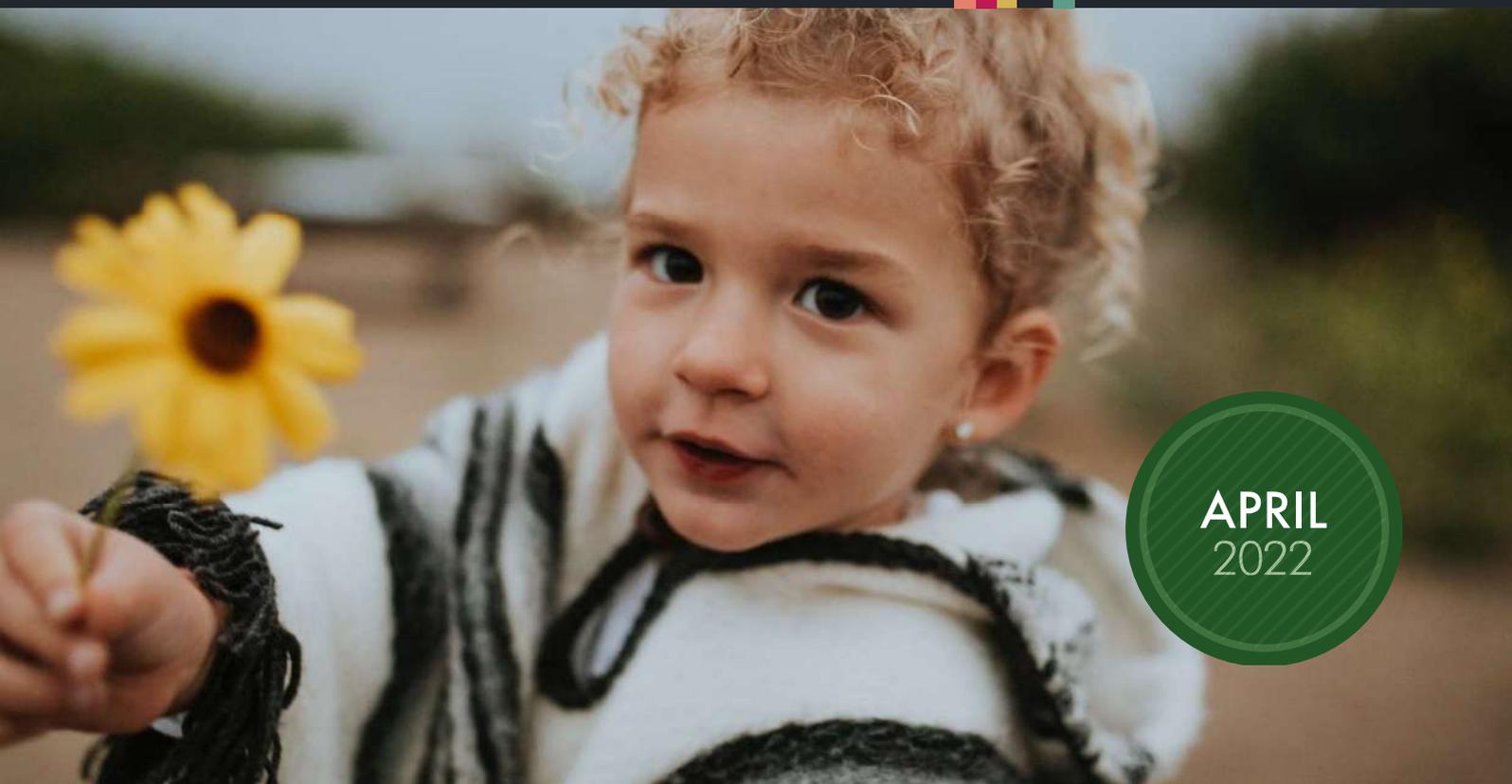


"IN THE LONG RUN, THE SHARPEST WEAPON OF ALL IS A KIND AND GENTLE SPIRIT." — ANNE FRANK



APRIL
2022

ON *this* MONTH

AT SERVICE NAME

Easter Disco ----- 14th

AROUND THE COUNTRY

World Autism Day ----- 2
Children's Book Day ----- 2
Ramadan ----- 2-May 1
Nature Play Week ----- 6 - 16
International Day of Human Space Flight ----- 12
Baisakhi Festival ----- 14
Easter ----- 15-18
Earth Day ----- 22
Anzac Day ----- 25
Pay It Forward ----- 28

