

PEACE IS NOT WHEN EVERYONE AGREES. IT IS WHEN WE CAN RESPECT OUR DISAGREEMENTS AND STILL PLAY IN THE SANDBOX TOGETHER - UNKNOWN



AUGUST 2020

# ON *this* MONTH

WATERFORD WEST EDUCATION AND CARE CENTRE

Child Health Nurse Visit -----25

## AROUND THE COUNTRY

- Dental Health Week ----- 3-9
- International Day of the World’s Indigenous People ---- 9
- International Youth Day ----- 12
- World Elephant Day ----- 12
- National Science Week ----- 15-23
- Keep Australia Beautiful Week -----17-23
- Book Week -----24-28

## Letter from the Director

Welcome to our Newsletter for August 2020. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new families to our centre, as well as thank our existing families for their ongoing contribution to developing programs at our centre that are inclusive of all children. Our parent teacher interviews and parent returned parent surveys from last month have helped us to develop goals for children for the second half of the year, and we are all really excited to see what the few months brings!

Last month, saw us recommence Bush Kindy, Swimming and Little Munchkins. Despite having to reinforce previous restrictions around parents not coming into the centre, we have managed this well and appreciate everyone’s support and understanding throughout this period of time.

Reminder to all families to please ensure that your account is in advance two weeks as per our centre policy, and that it is being paid regularly according to your allocated cycle. If you are having ongoing issues with your account, please see our Centre Director for support.

Don’t forget to LIKE us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with upcoming centre events.



# Room News

## Early Learners Room

What a busy month we have had, learning about vehicles from construction to Emergency. This month we welcomed Zayda and George to our room. Zayda and George settled well into our routine, showing a sense of Belonging as they made friends and engaged in learning experiences within their new environment.

Footprints (part of our sensory experience) were used in our art activities associated with vehicles. We made cars, Trucks, tractors and caterpillars and read books that showed pictures of the vehicles in construction as well as watched a show called “Blippi” which focuses on segments around different types of vehicles. During these segments we looked at parts of the vehicles, what job they do and the sounds they make. “Muddy Truck” was our favourite book of the month to read as we counted and learnt colours throughout the story.

National Tree Day saw us starting to make our outdoor environment Green, planting many plants and herbs for the children to engage in sustainable practices. This month, we will continue to extend children’s learning and care for the environment with discussions about why plants are important and what is needed to help them grow

With lots of centre events this month including, Dental Week, Science Week and Book Week we are excited to see where children’s interests take us.

## Junior Early Years Room

Last month was one of our busiest months. We welcomed families back into our service, and completed children’s summative assessments, from here we organised parent teacher interviews and developed goals for our children to work towards for the second half of the year

Our Little friends took on an interest in Cars, Trucks, Trains and Building (Construction). We extended this in learning about the sound each car/truck makes, and even brought in the Alphabet road to further our phonic awareness.

This month we will continue extending our language and literacy using learning games and conversational reading, and of course making connections with upcoming centre events, including dental week, science week and our favourite event, book week.



# Room News

## Early Years Room

I would like to say welcome to the new families in the centre and in the room it is very exciting to see new faces and see our group of learners growing. In the last couple of weeks we have been concentrating on restoring the routines, consistency and flow of the room, coming into the second half of the year we are seeing our Early years friends mature and begin to that this is their room and take more pride in our indoor environment.

The children have expressed further interest in our outdoor environment and we have extended this by adding new plants, vegetables and herbs to our garden area and planter boxes, which they are all keen to help grow.

This month sees us celebrate national events such as, Dental week, Science week and Book week we cannot wait to see how our interest in superheros influences our new learnings and understandings.

## Pre Prep Room

Pre-Prep have enjoyed a spectacular July. Our month was kept busy with the returning of swimming lessons, photos, dental visits and Munchkin league starting back up. We also explored National Tree Day which saw us completing nature scavenger hunts. Our Talk Time consisted of the children sharing their favourite Superhero or character and why this was their favourite selection. Our take home buddy, Fluffy the Slothy has been visiting friends and having all sorts of wonderful adventures.

This month has begun with us exploring dental week and using experiments and activities to learn all about keeping our teeth healthy and strong.

Thank you to all of our families for your continued input into our program and for emailing photos regularly that we can use for our talk time sessions. Moving forward this month the children are learning all about space and have shown a particular strong interest in rockets and learning how rockets work. Please remember to pack spare clothes and a water bottle for pre-prep every day and keep labelling all items as the cooler weather has meant layers are coming off and going on with potential for things to be lost.





