

# IPSU Fact Sheets

## February, 2011



## Get to know each other....Belonging & Being!

The beginning of the year is always a good time to think about what you might include in your program to help you **'get to know'** your kids better and build some really positive relationships between you, them and their families throughout the year ahead!

Try to plan activities and experiences during the first term that will leave the children feeling like they really **'belong'** and are part of your service. By doing this you create a 'home away from home' type environment and the kids will enjoy coming. And remember..... the **Early Years Learning Framework** is all about this... getting to know the children, giving them opportunities that will support their feeling of **'belonging'**... knowing where they belong and who they belong with. I know a lot of you are already doing this which is great, I'm just giving you a little reminder that's all. Again..... remember, that happy early years helps kids in their present and prepares them for their future. Here are a few ideas you might like to include in your program during first term.....

**Bee Bee Bumble Bee** is a very simple one line song..... **"Bee bee bumble bee can you sing your name to me?"**



You can have children sitting in circle... have a ball and as you finish the song roll the ball to a child who then sings his/her own name back to you. That child holds the ball and then song is repeated...that child rolls ball to another child.

Each child has a turn at singing/saying their name You can also use this as a transition activity for younger kids after you've had a group session and you want them to go wash their hands before meal times.

Another song.....**"What do you think my name is, I wonder if you know?"** You, as the educator sings that line to each child and they sing this back to



you.....**'My name is...'** Then everyone sings...**'Hello! Hello! Hello! Hello! Hello! Hello! Hello! Hello!'** .....everyone can clap hands as they sing this bit.

Sorry I can't put across the tune but some of you already know the song and for those of you who don't, just make the tune up..... the kids won't care, they'll just love that you're singing with them!

### **Family Tree**

Children can make a big tree together....can be made out of paper.....ask parents to bring in a family photo....stick them all on the tree. Have a yarn with the children and ask some simple questions about them and their family like, 'How many brothers and sisters do you have?' "Are you the oldest or the youngest in your family?" "What kinda things do you like doing with your family?" "How many people in your family?" etc. etc. After you collect this information, write it all up and add it the tree alongside the child's photo.



### **Group Yarn**

OSHC programs.....have a big yarn with the kids at the beginning of the year and get their input about what they might like to do over the coming year. This gives the kids 'ownership' of the program and of 'their place'. Put their ideas up somewhere as a reminder throughout the year about their suggestions. Their input is also a terrific way of getting to know their likes and dislikes so once again, you're getting to know them more and strengthening relationships.

