



## Welcome to our April Newsletter

*We acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung and the Taungurung clans on which the business of Castlemaine Childcare Co-operative - incorporating Mt Alexander Family Day Care and Castlemaine Child care Centre - takes places and we recognise elders past, present and emerging.*

**Concerns?** - Do you know what to do and who to speak to when you have concerns with your account or with your child's care or education account?

**FDC – For all account issues, please contact Lisa at the office on 5472 3665.**

**LDC – For all account issues, please contact Rebecca at the office on 5472 3665.**

If you have concerns with any aspect of your child's care, please speak to your child's educator. If you feel that you have not reached an understanding or require further information, for **Family Day Care** please contact Lisa at the Coordination Unit on 5472 3665 and for **Centre-based Long Day Care (Carinya)**, please contact Rebecca on 5472 3665. If you still feel that you have been unable to reach understanding or resolution, please contact the Director – Rose - on 5472 3665. If resolution is not reached, there are other avenues available to you. We welcome your feedback and wish to resolve concerns in an open manner. Please do not hesitate to broach your concerns with us.

**Paying Fees – Thank you for your prompt payment of fees,** which is hugely important to our organisation. In **FDC, fees are charged in arrears**, therefore fees are due for payment as soon as the invoice is generated as the service – care of the children – has already been provided. FDC educators are paid when invoices are generated, so it is vitally important for family day accounts to be paid on time as we have paid out money before we have received money. In **LDC, fees are charged in advance** and payments are to be maintained **two weeks in advance** as per our fee policy. When fees are paid promptly, less time is used by the leadership team following up unpaid accounts and debts and we would much rather spend that time on improving our service to families and children.

## Important Dates

ANZAC Day - **25 April 2019**  
CLOSED

Bulb orders due back **26 April**

Photo orders due back **8 May**  
forms available in the foyer

2020 Kindergarten Information  
Evening – **27 May, 7pm**  
All interested parents invited.

Queen's Birthday - **10 June 2019**  
CLOSED

## 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://castlemainechildcarecoop.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 and changes and view subsidies via this app.**

## Educational Leader

Through team reflections, we have identified that we often link our programs, and children's learning and observations to the National Quality Frameworks but have perhaps not informed families of what this means regarding their child's/ren's learning and development.

The National Quality Framework is the plan of the Australian government to promote quality outcomes for children in their education and care environments. There are several components of the NQF including National Law and Regulations, the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and the National Quality Standards (NQS). Together, these components help to set a national benchmark for children's services and help shape our curriculum design and implementation.

The frameworks already underpin our everyday decisions around operational requirements and practice and are a key focus for the leadership team in 2019. We have been un-packing each document to understand and reflect on how we currently use them, re-imagining how they could potentially be used within our service. This focus is to ensure, as a team, we can provide rich and meaningful experiences for children and to drive continuous improvement across the service.

## Centre Fundraising News

Thank you all for your support with the **Easter Raffle!** Winners were drawn at 12pm on Thursday 18 April, just in time for chocolate to land in the homes of the lucky winners.

First Prize - The Say family

Second Prize - The Walker family

Third Prize – The Hart family

We raised \$753 that will be spent on upgrading outdoor areas. Thank you to Maddy from the Possum room for initiating and organising this fundraiser. Thank you Maddy!



**Current Fundraiser is the Bulb Drive.** We have a brochure of beautiful bulbs for you to purchase with money going towards new outdoor equipment. Orders due back **April 26.**

From our **Annual Christmas Shopping tour**, we are expecting our **outdoor boards** to arrive very soon. Our focus is on sustainability as well as suitability when ordering equipment for the centre so that we can care for and maintain equipment for years to come.

## 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**

### **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.**

## Koala Room with Nat and Cedella

The infant and toddler years set the scene for the joy of being active for life. Physical skills enhance emotional, intellectual and social development. For children to fully engage in play, they need their bodies to function and respond so that they can explore, manipulate and move effectively. Children learn basic movement skills in order to lead a physically active and healthy life. Over the past few weeks we have observed the Koala children using large muscle groups to... crawl, stand independently, climb and pull themselves up on things. We continue to add new challenges to our program both indoors and outdoors to enhance the children's physical skills.



We hope you all have a very enjoyable Easter break and eat lots of chocolate just like we will.

Nat and Cedella



## Possum Room with Demi, Maddy, Emily and Ange

Over the year in the Possum room, self-help skills are a big focus. We encourage and support the possum children in all different areas, such as hand washing, sunscreen, dressing, looking after our environment and much more. Many children can now access their drink bottles for between meal drinks. All drink bottles are kept in a basket at the children's level and to help them identify their own drink bottle, the children's photos are attached. Could all parents please bring in a bottle for their children if they have not already done so. We had a lovely time on Nature Day last Thursday at the Botanical Gardens.