**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY – AUGUST 4**

Children's Day is a time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to celebrate the strengths and culture of their children. The day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, as well as learn about the crucial impact that culture, family and community play in the life of every child. Our theme *Elders of Tomorrow* highlights the uniqueness and importance of the knowledge and wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, starting in childhood. **Find our more here.**

**KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL WEEK – AUGUST 17 - 23**  
Keep Australia Beautiful Week is held late August each year, to raise awareness about the simple things we can all do in our daily lives to reduce our impact on the environment and encourage action. **Doing your part is simple, find our more here.**

**LEMON, THYME & HONEY CHICKEN**



PREP 25 min | COOK 35 min | SERVES 3-4

**INGREDIENTS**

**Chicken**

- 6 chicken drumsticks
- zest of 1 lemon
- 6 sprigs of fresh thyme
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- sea salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 tablespoon honey **\*\*Not suitable for bubs under 1 year, leave drumsticks honey free**

**Pesto pasta salad**

- 500 grams short pasta (such as fusilli, penne or rigatoni)
- 3-4 heaped tablespoons of basil pesto
- 1 punnet of cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cucumber, thinly sliced
- 2 cups rocket
- 1/3 cup pecorino/parmesan, shaved
- 4 bocconcini balls, roughly torn

**METHOD:**

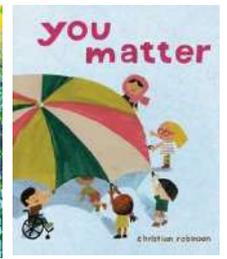
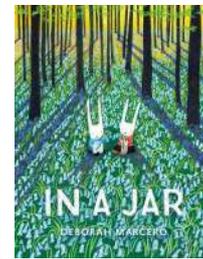
**Chicken** - Preheat oven to 200.C. Place the chicken on a lined oven tray. Zest a lemon over the chicken, adorn with thyme sprigs, drizzle with olive oil and season with sea salt and freshly ground pepper. Roast for 30 minutes, drizzle with honey and cook for another 5 minutes or until cooked, golden and caramelised. Serve with pesto pasta salad.

**Pesto pasta salad** - Bring a large pot of salted water to the boil and cook pasta. Drain and rinse under cold water. In a large bowl place, the cooked pasta and pesto and mix to combine. Add the cherry tomatoes, cucumber, rocket, pecorino and bocconcini balls and toss to combine. Serve with golden roasted lemon, thyme and honey chicken.

Recipe and Image from 'mylovelylittlelunchbox.com'

**Book reviews**

*Beautiful picture books that promote strength, courage and unity.*



**THE BUG GIRL**

**Sophia Spencer and Margaret McNamara | AGE 4 - 8**

*Real-life 7-year-old Sophia Spencer was bullied for loving bugs until hundreds of women scientists rallied around her.*

Now Sophie tells her inspiring story in this picture book that celebrates women in science, bugs of all kinds, and the importance of staying true to yourself.

**IN A JAR**

**Deborah Marcer | AGE 3 - 7**

*Llewellyn, a little rabbit, is a collector. He gathers things in jars--ordinary things like buttercups, feathers, and heart-shaped stones.*

Then he meets another rabbit, Evelyn, and together they begin to collect extraordinary things--like rainbows, the sound of the ocean, and the wind just before snow falls. And, best of all, when they hold the jars and peer inside, they remember all the wonderful things they've seen and done. But one day, Evelyn has sad news: Her family is moving away. How can the two friends continue their magical collection—and their special friendship—from afar?

**YOU MATTER**

**Christian Robison | AGE 4 - 7**

*this sensitive and impactful picture book about seeing the world from different points of view.* In this full, bright, and beautiful picture book, many different perspectives around the world are deftly and empathetically explored—from a pair of bird-watchers to the pigeons they're feeding. Young readers will be drawn into the luminous illustrations inviting them to engage with the world in a new way and see how everyone is connected, and that everyone matters.



## FOCUS: The incredibly simple secret to making mornings in your house more harmonious

I am definitely a crabby Mum first thing in the morning! I don't want to be talked to. I don't want to talk back. I don't want to make breakfast; I don't want to hear the cartoons. I just want to be left alone until I'm ready.

This is not because I've woken up on the wrong side of the bed. It's because I have a brain, and brains are computers and they need to load before they can work. When we turn on our computer, we don't expect that we can immediately get stuck into that spreadsheet or Google search, we know it needs time to load. Our brain is no different! It needs to become active. It needs to get ready before we can do all the things.

*But with our modern-day, rushed and urgent lifestyle, we make very little time or space first thing in the morning to prime our brain before we need to start using it.*

And if we, as adults, experience this crabby, anxious morning feeling just imagine how much harder it must be for a child, especially a young child who doesn't yet have the emotional regulation skills that we as adults generally do. And yet they're expected to get up, get dressed, sit at the table, have their breakfast, do their teeth, remember their library book, pack their lunch and all the other morning jobs. Imagine the crabbiness, the anxiety that they must experience.

All of these morning tasks require what we call 'executive functioning' and the brain needs to be active before it can make these things happen.

If our kids haven't had sufficient time in the morning to play, to do some stretching, to move, to have some music, use their imaginations, a little bit of creative time or fresh air — then their brain is not necessarily going to be primed in the way they need it to be so that they can function easily.

*But fear not! Because it is super simple to prime our brains, and one of the best ways to do this is with music.*

Research tells us that when we experience music, more of our brain activates than it does when we experience any other thing. And this can happen from listening to music, making music, or even just thinking about it.

