



Ph: 5472 3665/5470 6284 Mob: 0472 698 513 www.castlemainechildcare.com.au Newsletter August 2019
carinya@castlemainechildcare.com.au

Welcome to our August Newsletter

Castlemaine Childcare Co-operative – LDC and FDC - operates on the land of the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung clans and we acknowledge elders - past, present and emerging.

Dear Families

IMPORTANT BUDGET NEWS

Committee have accepted the budget and approved an increase to the hourly administration fee for Family Day Care from \$1.50 to \$1.75.

Child Care Subsidy System (CCSS)

Last July the new CCSS was introduced to manage childcare subsidies in both family day care and long day care. For some families this has been a relatively smooth change from the previous system, for others not so! Our long day care service introduced KidsXap, a registered software system compliant with all regulations applied by the Federal Government including stringent security of information requirements. All your personal information is kept within this system and “talks” to the Child Care Subsidy System (CCSS) ensuring that data can be correctly matched, and you can receive your subsidy.

Family Day Care uses Harmony and similarly the system matches data through the CCSS so that subsidy can be applied to your account.

Both systems must meet all regulatory and compliance checks.

KidsXap has had the capacity from the beginning for families to engage through the app, to advise of absences and make changes to personal details – e.g email, phone numbers, addresses, signing of permissions, updating medication forms, signing incident reports and our favourite; *live updates of your child's day.*

Excitingly, both software providers will soon have the capacity for enrolment forms and other documentation to be completed digitally, giving us a more environmentally sustainable system.

If your child is in long day care at Carinya, I urge you to engage with the KidsXap app now and become familiar with its current capacity.

If you are using family day care, very soon I will communicate exciting changes and the capacity it will provide to you.

Regards Rose – Director

Important Dates

August 30 – Tracky-dack day

**Sept 4 - Museum Visit for
3-5 yr. olds at 2.15pm**

**Sept 11 - Boys Brains
Workshop Here FREE**

**12 November 5.30pm -
Carinya AGM**

**4 Dec at 6pm - Carinya
Children's Christmas Party
at Botanical Gardens**

Dec 19 - Last day of care

Please Remember

LDC Centre - Advise of absences through **KidsXap app**.

REMEMBER to SIGN your child IN and OUT each day

KidsXap web portal address:

<https://castlemainechildcarecoo.p.kidsxap.com.au>

LDC IMPORTANT INFORMATION

KidsXap – Please use the app to check bookings, confirm bookings, update your address, bank details etc etc

Make sure you have an active MyGov account. Only you can confirm enrolments, changes and view subsidies via this app.

Committee of Management: We need you!

This week the Committee *accepted the budget for the 2019/2020 year*. This is the culmination of work by the Director and Treasurer to bring to Committee a financially robust document to meet the commitments and expectations of the year. Many thanks to Chris Cook for undertaking this substantive task straight out of the starting blocks as the new Treasurer.

The Family Day Care service has expanded since the last budget and a dedicated field worker – Donna Bibby - employed 2 days a week. The field worker ensures that educators are meeting compliance in all areas of their work and helps to guide and inform the educational practice. Previously this was mainly the responsibility of our Assistant Director Lisa Girvan, with some visits from the Director. We are nearing our current capacity with the Family Day Care service with only 4 educator places available until we reach our current cap of 25.

There will be a slight increase to the Family Day Care administration fee which will increase by 25c from \$1.50 to \$1.75. This increase will occur from 30 September 2019.

Long Day Care has seen the expansion of the bush kindergarten program for Term 3 and an increase in the number of children accessing funded kindergarten with us in 2019, with most enrolled for the full two year, 3-year-old and 4-year-old program. Excitingly our kindergarten enrolments next year are at their highest ever levels.

At this meeting, our current Chair Geoff Turner resigned as chair but remains on committee. Thank you to Geoff for the nuanced way in which he undertook and excelled in this role.

Sophie Burke has accepted the position as Chair. Sophie is a parent of children who are enrolled in both LDC and FDC. The Committee welcomes Sophie with her broad skills and expertise to the role.

Committee also welcomes Tim Watson formally to the role as Secretary as Tim has been informally performing this role for some months. Thankyou Tim.