Letter from the Director

Welcome to the April edition of our centre newsletter for 2022. This month saw us hold our first Centre Disco for the year, and I think we can all agree that it was a massive success.

Educators, children and families had such a wonderful evening dancing, eating, playing games but most importantly connecting with each other, whilst laughing and having fun.

Our village is growing and our Team are ever so grateful for the connections that we have made with families this term that we look forward to strengthen in term 2 as we continue to strive to work together to set and reach children's goals for their growth and development in the early years of life

We would like also to take this opportunity to remind parents, if they have not already, to work towards getting their account two weeks in advance. Please contact our centre office for support with navigating our OWNA app to make additional payments on your account to achieve this.

Don't forget to save the date for our Mother's day high Tea, the details are outlined on the last page of this newsletter



Room News

Early Learners Room

Welcome to the month of April. In our Early Learners room we have been building relationships and friendships with not only our children and educators but also with our Early Learners families. Everyday has been a new learning experience as they continue to develop confidence in their surroundings.

Abecedarian Learning Games and Conversational Reading helps with our language skills, these concepts focus around the importance of educators having one on one opportunities with children, as they discover new words and increase their speech capabilities.

Next month, sees the extension of different areas of learning and development through hands on discovery with "Under the sea." We are especially excited to extend children's fine motor, gross motor and sensory skills, as we create our own resources for the children to use in the room to extend their understandings.

Junior Early Years Room

Using different types of sensory items from pre-purchased to man-made, the children have exploring colours through sensory play this month. They have been engaged and enjoying learning the primary basic colours; green, blue, red and yellow, as well exploring different colours that they can make when mixing primary and secondary colours together, e.g. yellow and blue = green.

Children have also really enjoyed nature play adventures this week, using this opportunity to identify colours in the outdoor setting.

We are all busy preparing for our mothers day celebrations at the beginning of next month, stimulating conversations about "why do we love our mum". We have some beautiful "Mum" focused stories that we are excited to introduce in the upcoming weeks to stimulate these conversations further

Early Learners Room



Junior Early Years Room



Room News

Early Years Room

Our Early Years children have been busy and are enjoying learning the letters of the Alphabet. Nature play has been introduced in our room using loose parts such as sticks, rocks, leaves, pots, lids etc. This is great for the children as it helps expand their way of thinking, using their imaginations as well as developing communication and language skills. We enjoyed our bush walk at Carnation Park where we look for bugs, and sometimes we learn about the weather, and even do our alphabet collage using nature resources.

We have set up a Feelings area for the children to relax and calm their bodies down. Also we have been discussing different types of emotions and what they mean. Sad, Happy, Surprised and Angry etc.

We have also added the 'Taba Naba' song as part of our routine in the morning along with Zumba.

Next Month, we will continue with learning the letters of the Alphabet, supporting the children with their emotions and how to identify and regulate them. We will also be working on the children's fine motor skills and expanding their vocabulary. Supporting our children with their toilet training and self-help skills will also be continued.

Pre-Prep Room

Over the last month the children have been deciding on topics they want to explore and this had led to alien slime explorations, scrounging through the bushland for dinosaurs, building rocket ships and much much more.

We have officially identified dinosaurs as being our learning focus and it has been amazing exploring multiple areas of learning including mathematics, literacy and science as we explore the Prehistoric time.

We have been lucky enough to welcome Miss Liz into our room and we have been so excited and blessed by her utilisation of natural materials and innovative ideas. We have also welcomed new faces to our room and have developed further connections with one another!

