



Welcome to our February Newsletter

The Castlemaine Childcare Co-operative provides both family day care and centre-based care services. Information in the newsletter is relevant to ALL families but if very specifically regarding your service, it will usually be under a heading (as it is below and on page 2). Please make sure you always read the Committee of Management news. ☺

A few reminders for everyone!

Please remember to adhere to your booking agreement times

For LDC, educator to child ratios must be maintained at correct levels. When you bring your child in earlier than stated on your initial booking, we are caught without the required number of educators. Likewise, if your child is not collected at the time marked on your booking sheet. If you need to bring your child in earlier on occasion or make a more permanent change to your booking, please speak with Bec in the office.

For FDC, your booking agreement needs to be accurately maintained. If your booking agreement is an 8am start, then you cannot deliver your child any earlier than 8am and similarly at the end of the day, if your booking is a 5pm collection time, then you will need to be signing your child out no later than 5pm.

For both services: It is important to arrive around 10 minutes before your booked collection time to ensure the time is available to greet your child, hear about your child's day, gather their belongings, sign out and be leaving just before or right on the dot of your finish time.

If you want to have a longer conversation, it is best to make another time.

As educators are required to be supervising and interacting with children, pick up time is not always the best time for an extended conversation about your child and their development. Educators are happy to make time for telephone conversations or another time to meet and talk with you.

It also enables educators to finish for the day have their well-earned rest!

Children's Bags - Please keep a close check on what is in your child's bag. In both services, we find pieces of play equipment that make their way into bags and sometimes go home with the child. This is especially disappointing when it is puzzle pieces! Educators have also found and reported items such as money, lighters, medications (both child and adult), diamond rings and other jewellery. Please check morning and night what is hiding in your child's bag.

Important Dates

Castlemaine Childcare Centre is CLOSED on these upcoming dates:

Labour Day - 11 March 2019

Good Friday - 19 April 2019

Easter Monday - 22 April 2019

ANZAC Day - 25 April 2019

Queen's Birthday - 10 June 2019

Please Remember

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

REMEMBER to SIGN your child IN and OUT each day

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 and changes and view subsidies via this app.

Paying your account: Please remember how important it is to the provision of high-quality care for all children that your accounts are paid on time. **Centre-based long day care families** can set up direct debit arrangements through KidsXap. **Family Day Care families** can set up direct debits direct from their bank account to ours. Please remember we do not accept cash payments for either service.

LONG DAY CARE

By downloading the KidsXap app to your phone you can receive updates of your child's day as it happens!

Committee of Management News

It's not too late to put your hand up and announce your interest in being part of the Committee of Management for 2019. We always like to hear from those with specific skill sets, but the overwhelming requirement is the desire to contribute meaningfully to your child's experience of early education and care. Contact Rose at Carinya (our centre-based long day care centre) to be referred to a Committee member for further information.

Koala Room with Nat and Cedella

Firstly, I would like to start off by saying what a pleasure it has been getting to know you and your precious children. The first few weeks of transitioning into care can be daunting for families however Cedella and myself are here to make this as gentle and smooth as possible for all. Myself (Natalie), Mon-Fri 9am-3:30pm, and Cedella on a fulltime roster.

It has been lovely to have some children come in for visits as we chat with parents and make discoveries about routines and interests from home. It is important to keep the relationship between home and care strong so that children feel secure and settled. Our aim is for all children to feel safe and secure in their new environment and with their educators. Our goal is also for babies to be extended and encouraged in their learning environment as they develop wonder and excitement through their learning opportunities. We look forward to the year ahead full of excitement, intrigue, milestones and achievements.



Possum Room with Demi, Maddy, Emily and Ange

What an amazing start to the year it has been!

The Possum Room Children have all settled in very well and have developed a sense of belonging to the room. We have been growing our relationships with the children and watching amazing friendships start to form between the children.

We hope that all our families have now downloaded KidsXap as we use this daily, uploading photos of the children and keeping you updated with extra info. This has been such a great resource for us to have as it allows almost in-the-moment communication with families and the feedback is that those of you already connected are loving seeing the photos during the day!

What have we been getting up too?

We had our first excursion a couple of weeks ago to the Hub Garden. The children loved seeing the chickens and spent most of their time watching them!

The children have been enjoying having their afternoon tea as a picnic outside.

The children have been painting and loving getting messy with the paint using their fingers as well as the brushes.

We have also been acknowledging different celebrations from around the world, such as Australia Day and Chinese New Year. Please let us know if there are any traditions that you celebrate with your family so that we can acknowledge these too.



Fundraising News.