The committee is always keen to hear from people with applicable skill sets, the most important being enthusiasm for the parent-governed, not-for-profit community-based model that operates LDC and FDC for families over a broad geographical area. This means that we are not “owned” by a corporation but by the users of the service. When you buy your \$1 share, you buy ownership! If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the office on 5472 3665.

All LDC and FDC families have at least one parent as a shareholder member of the Co-operative and all members of the Co-operative are welcome to attend Committee meetings at any time. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month. There are always chocolate biscuits to share.

Advance notice that *our AGM is approaching* and will be held on Tuesday 12 November at 5.30pm.

AGM Tuesday 12 November

LDC Reminders for all centre-based children - please:

- ❖ send a change of clothes appropriate to the weather with your child.
- ❖ bring a piece or two of fruit daily.

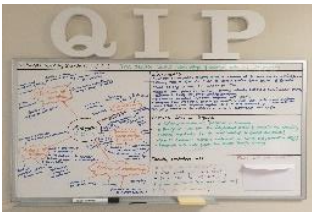
Do you have KidsXap on your phone? Ask us for assistance to download the app so that you receive daily important information and are ready for new applications

For all Families:

Remember to sign your child in and out on arrival and departure. CCS will not apply if you do not sign in and out digitally.

Remember to confirm your enrolment on MyGov.

Educational Leader



As part of the National Quality Standards, we are required to implement a self-assessment of our program to assist us to understand our strengths and identify areas for improvement, which will then be developed in a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). We have included a QIP area (just at the bottom of the steps in the hallway) with the hope of making this process more visible for families. Moreover, it would be wonderful to obtain feedback from families where possible, to ensure we are capturing the views and ideas of all our stakeholders in our self-assessment. Please see family contribution area on the board.

On another note I'm thrilled to announce that Louise Dorrat will be coming to Castlemaine in October to facilitate our organisations' annual professional development day. Our focus for this session will be Behaviour Guidance, specifically understanding the importance of play and risk-taking, to build resilience and how we can provide environments to support children's agency and emotional regulation.

Louise teaches 'Behaviour Guidance' as part of the Bachelor of Education at several Universities and is contracted by the Department of Education and Training to deliver "Transition: A Positive Start to school" across Victoria. Louise has a long history of managing early years' services including FDC and assisted in the establishment of the first Bush Kinder and worked in the bush setting for 2 years. Louise's background in theatre results in presentations that are at once engaging and informative.



MEd, BTeach, Dip SSc

Family/Educator interviews will be held in the week beginning **Monday 9 September**. Look out for the clipboards in the foyer on the glass cabinet with times available to meet with your child's Room Leader. Please try to select days/times in keeping with your child's room availability.

Koala Room with Nat and Cedella



Since our last newsletter we have been very busy in the Koala room developing and learning lots of new skills. Recently we have been focusing on cooking to further extend our children's keen interest in home corner. Banana loaf was perfect for us to start with as it was a simple recipe and required age appropriate skills that we have been practicing in home corner; pouring; sifting; stirring and taking turns. The children had a real sense of wonder and accomplishment while

stirring the batter and then baking it in the oven to eat afterwards. Throughout our time baking with the Koala Children, there were many measures of trial and error with every cake a little different to the other but we still enjoyed eating them.



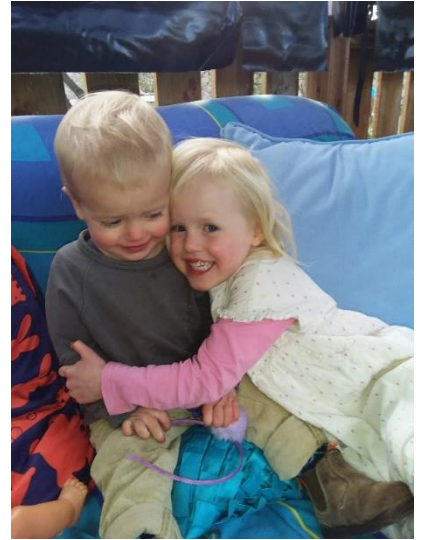
Possum Room with Demi, Maddy, Emily and Ange



At the start of the year we encouraged our families to bring in photos of them together at home. These photos are then available for the children to look at and helps them develop a sense of belonging to the possum room as they can see the people dearest to them whenever they wish. The children enjoy showing us the photos when they are missing their families, wanted to talk to us about their family and sometimes they just like to look at them just to see your faces.