Over the coming month we will be continuing with our dinosaur focus and will be completing dioramas for the room, and continuing with our learning across this topic. We cannot wait for you to see our incredible creations and learning! We will also be preparing wonderful gifts for Mother's Day and we are very excited for you to see what we create!

Early Years Room



Pre-Prep Room





NATURE PLAY WEEK – APRIL 6 - 16

Nature Play Week celebrates initiatives of all shapes and sizes that reconnect kids with nature and the outdoors. The week was developed collaboratively by individuals and organisations involved in the Kids in Nature Network.

Getting your children involved in Nature Play doesn't have to be expensive or time-consuming, it can be as simple as a visit to the local park where kids can roam free. [Find out more here](#)

ANZAC DAY – APRIL 25

Anzac Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915. It is the day on which we remember all Australians who served and died in war and on operational service past and present. The spirit of Anzac, with its qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity. [Visit your local council website for your local service.](#)

BANANA BLUEBERRY CINNAMON CRUNCH COOKIES



INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (160 grams) **mashed bananas** (approx. 3 bananas)
- 2 cups (240 grams) **almond meal** (ground almonds)
- 1/3 cup (80 ml) **pure maple syrup**
- 1 teaspoon **vanilla bean paste** (or extract)
- pinch of **salt**
- 3/4 cup (75 grams) **blueberries** (fresh or frozen)
- 1 teaspoon **cinnamon**
- 3 tablespoons **demerara sugar** (or brown sugar)

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 180 degrees Celsius. Line a cookie tray with baking paper and set aside.

Place the mashed bananas, almond meal, maple syrup, vanilla, cinnamon and salt into a large bowl and mix thoroughly to combine.

Gently fold through the blueberries.

Take heaped tablespoons of the mixture and shape into cookies. Arrange cookies on prepared tray and flatten slightly.

In a small bowl, place the cinnamon and sugar and mix to combine.

Sprinkle the top of each cookie with a little cinnamon sugar.

Bake for 14-16 minutes or until golden. Allow the cookies to cool completely on the tray. Enjoy x

Recipe and image from mylovelylittlelunchbox.com

Podcast Reviews

Road trip ready podcasts for kids of all ages!



CIRCLE ROUND | WBUR

Created and produced by parents of young children, WBUR's Circle Round adapts carefully-selected folktales from around the world into sound- and music-rich radio plays for kids ages 4 to 10.

Each 10- to 20-minute episode explores important issues like kindness, persistence and generosity. And each episode ends with an activity that inspires a deeper conversation between children and grown-ups.

FIERCE GIRLS | ABC

From skaters to singers, mountaineers to Mars mission-leaders. From the deep blue sea to the dark, black skies. Australia is full of girls who dare to do things differently. Adventurous girls.

Adventurous girls. Girls with guts and spirit. Girls who stand-up and say, "Watch out world, here I come!". Do you know what they are? They're FIERCE. These are their stories.

THIS KID LIFE | ARTY FARTY

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

This Kid Life is a podcast by the Sydney Opera House, where they unpack big ideas by little thinkers to find out what kids think about science, resilience, diversity and accessibility.

Arty Farty is the second season of This Kid Life. Arty Farty is a podcast for creative kids! These talks, discussions and stories will ignite the spark of imagination in our littlest listeners and remind them to always think and create on the edge of the possible!



FOCUS: 5 ways to cope with the stressful news cycle

(Each link in this article is an additional incredible resource to support you and your family. If the links aren't working for you follow the address in the source.)

Russia invaded Ukraine in March, and the world seems to have shifted. Even after weeks of bracing for an attack amid speculation, global tensions and diplomatic attempts to stave off invasion — the reality of conflict is always a shock to the system.

There are still so many more questions than answers.