## Kangaroo Room with Sue Felicity Lisa Gemma and Mel

A big 'THANKYOU' to Yoann –Clancy's dad for his recent contribution to our program.

Yoann read a familiar story "The Hungry Caterpillar" to the children in French, then read Clancy's favourite story and sang a song in French. This is a great introduction for the Kangaroo children in appreciating cultural diversity and broadening their knowledge of the world in which we live.

We invite any parents who feel inclined to offer time to share their own '**special powers & interests**' with the Kangaroo children in the future. The children are a great respectful audience and the staff are always interested in learning new knowledge, techniques, experiences & strategies! Please see Felicity or Sue if you feel you can contribute to our program!

We recently had a very large elm tree cut down in our yard (removed due to elm beetle disease). The logs have been left in our yard to ultimately create a natural climbing play space for our children. If any parents have inclination, energy or expertise in helping us create this play space please let Sue know.

We are regularly encouraging children's independence skills through offering safe challenges daily and embracing resilience. The children have been very interested in serving their own drinks and food at the table recently; this increases children's confidence in their abilities and enhances their self-esteem. When a child feels safe, secure and supported in these daily actions, we notice an increased development in their emerging autonomy, independence, resilience, interdependence, and sense of agency.

**EMOTIONS:** An important topic for this age group - we have been focusing on naming our emotions, recognising emotions in others, talking about how emotions make us feel and how did this emotion come about? What makes you upset? What makes you feel happy? We are also talking about what is appropriate behaviour with our emotions and how we can help others deal with their emotions. It's a very complex topic which has been the start of a lot of conversations.

What can we do if we see someone is sad? The favourite answer from 2yr old's is "give them a hug." If that doesn't work, we will "tell a teacher." We have been enjoying some books at group time that demonstrate "good friends" behaviour which the children have enjoyed listening to as well. Self-regulation of emotions is a critical skill that develops in early childhood and underpins all future learning and wellbeing.

Early childhood education and long day care settings play a key role in supporting this development through reflective practice, strong relationships with children and families, and embedding self-regulation support in all programming: our play, language, group games, music and movement are important contexts for this work.

We invite and encourage you to take time to read our monthly program on the wall (just inside the door) and our display/reflection book that is written in and updated regularly with detailed information about our topics of interest and current investigations and learning. A conversation with your child relevant to what is happening for them at Carinya strengthens your child's connection and belonging. This will also help develop your child's confidence in language, communication skills & the art of conversation.

If you have any queries or topics you would like to discuss, please feel free to come talk to your child's educators.



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

Welcome back after our lovely much-loved Easter break. We do hope that you all had a chance to enjoy some family time together, relax a little and catch up on a few things that you may have been missing out on. We all enjoyed our break, a chance to recharge and reconnect.

This leads onto one of many important things we will be focusing on this term; our families! We place a strong focus on developing strong connections with our children and our families within our centre. We understand the wide diversity of families and would like to continue to support each families culture and their values. Traditionally we have celebrated both Mother's and Father's Day with activities and by assisting each child to make a gift for their parent or parents. To celebrate the importance of all members of our family both immediate and wider generations, we would instead like to embrace National Families Week. This week is held 15–21 May 2019. Prior to this week, we will be asking each child to share their ideas on how they would like to celebrate the important members in their family. During our group times we will be reading literature with a strong focus on families. If you have any favourite books at home that we may read to the children, we would love to borrow them. Please send in a picture of your family if you have not done so yet, to incorporate into our program and share with the rest of the children.

*"Families are society's most important building block. Strong families equate to strong communities because they embody caring for others, connectedness with people and providing hope, support and comfort."*  
Dr Brian Babington, Chief Executive Officer, National Families Week - Families Australia.

The change in season has brought a new sense of wonderment in the Wombat Room, especially regarding natural phenomena. The children have been noticing and marvelling about changes in the outdoor environment, leading to discussions about frost on the cars in the morning, changes in the temperature and colour of the leaves on the trees.

At the beginning of April, the Wombat children started an ongoing journey to learn about plastic pollution. To support the children's understandings about the permanency of plastic, and issues of plastic pollution, we started an experiment observing the changes (or lack of) in plastic objects placed in a clear fish tank of water. The children made predictions about what they thought would happen, many thought the plastic would melt or break up. This experiment will run for the remainder of the year and we also hope to introduce a similar experiment observing the decomposition of various materials (including plastic) in soil. We hope that through learning about plastic we will be able to assess, and hopefully reduce the amount of plastic that we use, such as plastic bags for dirty clothes and single use plastic at the craft table.