As the children have loved having their family photos on display and they are always looking at them, we decided we needed to move them down to the children's eye level. This has allowed the children to have access to them whenever they want. It has also sparked a lot of conversations with the children as they show us and their peers their family.





Kangaroo Room with Sue, Felicity, Lisa, Gemma and Mel

Despite the cold and wet days, we have managed to be outside for at least part of the day. This is an important part of our programme and the sandpit has been a popular spot with many trucks being used effectively.

The children's games are becoming more structured with children negotiating roles and turn-taking and further developing cognitive and social/emotional skills. Outside, children are more likely to invent games, and as they do, they're able to express themselves and learn about the world in their own way. They feel safe and in control promoting autonomy, decision-making, and organizational skills. Inventing rules for games, promotes an understanding of why rules are necessary. Although the children are only playing to have fun, they're learning:

- Communication skills and vocabulary (as they invent, modify, and enforce rules).
- Number relationships (as they keep score and count)
- Social customs (as they learn to play together and cooperate).
- Physical skills (as they climb, swing, balance, dig and ride)

We can't underestimate the value of learning to appreciate the aesthetics of the outdoors. Aesthetic awareness refers to a heightened sensitivity to the beauty around us. Because the natural world is filled with beautiful sights, sounds and textures, it's the perfect resource for the development of aesthetics in young children.

Children learn much through their senses. Outside there are many different and wonderful things for them to see (animals, birds, and green leafy plants), to hear (the wind rustling through the leaves, a magpie's song), to smell (fragrant flowers, the rain-soaked ground), to touch (a fuzzy caterpillar or the bark of a tree) and even taste (a raindrop on the tongue or sand).

And what better place than the outdoors for children to be loud and messy and boisterous?

Self-regulation and emotions are still a large part of our programme and it has been heartening to see many children become aware of their behaviour and the impact it may be having on their friends and making positive changes to be included in play. We have extended our discussions about emotions with a new book and introduced the **Zones of Regulations**. This is an initiative used across all ages of children and we have adapted it to suit the Kangaroo children. It is ideal for the children to be in the green zone, the blue zone is when you are feeling a bit sad or worried, the yellow zone is for heightened behaviours such as silly, excited or frustrated, a zone that can often lead to the Red Zone where children have become angry and are not managing. This visual image gives the children the opportunity to recognise how they are feeling with the use of emotive faces and we can then ask them how they are feeling and what could they do to get back into the green zone.

To support this initiative, we have introduced a calm cubby; this may be a quiet place to calm down or a quiet place if a child is feeling overwhelmed in a busy noisy room. Providing a few boxes with some interesting items bring focus and something to play with while calming themselves.

We welcomed Dr Lara (Estelle's Mum) to our room last week and she talked about doctor visits and what it may entail. Many had their chests listened to and a bandage applied. To extend this we have modified our home corner into a hospital. This has created many ailments and lots of care administering to each other. **Thank You so much Lara.**

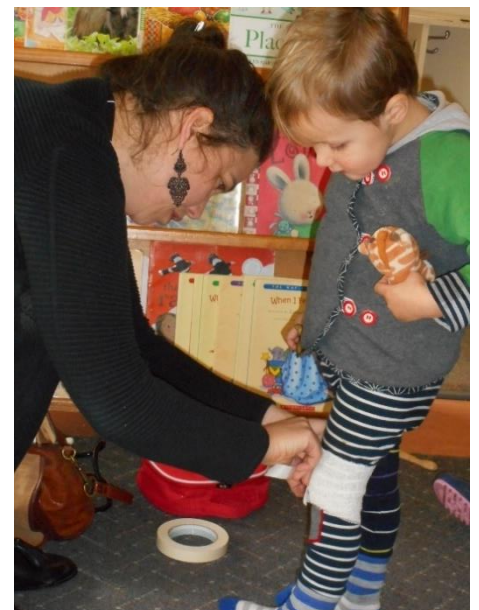
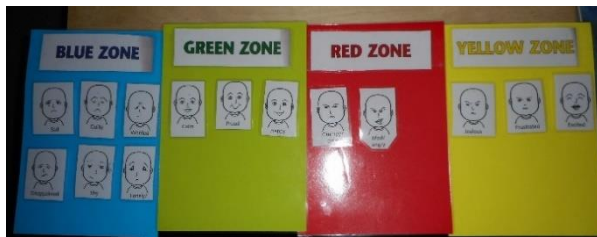
Many children have reached the stage of not needing a sleep every day. On days they do sleep it may be that bedtime is later. It is a time of being flexible with their sleep routine especially on days at Carinya and we are happy to be guided by your suggestions about daytime sleeps.



