



FAMILY DAY CARE News

Annual Home Safety Visits - the Coordination Unit (Lisa and Rose) are currently visiting FDC Educators for Annual Home Safety checks alongside the usual visits for regulation compliance as well as other support. The Coordination Unit also provides Educational Leadership support to Educators and this is now undertaken with Educators at the Centre rather than at the same time as compliance checks. Our monthly meetings continue to be well attended and provide networking opportunities for Educators and more formal agenda items such as the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP), Emergency Management Plans (EMP's) and Risk Assessment Plans (RAP's?).

LONG DAY CARE Centre News

“Walk-off” – Castlemaine Child Care Centre will close and at least one of our FDC Educators will close their after-school session – By now you will have received an email from Committee of Management and a letter from Educators both providing information about the planned **“Walk-off” NEXT WEEK** at 2.00pm Tuesday 27 March. **Parents will be required to collect their children BEFORE 2.00pm** as we will close at 2.00pm. To enable a close to normal timetabling for children to sleep and rest, we will bring morning tea and lunch and transition to sleep/rest time earlier on the day (by about 15 minutes) so that most children will have completed their rest/sleep around the 1.30pm mark. Please check in with your child's room for any further information.

Professional Development Day - LDC Centre Educators and FDC Educators attended a professional development day with Phillip Butler on Saturday 3 March. Phillip provided us with many opportunities for reflection on our current practice and ideas for possible incorporation into our programs. Thank you to Sarah Hart our Educational Leader and to Rebecca Buchanan our LDC Assistant Director for organising this day. Special thanks to Sarah for writing the successful funding submission that provided the \$\$\$ to enable the day to happen without puncturing our budget!

Account payments – THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU. Your prompt payments in advance have made an enormous difference to our cashflow. If you have not yet embedded your direct debit payments in advance, please do so as soon as possible to further cement our improved financial position. Our focus is always on providing the best program possible for the children attending Carinya and our time best used this way and not chasing up unpaid accounts. Your support in this regard is vital and greatly appreciated.

Important Dates

Saturday 24th March **WORKING**
BEE. 9am – 12pm

Carinya Closed from 2pm
Tuesday 27th March

Good Friday 30th March **CLOSED**

Easter Monday 2nd April **CLOSED**

Bush Kinder will be commencing
Monday 16th April for all Monday
kinder children.

Wednesday 25th April ANZAC day
CLOSED

Please Remember

To advise us of absences, a
text message to

0472 698 513

or call

5472 3665

or email

carinya@castlemainechildcare.com.au

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Great News - 03 5475 3665 is now up and working again. We have three phone numbers in which you can contact us on.

03 5470 6284 and 0472 689 513. Thank you for your patience's through this transition period.

In the Kitchen – Becc’s “leftovers” are very popular but it is always worth a check in the office to see what has been cooked up for the day - we will be very pleased to help.

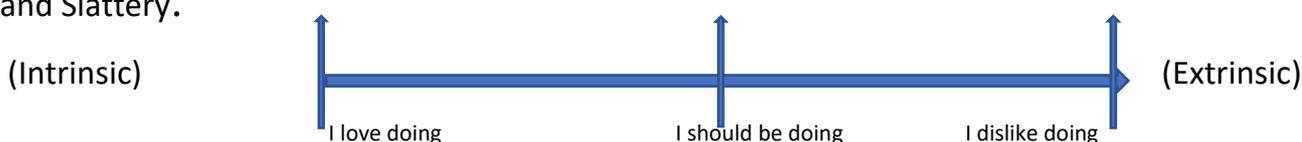
Working Bee – We would love to see you at the Working Bee this Saturday 24 March between 9am and 12 pm to work in the kitchen garden. There’s sure to be a fab group of people with whom to work and enjoy a chat and a cuppa. Any time you can manage will be awesome!

Welcome to Mia - Congratulations to Demi and partner on the birth of Mia in the closing days of February. Grandma Ange has plenty of photos to and is always happy to show them around. Maddy has stepped into the Room Leader position while Demi is on maternity leave.

Regards, Rose Lavery. Director

Educational Leader – Sarah

On Saturday 3rd March all our Educators from both FDC and LDC attended our annual whole centre professional development day. This year’s topic was “Creating a culture of learners – fostering a strength-based approach to our practice”. Our guest speaker this year is Phillip Butler from Semann and Slattery.



He worked with us with being comfortable about being uncomfortable. He helped us questioned our practises – with “What practice do we love doing?” “What is something in your practice that you feel like you should be doing?” “What is something that you really dislike doing?” “What is your what? So, what and now what”?