Perhaps among the first batch on your mind: *How did we get here? What does this all mean?* Or maybe, *What does this mean for my life? What can I do about it?*

We've been asking ourselves the same things. What we have to offer you is the simple truth that sometimes when you don't have all the answers, it's OK to look for what you can control and seek comfort where you can.

A few ways you can support people in Ukraine include making donations to or spreading the word on this non-exhaustive list of organizations: UNICEF, Médecins Sans Frontiers'/Doctors Without Borders, Voices of Children, Sunflower of Peace and International Committee of the Red Cross. (Read more on ways you can help.)

While we wait for more information, don't forget to care for yourself in other ways:

Breathe. If you're feeling your body contracting or overheating, step away from whatever you're doing and take a deep breath. Here's a five-finger breathing exercise that can bring you back to the moment. Or if you want to take it a step further, try these meditation and mindfulness exercises for beginners.

Get moving. Do something that feels good for your body and helps you get out of your head. We've got lots of tools to help: whether that's deep cleaning or comfort decorating to create a cosier space, tips on learning a new skill or jump starting your exercise routine.

Nourish yourself. The kitchen is a safe space for a lot of us. Maybe this is the weekend that you finally re-create Grandpa's famous lasagne, or learn how to make a prettier pie, or maybe just lose yourself in some kitchen organization. Don't have every ingredient for that lovely Deb Perelman dessert? Don't stress — we've got you covered on how to make food substitutions, simple.

Stay connected. When the news is scary, it's easy to get lost in our own heads. Reach out to loved ones instead. That could look like sitting down to write an actual letter to a relative, spending time with neighbours, playing (or creating!) games with family, or



even taking the time to write down those generational stories. If your little ones are struggling to go to bed at the end of the day, try talking to them about the heavy news head-on.

Or sign off. Remember that it's OK not to be plugged into the news. By turning off your alerts or checking the headlines once or twice a day, you may be able to feel more grounded and prioritise yourself and loved ones.

In this turbulent time. It's important for all of us to stay informed citizens of the world, and also to remember: take it easy on yourself, and on each other.

TOP TIP FOR PROCESSING NEWS WITH KIDS:

Process your own emotions and make home a safe space.

Kids can see that we're on edge. They are naturally self-centred, and they'll assume your stress is about them. Be honest and tell them, "Dad/Mum is a little nervous about what's happening in the country." It's helpful for kids' social and emotional development to hear you naming your emotions. At the same time, it's not great for you or them to be mainlining the news 24/7, so try your hardest to turn off the TV or the radio, put away your phone and connect — especially over meals and other key moments during the day.

"We can control the amount of information. We can control the amount of exposure,"

Ask: "What have you heard and how are you feeling?" Give kids a safe space to reflect and share. And give yourself a chance to dispel any scary rumours or misinformation they may have come across. **And this is key: Your job, first and foremost, is to listen.**

Source: Tagle, Andee. (2022, February 25). 5 ways to cope with the stressful news cycle. Retrieved from <http://www.npr.org/2022/02/25/1083077194/news-anxiety-tips-self-care>

Life Kit (2021, January 15). Now Is A Good Time To Talk To Kids About Civics. Retrieved from <https://www.npr.org/2020/10/31/929578004/anxious-about-the-election-your-kids-can-tell-heres-how-to-talk-about-it>

ALPHABET PILLOW JUMPING

If your kiddos need to burn off some energy, this letter activity from *Toddler Approved* will be perfect. Use a stack of paper plates and write one giant letter on each one. Then use packing tape to secure each plate to a pillow and spread them around the room. Have the kids start on one side of the room and try to jump to the other without touching the floor. As they jump to each new pillow, have them say the letter or letter sound.

Source: toddlerapproved.com/2014/02/alphabet-pillow-jumping.html



HEALTH & SAFETY: Illness and the changing seasons

With the warmer parts of autumn finally giving way to chilly mornings and earlier sunsets, you might begin to notice a few more people with a sneeze and snuffle. While the coldest parts of winter – the peak of cold and flu season – are still a few months away, that doesn't mean you should be complacent about your health. A surprisingly high number of people fall sick during that little sliver of the year where summer becomes autumn, but why? And what can you do about it?