As always please feel free to speak to Felicity or Sue if you have anything to feedback to us or can support our programme in any way.

Thank you for letting us be part of your child's life. It gives us all great joy as we watch each child grow and develop. We are excited to announce two new siblings for our families: Evie has welcomed Erasmus and Gilbert has welcomed Patience.

From the Kangaroo Team



Pre-kinder Wombat Room with Heather, Carolyn, Josie and Tarryn

During the month of August, we have been focusing more on STEM; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics activities. STEM is always present in our program but having more detailed conversations with the children as they are making new discoveries, helps to consolidate their learning. It has been a busy week of observing and discovering chemical reactions, developing our engineering skills and knowledge, as we created a spaceship and other three-dimensional objects, understanding more about magnetism as well as developing a greater understanding of physics, as we created a marble run and catapults. It has been a very busy week!



Some of the children's responses: "We're doing an experiment." "I just put vinegar in and it's making bubbles." "Look at that bubble." "Mine is making holes."



This week we are focusing on book week. Exploring different identities as we dress up as different characters for the week. Embracing the love of literature and how it can empower us is our focus. The learning that occurs, from the knowledge we obtain and the strength we gain, from the thoughts we read, assist us in our personal growth.



Sharing our favourite stories and characters with each other has been fun, not to mention the dressing up!



Some of the children shared their thoughts about books: "I love my mermaid book because it has so many things to twist in it." "I am going to dress up as Angelina Ballerina. It's a mouse that loves doing ballet. I like it because it teaches me things to do. I like ballet class. I want to do ballet class when I'm a big kid."



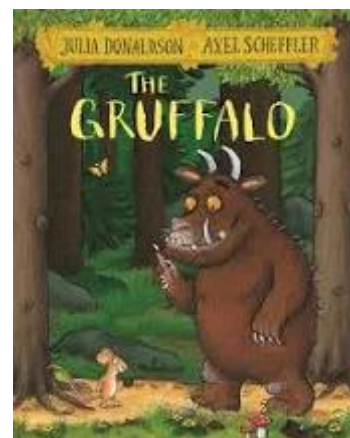
SCIENCE WEEK



We have been enjoying Science Week by building our *Carinya Space Station* (with the help of your e-waste donations!) The introduction of a pop-up tent meant that the Space Station was constructed in the kinder room by both Wombat and Kinder children.

BOOK WEEK

Next week is Book Week and we are excited to hear that Tim Ratcliffe (Romy's Dad) will be coming in to read *The Gruffalo* for the Wombat and Kinder children. Tim has arranged to be at the centre for 10:30am on Wednesday 21st August. If anyone in your family (Grandparents are MOST welcome!)



would like to come in and read a story, then we would love to hear from you.

ZONES of REGULATION

Hopefully by now you are all aware of our use of the *Zones of Regulation* program as a support for children to develop self-regulation skills. Last week we began introducing different activities that help the children identify emotions and then associate them with the corresponding Zone. We introduced Zone masks, emotion's cue cards, Zone posting boxes and used various stories to assess children's ability to recognise and label the emotions of different characters... as well as each other. I experienced a bit of a breakthrough moment when a child was able to communicate; "I'm in the Blue Zone, I'm sad... I need something to eat". This was a moment to celebrate as the

situation was diffused by this child being able to communicate their Zone, name their feeling and suggest a strategy to move back to Green. We will begin to develop Tool Kits in the coming weeks which will be children's go-to strategies for moving between the Zones. It is so important to reassure children that all Zones are ok and it's very common to experience many emotions throughout the day... but we know that when we can return to the Green, we are Happy, Calm, Feeling OK, Focused and Ready to Learn!