Phillip’s guidance will help us to critically reflect on our days and why we do what we do.



Committee of Management News



**Castlemaine
Child Care Co-operative**
Carinya Early Education Hub

14.03.18

Dear Carinya Families,

On Tuesday March 27th, Carinya Long Day Care centre will close at 2.00pm to support our educators to attend the Big Steps campaign rally in the Melbourne CBD. Parents will not be charged for the time that the centre is closed.

As we all know, these first years for our children are crucial for their development. And high quality early childhood education and care, provided by qualified and experienced Educators, gives them a fantastic start in education and in life.

We are sure you are also aware that those who work as Early Childhood Educators are among the lowest paid in the education sector earn well below the average Australian wage – for educating our children through their most formative years!

Over the last few years Early Childhood Educators nationally have been active in the Big Steps campaign, which aims to bridge the gap for pay and conditions in the Early Childhood Education sector as well as gaining professional recognition and respect for the vital work they do.

At Carinya, successive Committees of Management have been committed to improving the wages and working conditions of our educators, because we know that having highly qualified and experienced educators ensures the high-quality care and education that our children deserve.

Carinya is a signatory to the United Voice Union Agreement, which delivers the best pay and working conditions in the sector. Still, even a degree qualified Educator earns less than a *similarly qualified and experienced primary teacher*.

The long-term answer cannot be for parents to pay more. As parents ourselves, the committee knows that it is not possible for parents to continue to pay ever-increasing fees. The Early Childhood Education sector needs a better solution. It needs a commitment from our State and Federal Governments to properly fund and support Early Childhood Education in the same way it funds and supports school aged children.

Our Carinya Educators have asked the Committee and all parents to support them in their next campaign action. **Tuesday March 27th is Keep your Kids at Home Day. Educators are asking parents to keep our children at home to support the campaign and allow them to attend the National Day of Action.**

On Tuesday March 27th Carinya Long Day Care centre will close at 2.00pm to support educators to attend the rally for all Victorian educators in Federation Square in Melbourne.

All of us will need to pick up our children by 2.00pm on this day. Families will only be charged for half a day, as there will be no care provided after 2.00pm.

As parents, the Committee understands that this is not going to be convenient, but it is a core belief of the Castlemaine Childcare Co-operative that respecting and valuing our educators in their work will mean the best quality care for our children.

Educators are seeking parents support to stand with them in their campaign. The Big Steps campaign will provide buses on the day to transport Educators **and any families who would like to join them** to attend the rally in Melbourne CBD. These buses will be at the centre in Templeton Street at 1.30pm and will return to everyone to Castlemaine after the rally has finished.

Please speak to staff at the centre or contact the committee if you have any questions.

Sincerely

The Committee of Management

Koala Room with Nat, Melody and Emily

Hello Koala Families

This past month there has been a real focus on being consistent with the exiting strategies we have developed for children during routine times such as sleep and meal times. We continue to work closely with all our parents to establish and maintain these routines. This has allowed our children to know what is happening next in their day, enhancing their sense of Identity as they feel safe, secure and supported.

On a personal note I was lucky enough to extend my professional development in the area of Mental Health and completed a two-day course with Mental Health Australia. I am now an accredited Mental Health First Aider, which is something I am very passionate about. Being able to provide early intervention means better outcomes for people and their families. Take care of yourselves, find something you like, laugh and play lots, use your strengths, your mental health matters!

Nat, Melody and Emily



Possum Room Adventure Time!

Camp Reserve & Train Station Excursions.



This month in the Possum Room we have been exploring our community by heading out on excursions around the town. The children show such great happiness when we go on an outing, with big smiles we all get ready.

First, we put on our sunscreen and then our hats and hi-vis vests, before getting into the prams.

We head off with some children walking beside us, the children enjoy looking at their surroundings as we walk past the shops, through the station and under the tracks, over the bridge and into the camp reserve. When we arrive, the children can't wait to get out and go exploring, kick the ball and run around with their friends.

We have also begun our excursions to the station, watching the trains arrive and depart. This is very exciting for the children especially when the train drivers give us a big wave and honk their horns!

The children can explore their local community and learn about the world around them, children are also able to develop a sense of belonging to the community when given the opportunity to be a part of the local environment, engage in local events and explore the community.

Educators will keep planning and allowing children the opportunity to participate in excursions to different landmarks throughout the year.



Kangaroo Room – Felicity, Lisa, Sue, Peter and Cedella

Hi Everyone,

The children have now settled well into our room, at this stage of the year & seem to be feeling familiar with all our educators and their peers. The children are demonstrating they are becoming familiar with our routine and activities, more confident to engage in our different learning activities. This participation helps build confidence in their ability and develops a sense of belonging and contributing to their Kangaroo group.