We are organising an Easter Raffle! The Hampers will be ready in the next few weeks and the tickets will be available for you to purchase in the Foyer.

All proceeds raised from this raffle will be going to outdoor projects to create more amazing spaces for the children in our yards. We appreciate your support, thank you!

Kangaroo Room with Sue Felicity Lisa Gemma and Mel

Welcome to all our Families. We have had a great start to the year and children have made the transition from the Possum Room to becoming a Kangaroo with ease. Thank you all for your background information sheets. These are instrumental in learning a bit about your family life at this stage of the year and helping us to help your child settle.

We use this information in our interactions with the children and build on the goals you have as well as learning about each child's interests. Our initial goal is for children to become familiar with our routine and we encourage independence skills such as getting their photo, choosing a locker and becoming responsible for their own belongings such as hats, shoes and the use of individual hand towels.

Many children are on the cusp of toilet training which is an important milestone in their lives. Please speak to an educator if you feel your child is showing interest or almost ready so that we can encourage this and support what you are doing at home.

Our early programme covers many learning areas and as we observe children at play, we will plan for individual and group interests to be included in our programme. Our programme, as well as spontaneous experiences, are displayed on our information window.

We hope to start going on small excursions over the next few weeks. Our usual outings include the library, train station, hub garden and football oval. If you have not yet filled in a blanket excursion form, please see the office or room staff. We will start off with small group outings for children to become confident and competent whilst on excursions. We will have a lot of discussions about our expectations and road rules prior to going out, so children feel comfortable with this part of our program. Excursions are an important part of our programme and give us opportunities to learn about safely engaging in our community.

We are attempting to embrace the new KidsXap app and send weekly messages through this forum. Please download the app so you can access this information from us.

We welcome your input to our programme and especially encourage any parents who can contribute time to share their expertise with our group. We are always happy to have a chat about your child's learning journey.

Sue, Felicity, Gemma, Lisa and Melody.

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

Hi Wombat Families,

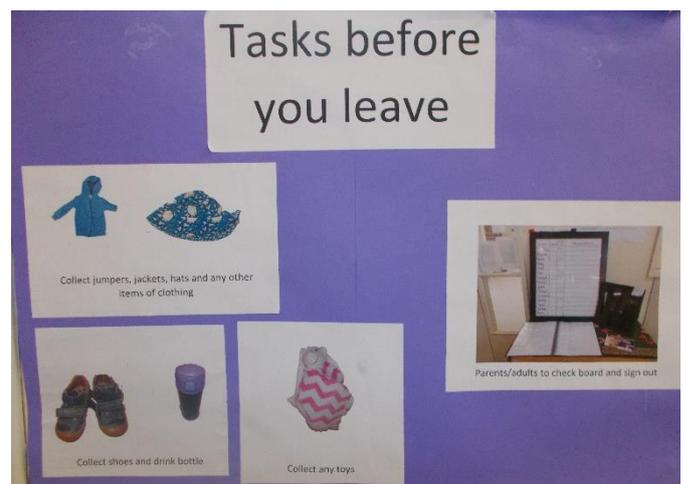
The first six weeks of the term have flown by so fast and the children have settled in well into their new environment. They are all demonstrating great confidence when engaging in play experiences with their peers and are very comfortably interacting with all the Educators. Anyone who has said goodbye through a few tears, it hasn't been long before they are happily engaged in an activity.

Establishing clear routines in the morning for the children creates a feeling of belonging within the group and a clear understanding of the day ahead of them and they can prepare themselves both mentally and physically. Chatting to your child as they are getting dressed and discussing what they may need to pack in their bag is an important part of the routine of the day. You may ask about the activities or play that they are looking forward to in the Wombat Room.

When arriving, assist your child to locate their name tag and choose a locker. Help your child to place their hat and drink in the correct location in the room as this all encourages your child to become aware of where their belongings are when they need them.



We have posters displayed on the lower half of the door as you enter and in the same position on the back of the door as you exit. These visual reminders will assist you and your child in these important beginning and end of day routines.



A discussion with your child about the activity you may do with them prior to you saying goodbye, can assist with a more harmonious transition into the day. Choosing an activity rather than specifying a time frame, is more easily understood at this stage of their development.

Everyone is having a lovely quiet rest after lunch. Each child has their own pillow with their name on it. We read stories, listen to music or enjoy a story being read to us. We give each child an option as to whether they would like a bed and/or blanket. During this time some children fall asleep. Please let us know in the morning if you feel that your child may need some extra assistance to fall asleep so that we may provide extra help.

Please remember to download the KidsXap, so you can receive current information, room updates and access your child's incident reports.

