limited - we have a slightly expanded core group still dominating the centre - some positive signs; parents are welcoming limited outside involvements at present. We need to take people out, (shopping, organising, etc.), more as a matter of course than we are doing now. We should explore entertainment options, e.g., Last Laugh, gardens visits, etc..
- Information exchange - we need to be more alert to social action opportunities.
- Outside Links - Family Day Care to be offered use of Hall for use as Playgroup venue for minders.
- Parents Committee/Staff Links - can parent rep. report back to staff group - to establish a more direct link with staff and to learn to use staff more ?

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

- Session needed on child development milestones with a view to developing a chart (or table or whatever), to be available in grown-up's room for use or reference by staff and parents. Parents to be invited to this session, and any other appropriate sessions.

OTHER COMMENTS:

- Family camping program - valuable as occasional activity as means of welcoming newer parents to the group; allowing friendships time to develop in the more leisurely atmosphere of the camp; families gaining from the stimulation and pleasure of new surroundings; developing the co-operative approach to child-care.

Staff role principally to assist the parents to organise and run "their" camp as much as possible, and to co-operate in sharing child care/supervision necessary. Big role also in helping fringe people feel included, and to ensure destructive cliques don't develop.

- Dads and Mums Camps (as separate activities to be arranged periodically).
- Weekly activities - Alternative medicine group to start on Friday mornings - so kid's activity planning to be done on Monday afternoons.

Parents to be encouraged to help out during peak times around lunch breaks, especially where parent activities overlap; (but not in a way that is used to exclude those lower in the pecking order from activities they might want to do).