We have noticed an increase in confidence & the volume of communication this month between the children & directed towards the educators. The children are engaging in enjoyable conversations exploring ideas and concepts and sometimes challenging ones thinking. We are continuing to learn about Emotions and how to deal with them appropriately to encourage more resilience and self-regulation within each child.

Supporting our children in developing a strong sense of wellbeing is one of our current goals; this includes helping children with the process of Toilet Training.

As children become more independent they can take greater responsibility of their own health, hygiene and personal care. A strong sense of wellbeing provides children with confidence and optimism which maximise their learning potential.

Wellbeing is connected to resilience, providing children with the capacity to cope with the day to day stress and challenges. If you & your child are ready for toilet training be sure to chat with us about your system or for advice so we can be working together in helping your child succeed in this important developmental milestone. We have had success stories in our room already with toilet training this year; we are here to help you. Accidents are a normal (and usual) part of the process of mastering toileting, we all have to practice new skills to end up competent at what we are trying to achieve so please remember to pack lots of extra clothes including a spare pair of shoes & socks is a great idea.



At last the steam train is back in action, the children have been excited to participate in Wednesday excursions to platform 3 to watch the steam train arrive from Maldon! The Wednesday children have been talking about these excursions a lot, so we will endeavour to take small groups of children down to the station on other days for a visit, they will not see the steam train (as that's only on Wednesday) but the outing to view two regular trains pass each other at the station will be an exciting excursion also. We have had our first excursion to the library this week with a small group, the children chose some books to enhance our learning & extend our knowledge on topics of interest at the moment, dinosaurs, colours, & Australian animals are just a few of our interests.



Please feel free to view our monthly program on the wall & our daily reflection book just inside our door.

If you have any queries or topics you would like to discuss, please feel free to come talk to us.



Pre-Kinder Wombat Room News from Heather, Sally and Carolyn.

It has been a lovely start to the year and we feel very lucky to have the opportunity to share and celebrate many of the children's achievements



both small and big. Each successful step is unique to each child, for example; venturing outside with confidence, climbing to the top of the A frame, mastering the pedals on the bikes and tractor, applying our own sunscreen, climbing up on top of the trapeze swing, manipulating and sculpting with clay, constructing machines and creating wooden structures, as well as beginning to write their own name.



As we reflect on each child's wellbeing over the past term, we have become acutely aware of the many transitions children need to adjust to throughout their daily lives that involve different places, people and activities. For example, moving from their home



environment to the Carinya environment. Changes to the people they spend time with, such as from parents to educators, or from one educator to another and the peers that they engage in play and conversation with. Transitioning from one play experience to another, both inside and outside, as well as moving from play to group times and meal times. Anticipating these changes and making suitable preparations develops resilience and the appropriate skills to approach unexpected situations with confidence. As each child is developing skills at different rates, some children require additional support to manage and adjust to these changes. Providing support and implementing suitable strategies to make these transitions more comfortable and purposeful is foremost in our minds when interacting with the children throughout the day. We have had some discussion with parents concerning these changes throughout the day. If you would like to discuss this further and the progress of each child, we would be more than happy to make ourselves available. Just reminding you that if you would like to catch up for a more detailed chat, there are meeting times available, a list is available on the wombat room. If the times do not suit you, please don't hesitate to suggest a more suitable time for you.



Cheers from the Wombat team,

Sally, Carolyn and Heather.



Echidna Room – Kristy, Ray and Louise

Echidna kindergarten room

We have almost reached the end of a busy term 1. It has been encouraging to see children becoming more settled within their environment, knowing where to find things and where to put them back, building their confidence regarding their relationships with other children and educators and developing their understanding and independence around routine tasks and daily activities.

Looking forward to term two we will be embedding three new programs:

Bush kinder (Monday only):

Due to begin on Monday April 16th. All families will receive their digital 'bush book' very soon which outlines dates, locations, maps etc. As you are probably already aware, we recently received notification of planned burn offs during autumn in the Kalimna Park location. Although the burn site is not where bush kinder operates, as a precaution we will **not use Kalimna Park during the autumn season**. Therefore, during the months of April and May any scheduled visits to Kalimna Park will now relocate to the Campbells Creek site (adjustments have been made to the calendar within your bush book). Kristy will get confirmation from DELWP that all planned burn offs in Kalimna Park are finished before our visits to that site are due to resume from June onwards.

Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA):

ELLA is a digital language program for preschool children. The program is an Australian Government initiative where children learn language through applications ('apps'), called *The Polyglots*. The apps are used on tablet devices and have been specifically designed for preschool children. We anticipate a term 2 start. Fortunately we have received funding from the Department of Education and Training to help with the purchase of tablet devices and as soon as we have these we will get the program underway. The language we will be focussing on is **Spanish**

For families wanting more information we have a small number of brochures at the centre, alternatively please access the following website for information about the ELLA program.

<https://www.ella.edu.au/>



Letterland:

Letterland is a phonics-based approach to teaching reading, writing and spelling to 3-8 year olds that was first developed in the UK. The Letterland characters transform letter shapes into child-friendly pictograms that in an imaginary place called Letterland. Simple stories about the Letterland characters, explain the full range of dry phonics facts so that children are motivated to listen, to think and to learn. These stories explain letter sounds & shapes, allowing children over time to progress to word building, reading and writing.

For families wanting more information please chat with Kristy or Sarah (Educational

Leader) alternatively you can access the Letterland website <http://www.letterland.com/>



For those families that have not yet had a chance to return their child's *All About Me* book, if you could do that as soon as possible both ray and I would appreciate it. If you need another copy please just let us know!



Thank you all,

From the Echidna team.

Reminders for 2018:

- ❖ A reminder to please send an appropriate change of clothes with your child.
- ❖ It's Hat time! Please remember to pop your child's labelled sun hat into their bag. If you could also assist your child to apply some sunscreen on arrival that would also be gratefully appreciated. Remember to stamp their hand so we know this has happened.
- ❖ Please bring a piece or two of fruit daily.
- ❖ Please remember to sign in and out on arrival and departure.



Lisa Chester MP with some of the staff and children at Castlemaine Childcare Cooperative on International Women's Day.



Dear Families,

15 March 2018

Educators at Castlemaine Childcare Centre are involved in the *Big Steps* campaign - protesting the low wages and poor conditions of the early childhood sector.

The “Walk Off” action first began in 2015 in response to the inaction of the federal government to adequately fund early childhood education.

The Big Steps campaign, at its core, has always been about pressuring government to fund professional wages for educators and to address the issue of rising costs for parents.

Educators at Carinya want to communicate personally to you, our families, why we have made the decision to take part in the Big Steps rally on Tuesday 27 March.

Your child’s Educators are dedicated to making a positive contribution to the lives of children and families in the critical early years.

The Committee of Management of Castlemaine Childcare, representative of the community of families, has placed great emphasis on quality Early Childhood Education and Care and the vital role of Educators in this service (as well as more broadly for all children and families) since its inception and this is evident in the respect and esteem in which Educators are held by parents, the continuing high levels of education of Educators and ongoing commitment to professional development, the low turnover of staff and the well-deserved reputation of Carinya within the Castlemaine and district community. We are rated as an **Exceeding** Service.

We are advocating for the right of all families to access affordable, high quality early childhood education services, regardless of their income. We have an opportunity through the *Big Steps* campaign to advocate on behalf of all Educators and especially for those who do not have a voice and are among the lowest paid **professionals** in Australia.

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) is a sector predominantly employing women and is greatly affected by the gender pay gap. Average earnings are 30% lower for ECEC when compared with other sectors and especially to those that predominantly employ men with equivalent levels of qualifications.

Restructuring the early childhood sector would ensure proper funding and close the gender pay gap.

The Government is asked to commit to the vital work of Early Childhood Educators and education and to fund professional wages. We believe the government has an obligation to fund **all levels of education**.

Staff at Carinya have voted to participate in a “Walk-off” action calling for Equal Pay, at 2.00pm on Tuesday 27 March 2018.

We understand that closing early on Tuesday 27 March will cause some inconvenience for you and it is not a decision made lightly. This is a crucial issue and we appreciate the support provided by families to this action.

Please feel free to talk to Educators at the Centre should you require any further information on any of these issues.

Thank you for your support

Regards,

Educators of Carinya



Mt Alexander

Family Day Care

Carinya Early Education Hub

family day care @jane's

I live in Barkers Creek on ten acres with our six horses, our dog Savannah and Poetry, our black cat.

My family day care service offers a nurturing, happy, loving home environment supporting the development of each child as an individual. The bonds and relationships I develop with the children I care for, and their families, is the foundation of my family day care service. I aim to create a wholesome, supportive, secure environment for children to flourish in.

Routines become an important part of each day as they help provide security and develop self-awareness, self-esteem confidence, patience and consideration. Routines bring a structure to the day that allows consistency therefore providing a feeling of belonging and maximise opportunities for learning.