With a recent interest in birds we have created a play space with birds' nests and literature. This has been a popular and comfortable play space for many children.

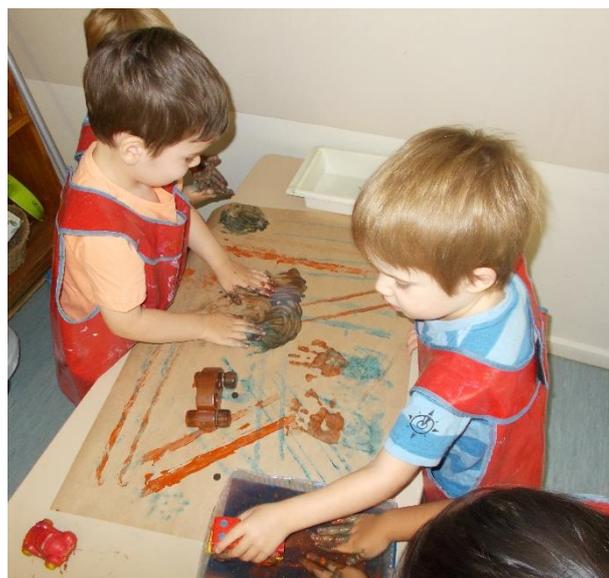
Already this term we have acquired new skills as we have manipulated and managed new equipment and tools - for example - sticky tape dispensers, scissors and pasting with both 2 and 3 dimensional materials.

We recently had a visit from Kaitlyn (Frankie's Mum) in her professional role as a Paramedic. She brought along the Ambulance which provoked much discussion and learning. The developing ideas and role play that has continued in our Wombat Hospital has been invaluable. The children are increasing their knowledge as they care for others, developing an understanding of general health and well-being, as well as the opportunity to interact positively both verbally and non-verbally with their peers and educators.

We have been exploring the feeling of painting on different surfaces as well as activities that encourage us to develop both sides of the brain as our arms cross over the midline of our bodies. These activities have also assisted in increasing the strength and control in our shoulders, arms and hands.

Cheers from the Wombat Team,

Heather, Carolyn, Ray, Josie and Tarryn.



Reminders for all - Please:

- ❖ send an appropriate change of clothes with your child.
- ❖ bring a piece or two of fruit daily.
- ❖ 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 from 2019??????????????
- ❖ Make sure you have KidsXap on your phone
- ❖ Ensure you check and confirm bookings on MyGov

Podcast of the month: Check out.

Dr Justin Coulson's 2 yrs. old and bedtime.

<https://www.happyfamilies.com.au/podcast/65-2-year-olds-and-bedtime/>

Echidna Room – Kristy, Sally and Ray

Welcome to all our Echidna families!

We have enjoyed a busy start to the year with many children returning to Carinya after holidays and some families beginning at Carinya for the first time.

Munch and Crunch: All children need to bring their morning Munch n' Crunch and a water bottle to Carinya. We have been so impressed with the amount of 'nude food' coming in ie food free of packaging. Thank you for this effort as over the course of the year we will be working hard to reduce any amount of landfill that we can.

All About Me books: Kristy will be emailing these to families soon. If you can please take the time to complete them in as much detail as possible it really helps us to learn more about your child, your family and what is most important for you in your child's kinder year.

Castlemaine State Festival: Eliza-Jane spent two days in our room (Tuesday and Friday) working alongside the children using her cardboard constructed 'Market Place' building. She posed the question "*What do you think is in there?*" and supported the children to document their thoughts through drawings, pattern making and storytelling. Various photos were captured, and voices recorded to enable Eliza to represent children's thinking in an accurate and authentic way. Kristy will distribute consent forms to the families of those children who participated. Please check the Castlemaine State Festival guide for the days/dates of the exhibit at the Castlemaine Gallery.

The Echidna Team



State Festival Project



Science Wednesday

BUSH KINDER 2019 DATES

We are excited to announce the days that Bush Kinder will operate in 2019.

Based on the current days of attendance of the funded kindergarten children ie the children not accessing a kinder program elsewhere, the Bush Kinder schedule will be as follows.

Term 2 (Tuesday 23rd April – Friday 28th June)

Wednesdays only

Month	Date
April	24
May	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
June	5, 12, 19, 26

Term 3 (Monday 15th July – Friday 20th September)

Mondays and Thursdays

Month	Date
July	15, 18, 22, 25, 29
August	1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29
September	2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19

Term 4 (Monday 7th October – Friday 20th December)

Fridays only

Month	Date
October	11, 18, 25
November	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
December	6, 13