Thanks, Heather, Carolyn and Ray.



## Echidna Room – Kristy, Sally and Ray

Our excursion to Sprout Bakery on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April was fun! We met one of the bakers who showed us the dough that he had made that morning and then mixed up a new batch to show the children how it all works. We looked at the wood fired oven (heated by burning small wood pellets) and made plans to return one Thursday or Friday to purchase fresh bread and make our own lunch in the botanical gardens!



Following on from the Sprout experience, Eliza Tree who is an artist exhibiting her work at the Mill, invited the children in for a closer look. Eliza has painted representations of the local landscape during pre-colonisation times with specific focus on the native Flora and Fauna that would have been present. The children were able to recognise some animals and Eliza spoke about familiar creeks and mountains in our community that the children recognised.



The Echidna and Wombat children made hot cross buns in the lead up to Easter. The recipe used is from the Taste website

<https://www.taste.com.au/recipes/hot-cross-buns-5/517fbd1f-b316-44bc-94bd-f7a1db3c8a12>

Echidna's led the baking on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wombats on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>.

The buns were gone very fast: they were delicious!



Thank you from the Kinder Team.



**Castlemaine  
Child Care Co-operative**

Carinya Early Education Hub

# 3yo & 4yo Kindergarten Information Evening For 2020 Enrolments

**Monday 27 May 2019 7pm**

This evening provides an insight into the rich and wonderful program that Castlemaine Child Care Co-operative Kindergarten offers.

You will have an opportunity to meet our Kindergarten teacher and ask any questions about this important year of education.

Castlemaine Child Care Co-operative 15-17 Templeton St.

For more information phone (03) 5472 3665

RSVP: Thursday May 23, 2019



## **Mt Alexander Family Day Care**

**Deanne Storey**  
**Inglewood**



**I believe that it is very important for young children to have some time in their day to play outside whatever the weather. I place signs in my FDC service and Kindergarten that says “It’s inappropriate clothing not inappropriate weather that makes outdoor play uncomfortable. Please send gumboots with your child”.**

**One of my best investments has been the purchase of all-in-one wet weather gear (from Muddlarks). These are being worn by my children in the photo below as we transition from outdoors to inside, putting the cover back on the sand pit.**



**My background for the past 46 years has been Primary School teaching, Family Day Care (both Fieldwork and now Educator) and Kindergarten Teaching.**

**I am married with one daughter and 2 Grandsons.**

As the only hobby I make time for is gardening, I enjoy spending time with the children growing various flowers and vegetables. Our greatest success, so far, were our beautiful sunflowers that grew as high as the shed.

Lots of learning here...especially measuring!

# Aberdene Children's Service

## Family Day Care

I am a strong believer in the importance of high-quality early childhood education and care. This is apparent in my environment, my interactions with children and our play-based curriculum. I believe strongly in providing children with opportunities to engage in hands-on experiences that support their developmental needs while promoting exploration and independence.

### Who am I?

My name is Tracy and our service located on Taungurung Country in Puckapunyal, "Valley of the Winds". I am an early childhood professional with over 6 years' experience working with children from birth to 12 years.

Throughout my career in education and care, I have worked in Long Day Care and School Age Care, before transitioning into Family Day Care. As the Coordinator of an Exceeding Outside School Hours Service previously, my practices and pedagogical approach have adapted through continual professional development and ongoing study. I believe it is fundamental of my role as a Family Day Care Educator to be informed on practices that are high quality, age appropriate and current best practice.

I have worked with Early Childhood Australia, Charles Darwin University, ACECQA and Catholic Care in various roles. From hosting "A Spotlight on Quality" on behalf of ACECQA to highlight quality practices in the OSHC setting, supporting students in their studies and hosting placements, to mentoring and working alongside Educators in remote indigenous communities.

### What am I passionate about?

I am passionate about children learning about the world around them and the importance of sustainability within the program, conversations and experiences. As sustainability is an important aspect of the Early Years' Learning Framework as well as a hot topic within the community, I am passionate about sharing and seeking new knowledge alongside children.

I am also passionate and interested in culture. As I have travelled, worked with and met many different people I find culture intrigues me. It has become something I have found myself spending hours getting lost in conversations, stories and research into cultures, early childhood practices and traditions from all around the world.

### Qualifications:

- | Certificate III - Disability Support
  - | Certificate III - School Age Education & Care
  - | Diploma of Early Childhood Education & Care
  - | HLTAID004 – Provide an Emergency First Aid Response in an Education and Care Setting
- \*Includes CPR, Asthma and Anaphylaxis