A more welcoming environment - The month-long period that straddles the end of summer and the beginning of autumn is a time of big environmental changes, and it's precisely that shift that causes people to be so susceptible to illness. But despite the name, it's not the drop in temperature that directly causes colds. The shift in temperature allows a different variety of viruses the chance to flourish. The rhinovirus – the most common cause of the common cold – as well as the influenza virus all flourish in cooler, drier weather. In addition to that we have to wait and see what strains of Covid-19 may appear. While winter is definitely colder, in many parts of the world it's also a lot wetter, making those 17°C, clear sky days perfect weather for catching something.

The perfect storm - On top of the most common causes of the common cold coming out to play, the beginning of autumn is also the beginning of allergy season for many unlucky Australians. While spring is normally seen as the peak season for allergies, it's not just pollen that's the trigger for hayfever. While not as common as grass pollen allergies, as many as one in five people experience hayfever symptoms from weed pollen, triggered by exposure to pollen from plants such as ragweed, parthenium weed, pellitory weed and Patterson's curse. The end result? Viruses are flourishing just at the time that much of the population is starting to sneeze and experience runny noses, turning many people into potential cold and flu carriers.

So, how to prevent illness in children as the seasons change?

Treat allergies *Problem:* If your child suffers cold symptoms such as a constant runny nose or a cough at a certain time of the year the cause could be seasonal allergies or asthma according to the American College of Allergy Asthma & Immunology. *Solution:* If your child's cold symptoms have not resolved after several weeks consult their doctor for a referral to an allergist. These medical professionals can test to see if constant seasonal symptoms could be due to allergies rather than illness

Reduce stress - *Problem:* Stress can weaken individuals' immunity. Preschool and school can at times be stressful on children. When children cannot cope well with normal stressors or the stress is extreme it can weaken the body's ability to fight off bacteria and viruses. *Solution:* Keep the lines of communication open with your child so you can help them navigate these changes throughout the year especially as new seasonal activities begin. Watch signs of stress including withdrawal from favourite activities sleeping problems stomach aches, headaches, a negative attitude or even signs of anti-social behaviour such as lying or stealing.

Improve nutrition *Problem:* Nutrients from vitamins minerals carbohydrates protein and fat are essential to a healthy immune system so that it can prevent illness according to the Mayo Clinic. The poor nutrition quality in a steady diet of processed and fast foods that are high in added sugar and fat can weaken your child's immunity making them more susceptible to viruses and bacteria that thrive in colder weather. *Solution:* The Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine suggested choosing whole plant foods such as fruits vegetables whole grains beans and nuts as the basis of snacks and meals. Whole plant foods deliver all your basic nutrients — along with a healthy dose of fibre and antioxidants — with less fat no cholesterol and no added salt sugar or oil.

Sleep better *Problem:* Adequate sleep will help your child have a healthier immune system and can support better school performance behaviour memory and overall mental health.

Infants (4-12 months) needs 12 to 16 hrs sleep a day
Toddlers (1-2 years) need 11 to 14 hrs sleep a day
Pre-schoolers (3-5 years) need 10 to 13 hrs sleep a day
School children ages 6-12 need nine to 12 hrs of sleep a day

Solution: The AAP recommended keeping all screen devices — such as TVs computers laptops tablets and phones — out of children's bedrooms. Make sleep a priority and create a bedtime wind-down routine (without any electronics) that begins at least one hour before bedtime.

Source: Wilson Medic One (2018). Why people get sick when the seasons change (and how to avoid it!). Retrieved from wilsonmedicone.com.au/blog/Pages/Why-People-Get-Sick-When-the-Seasons-Change.aspx

Reid Health (March 20, 2022). How to prevent illness in children as the seasons change. Retrieved from <https://www.reidhealth.org/blog/how-to-prevent-illness-in-children-as-the-seasons-change>



EASTER EGG FOIL ART

It is that yummy time of year when there is lots of nicely wrapped chocolate scattered around our home. Instead of throwing out the foil, recycle it. It doesn't matter if it has been unwrapped neatly or torn it can all be used.