With that in mind it has been a very busy start to the year welcoming children back and new children to the group. We have been working at settling into our daily rhythm creating a sense of security and belonging for children and their families.

One of our daily rituals is a blessing we say each time we share a meal. The children and I hold hands and say...

*Blessings on the blossom,
blessings on the fruit,
blessings on the leaves and stems and
blessings on the root.
Blessings on our morning tea/lunch.*

The children enjoy this ritual and the reverence of it settles the children into their morning tea or lunch.

We have shared many wonderful moments already this year sharing stories of our holidays, making music together, drawing, clapping, ballgames, walks, reading, dressing up, feeding horses and many more activities. Most importantly, the heat of the summer has brought with it the fun and exploration of water play, not to mention it's cooling effects for both the children and myself! We have also enjoyed stories around our summer table.



we have enjoyed many stories.

Outside play contributes to the development of large muscle skills and can be a time to enjoy quiet contemplation.



Our summer table where



Water play has been fun and kept us cool!



We look forward to a busy year full of adventure, fun, new friends, kindness, caring and belonging.

Jane Edwards

I have vacancies for 2018.
Please give me a call
on 0419 116680
if you require
care for your child.
I care for babies upwards.
Jane Edwards

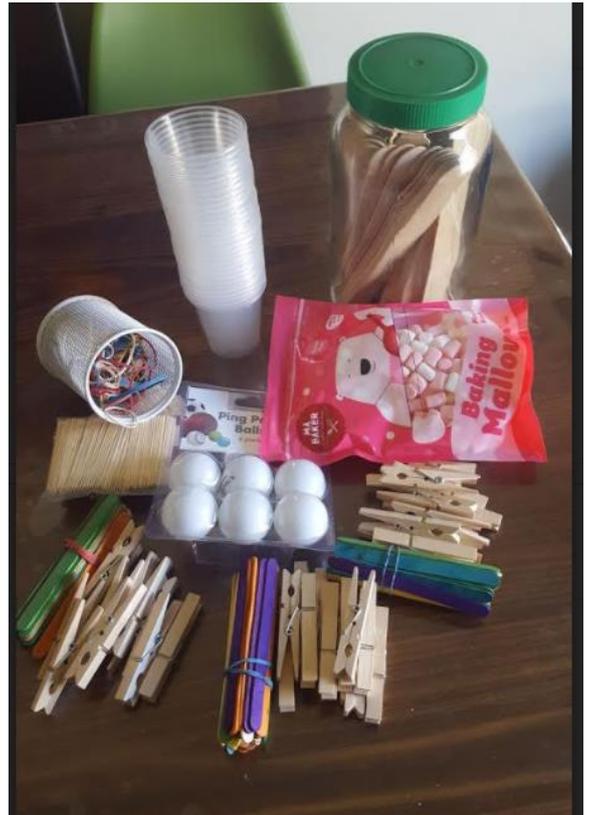
Hasn't it been a busy start to the year?

Well mine was. You see I do School Holiday care and with quite a few extra children it got busy. It was S.T.E.M to the rescue.

What is S.T.E.M.....Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

How does this work with Primary aged children or Pre-Kinder children.....Easier than you think it can work with Lego, Plastic Cups even Hot Wheels.

Hot Wheels was extremely popular. Tracks were made in the sand with tight corners, hills and tunnels. Plastic cups made towers, the tallest you could get with 20 cups and Lego was built into fast, slow, tall, short and balloon operated machines.



Deannes Family Daycare now has vacancies Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday.

Kinder Drop off and Pick up available.

Call 040 892 2904

But now is the exact opposite. So many of the children I have had in my care left for Kindergarten or School. These are children I have had in my care since they were babies. I have loved seeing them grow into amazing young children full of wonder, excitement, fear and mostly confidence for their new adventure ahead. Parents have sighed, laughed and cried about their babies taking this next step. I have heard a lot of

"But he's still so little" And "I don't know if he's ready yet"

I have been able to support not only the children I look after but the parents, brothers or sisters though this time. It's an exciting and scary time for all.

So, to my BIG kids Hendy, Phoenix, Arienna, Athena and Angel I can't wait to hear your new adventures have been.

Cheer Deanne.



Deannes Family Daycare now has vacancies Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday.

Kinder Drop off and Pick up available.

Call 040 892 2904

We would love to see you at our

Autumn Working Bee



We need a hands on deck to get our new wicking veggie garden beds up and running for the new season.

Your children are welcome to come along and help.

BYO garden tools.

See Ray for more details.

Where: Carinya kitchen garden

When: Saturday 24th March

Time: 9am – 12pm