So, simply listening to music in the mornings as part of your daily routine will help activate your brain and your child's brain so that everybody can work together more harmoniously in the mornings. I recommend choosing songs that your children love, make a playlist, listen to your favourite CD. You could opt for an early morning disco



party — just turn on the music and all have a quick dance around the lounge room together.

A really important element of music is its physicality. Movement, dancing, stretching. This, in conjunction with rhythm and melody, absolutely does wonders for getting the brain active and ready to work!

These strategies are super simple, they don't take a lot of time and you don't need to be musical to be able to achieve them.

So if you or your children are finding that you're crabby in the morning, anxious, worked up, not functioning at your best, not able to get the jobs done on time then these simple, music based exercises are a must — and a fun one at that — to get you walking out the door harmoniously and calmly.

*This article is a guest post by Allison Davis on [maggiedent.com](http://maggiedent.com) Allison Davies is a Registered Music Therapist who specialises in brain care, and a National 2016 AMP Tomorrow Maker. Allie lives in regional NW Tasmania with her young family. She is joining Maggie Dent and Dr Kaylene Henderson for Maggie's one-day conference Calming Today's Anxious Children happening in Wollongong (26 September 2020). [www.maggiedent.com/calminganxiouskids](http://www.maggiedent.com/calminganxiouskids)*

Davis, Allison. (2019). FOCUS: *The incredibly simple secret to making mornings in your house more harmonious*. Retrieved from <https://www.maggiedent.com/blog/the-incredibly-simple-secret-to-making-mornings-in-your-house-more-harmonious/>

## SOUND SPOTTERS

*The ability to listen closely is a key ingredient of phonemic awareness. This is the part of instruction that is skipped most often, because we assume that young children know how to listen. They may not!*

After a busy morning or afternoon lie quietly on the floor with your children. It's not nap time, but it's a great time to unwind, which is important for young children. As you lie there quietly for five to ten minutes, listen for sounds. Become "sound spotters". Don't use your eyes — use your ears. There are always sounds and weird noises you can hear in your home or outside: an air conditioner, doors closing, stomachs growling. The possibilities are endless! Your part is to talk about the sounds you and your children hear. Use a little enthusiasm and exaggeration to get the kids interested in this activity. The key phrase is, "Who can spot a sound with their ears?"

**Find more early literacy activities here**







### WHAT'S IN THEIR POCKETS?

*Looking into a child's pocket opens a magical window into their daily experience. Small children in six countries emptied the contents of their pockets and were asked about their haul. From Argentina to the Ukraine, the results were as cute and baffling as you might expect.*

The six families chosen to be featured in the story all agree that it has been an adventure to discover what their kiddos are carrying around as treasures.

The biggest similarity among the international kids was candy. Half of them said it was their favourite thing to keep in their pocket. When asked, 'If you could fit anything in your pocket, what would it be?', **William**, from the USA, doubled down on his sweet tooth, saying: "Five thousand pieces of candy!" On one memorable day, William's pockets contained Skittles with all the colours licked off. He told his parents the colourless Skittles were candies for Harry Potter. **Nadya** from the Ukraine chose 'slime' as the number one thing she wished she could carry in her pocket. The reason? Because "mother forbids it." The fun continued when parents were asked the question: "What's the weirdest thing you found in their pockets?" The mother of **Bilal**, a five-year-old from India, answered with four words. "My husband's credit card." **Wyatt's** parent in the U.K admitted, "I was both incredibly confused and relieved when I found my missing house keys there once." She explained, "Not all of my house keys, just the keys that were attached to a BB-8 key ring that he'd decided was now his."

*What treasures have you found in your child's pockets?*

Source: [goodnewsnetwork.org/whats-in-their-pockets-a-look-at-children-around-the-world/](http://goodnewsnetwork.org/whats-in-their-pockets-a-look-at-children-around-the-world/)



# Teaching Your Child to Practice Good Oral Hygiene



As a parent, you are aware of how important it is to teach your child good habits. From focusing on their schoolwork to developing healthy eating habits, the lessons and values you teach your kids will shape their futures.

Oral hygiene is important for both children and adults, but teaching your child about oral hygiene while they are young can help them to develop healthy habits as adults.

Four easy and fun ways you can help your child to understand the importance of oral hygiene and get them involved in consistent tooth brushing habits include:

1. Pick a Fun Toothbrush
2. Set a Timer
3. Reward Your Child
4. Set a Good Example



## Thunderstruck

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

Find an open area to jog laps in or simply jog in place at a moderate pace. Find the song "Thunderstruck" by AC/DC on YouTube and play it. During the song, you should listen closely for the words "Thunder" or "Thunderstruck". Every time these words are said, perform a burpee (or a version of that your child/ren can perform). This will go on for the entirety of the song!

You can choose any song you like; simply choose the word/phrase in the song you will perform the burpee on and press play.

Source: [successiblelife.com/9-fun-workout-games-to-make-your-fitness-routine-more-enjoyable/](http://successiblelife.com/9-fun-workout-games-to-make-your-fitness-routine-more-enjoyable/)