Materials needed: Easter foil wrapping, Permanent Marker, Clear contact, Scissors.

1. Collect all of your left over foil wrapping.
2. Before peeling off the back of the contact ask your child for some picture ideas. Draw it for them on the non-sticky side with permanent marker.



3. Peel off the backing and show your child how to stick the foil onto the contact. Allow them to finish their artwork.
4. Once they finished stick another piece of contact over the back or stick it onto a piece of cardboard ready to display.

Source: cookcleancraft.com/2013/03/easter-egg-foil-art-tutorial/



5 WAYS TO PRACTICE GRATITUDE WITH YOUR KIDS

This article is written by Maryam Abdullah, Ph.D. She is the Parenting Program Director of the Greater Good Science Centre. She is a developmental psychologist with expertise in parent-child relationships and children's development of prosocial behaviours.

1. DISCOVER WHAT GRATITUDE MEANS TO YOU

Gratitude can be a difficult concept for adults to grasp let alone little ones. **Maryam says gratitude is really about recognising goodness outside of ourselves.** Goodness can be big things, like happiness, love, family, and health. It can also be small things, like hugs, green lights, and ice cream. It's up to *you* to decide the goodness you want to recognise. Once you understand how gratitude aligns with your own values, you can start talking about it with your kids.

2. SHARE HOW GOODNESS MAKES YOU FEEL

Practicing gratitude doesn't always have to be a formal act of recognition. It can be as simple or easy as thanking your child for a hug or kiss.

3. ASK YOUR KIDS ABOUT THEIR GRATITUDE

Kids aren't always great at describing their feelings. **Maryam recommends sparking conversations based on four parts that make up the gratitude experience.** What we **NOTICE** in our lives for which we can be grateful. How we **THINK** about why we have been given those things. How we **FEEL** about the things we have been given. What we **DO** to express appreciation in turn. Asking Notice-Think-Feel-Do questions is a simple way to scaffold your child's understanding or perception of something that's good in their life.

4. ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS TO DOCUMENT THEIR GRATITUDE

Try a **Gratitude Journal**: Recognising goodness in writing can be a ritual in the morning when they wake up or in the evening as a reflection about how the day went.

Photo Essays: If writing isn't the right activity for your child, they could take pictures of things that they're grateful for and build up a library of photos of the good things and gifts in their lives.

5. PRACTICE TURNING GRATITUDE INTO A HABIT

Each time you demonstrate and talk about gratitude with your kids, you're helping them build valuable skills for their emotional toolbox.

Bradley, Cailyn. (2020). *5 Ways to Practice Gratitude with Your Kids*. Retrieved from www.kiwico.com/blog/2020/11/19/5-ways-to-practice-gratitude-with-your-kids/



We would like to invite all our beautiful mums (or significant female role models in our children's lives) to a special morning tea on Friday, 6th May 2022 from 10:30am to 11:30am.

We hope that you can join us so that children can acknowledge their love ones for everything that they do for them every day.

This invitation is open to all families regardless of your child's day of attendance

RSVP is mandatory for catering purposes, please contact Miss Peta to RSVP your attendance
We look forward to seeing you all there.



Chalk Obstacle Course

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

You will need chalk and a safe cement space (driveway, path).

Make a **start point** and work your way around your driveway (or wherever you are making the obstacle course) by drawing different activities. Include many different tasks such as *dancing, jumping, hopping, turning around, jumping on 1 foot, clapping, going backwards*, etc. You could even include rocks or other objects and create a task around it. It's a good idea to squeeze in some "break" activities such as *make a wish, give high five to the sky, say your name, empty your pockets*, etc. It makes the obstacle course more fun.

Source: playivities.com/sidewalk-obstacle-course/