Next week we will begin teaching children the difference between unexpected and expected behaviour and how our behaviour has an impact on the feelings of those around us. This involves videoing children in different play scenarios as well as role play from Sally and I to open discussion about how our feelings can change when the people around us behave in unexpected *and* expected ways! See the notice board at the entry to our room for a Zone update.

Mt Alexander Family Day Care - Aberdene Children's Services

On Saturday the 27 July, Aberdene Children's Service Family Day Care hosted a Shared Supper with our families. We came together to share a dish of our favourite food and spent time getting to know one another. This opportunity was created to foster a cohesive sense of belonging that extended to the families of the children who attend care.

We used this occasion to share our learning journeys in unhurried time. Children sat down with their families to explore their portfolios, the explorations documented, and artwork included. Children and families also took this opportunity to look back on how far children have come since commencing care and how much they've grown over time.

Once we finished eating our supper, we made beeswax wraps using sourced cloth and beeswax donated from a small beekeeping business. These will make creating lunchboxes streamline and taking a sustainable approach to keeping food fresh!

Kind Regards, Tracy Cranfield



St Mary's After School Care Seymour

Here at St Mary's After School Care we enjoy a large variety of crafts and games and we also do a lot of physical activities in our stadium.

This day we had some face masks and some of the children coloured them in and we attached elastic to make some fantastic looking masks. We also decorated some small vases with glass paints. They took quite a while to dry as we layered the paint quite thickly, but the result looks very cool.



Some crafts the children have made have come from our Spare Parts supply; they have been a big hit and used to create many different things. Olivia has made a miniature cat scratching post equipped with small circular felt pieces. The second picture is made by Felix and he called it some type of weird wand thing or a stick with an eyeball.

Chloe is exceptionally good at drawing and here she demonstrates this with a sketch of Hermione Grainger from Harry Potter

Felix spends time doing Origami and he has created himself some claws, look out!

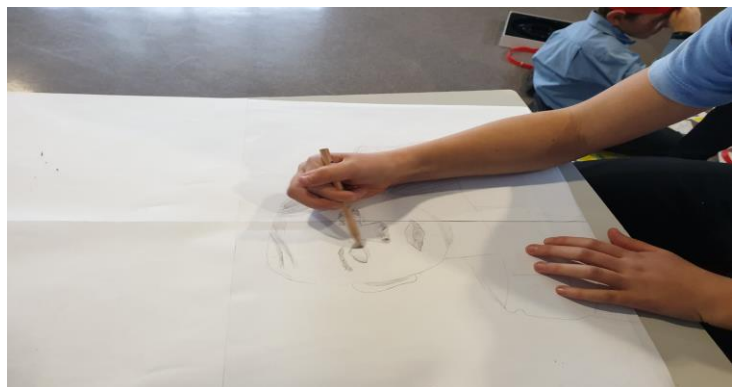


Xavier likes a game of pool, always playing until all the balls make it into the holes.



The program encompasses many and various activities that cater to all of our children - I love watching them learn and grow and having school age children makes for some really interesting conversations.

Amanda Bamford





Boys Brains

Castlemaine



This workshop will give insight in to the workings of a boy's brain and how their needs are different to girls. It will provide practical strategies to help parents and carers understand boy's needs and how to meet them.

Term 3, 2019

When:	Wednesday 11th September
Time:	Arrival and registration 5.45pm Session 6.00pm - 8.30pm
Where:	Castlemaine Child Care, 15 - 17 Templeton Street, Castlemaine
Cost:	Free
Facilitators:	CCS Family and Relationship Services
Childcare:	Sorry, no childcare provided

Groups are subject to maximum and minimum numbers determined seven working days prior to the commencement date. Early registration is encouraged



For bookings and enquiries contact Rebecca Buchanan, Assistant Director, Castlemaine Child Care on Ph: 5470 6284 or rebecca@castlemainechildcare.com.au