



NOVEMBER
2021

ON *this* MONTH

AT SERVICE NAME

Kindergarten Information Evening ----- 15

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Melbourne Cup Day ----- 2
Outdoor Classroom Day ----- 4
Orangutan Caring Week ----- 7-13
National Recycling Week ----- 8-14
Remembrance Day ----- 11
World Kindness Day ----- 13
Australian Food Safety Week ----- 13-20
Universal Children's Day ----- 20

Letter from the Director

Welcome to the November edition of our centre newsletter for 2021.

As we begin to prepare for our end of year celebrations, we are asking all families that have their own, or know of a business, that may want to donate prizes to our Annual Christmas Raffle, to please contact our Centre Director to organise donations.

Our Re-Enrolment and Holiday Forms, are due back this month, please be reminded that any change to bookings requires two weeks' notice, so to save disappointment, please return these ASAP

With End of Year approaching, we ask all families to ensure that their account maintains current, two weeks in advance at all times, as per our centre policy. If you are having trouble achieving this, please see our Centre Director to discuss alternatives to lump sum payments.

Don't forget to "SAVE THE DATE" for our "Children's Christmas Concert", which this year will take place on Saturday, 11th December, from 9am. Please also be advised that our Pre-Prep Graduation will follow after this on the same day, keep your eyes open for more information to follow later this month.



Room News

Early Learners Room

During the month of October, Educators in our Early Learners Room have been observing the fine and gross motor skills of all children and planning activities to strengthen and improve their physical development.

During this time, we have also been having fun learning about our Australian Animals and discussed how we could move like those animals, the children loved jumping like a kangaroo, swimming like a platypus, wobbling like a wombat and howling like a dingo.

Our Abecedarian games and Conversational reading have enabled Educators to find some one-on-one time with each child, helping them to become confident in speech and to try new things.

Sensory Play is always Early Learners favourite activity that helps encourage our new little ones to participate and make new friends, becoming confident in their surroundings.

We are all looking forward to extending our learning and development next month by introducing water play and Sea Life in our next adventure in Early Learners.

Junior Early Years Room

Last month, our Junior Early Years children had the opportunity to explore lots of sensory activities and different ways to play. We have had excellent opportunities to make, draw, create and produce sensory activities that involved lots of fine-motor skills, such as gluing, threading, painting and drawing. Children have developed their artistic and creativity through child-initiated plays and extended their imagination.

We also celebrated Children's Week, Day for Daniel and Child Safety Week, and were fortunate to invite parents into our classroom to celebrate their child's talents, skills and abilities.

This month, we will be working on preparing for our Xmas concert and finishing off the year. We look forward to incorporating more sensory activities to add into our current project, as well as getting children to self-serve and teach children how to look after their belongings.

We welcome feedback from families! Please feel free to get involved in your child's learning this month! Let's work together to maximise the learning of your child!

Early Learners Room



Junior Early Years Room



Room News

Early Years Room

Last month, we extended our knowledge on different animals starting with different letters of the alphabet, including; l for lion, m for monkey, n for nest, o for octopus, and p for parrot. Children enjoyed learning about different animals, which provided a great opportunity to extend children's language and literacy skills, as we explored books to further our understandings. We have also been extending fine motor skills this month, with children having many opportunities to build muscle strength in their fingers, threading with different materials big and small.

This month, as we start to get ready for Christmas, we will be continuing to learn our Christmas songs as well as make our Christmas shirts ready for our big performance. It would be great if parents could help their children practice their songs at home

Pre-Prep Room

October was such a busy month for our Kindergarten Room. We were lucky to have Uncle Boomerang visit us numerous times during the last 4 weeks, with his latest visit being with our families to celebrate Children's Week. Our children love seeing Uncle Boomerang as we embed and install a deeper appreciation of our indigenous culture, traditions and Dreamtime stories.

We have been using our natural environment and loose parts to be creative with, as we use leaves and sticks to make patterns using paint to make meaning with. Our children enjoyed being able to collect leaves from our outside environment to explore with in our collage area, as we discussed where the different leaves came from and why they were different colours.

Our children are enjoying their swimming lessons every Tuesday as they develop important water safety skills that is a fundamental life skill.

Our children were invited to take part in a transition to school program with Waterford West State School. We were so excited to be able to explore and participate in a classroom environment, which will assist our children with their transition to school next year.

Next month, we will be back on track with our Bush Kindy. I know a lot of our children are looking forward to going back and being in such an amazing natural environment.

We are excited to have started practising for our Christmas and Graduation celebrations. This will be taking place on Saturday the 11th December with more details to come.

Early Years Room



Pre-Prep Room





REMEMBRANCE DAY – NOVEMBER 11

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month gained a special significance in post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war.

Every year at 11am on November 11 communities gather to pay their respects to those fallen. It is important that we continue to talk about and celebrate the brave men and women who fought then and now. **Visit your council website for information on your local commemorative ceremonies.**

NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK – NOVEMBER 8-14

National Recycling Week provides an important opportunity for councils, workplaces, schools and individuals to improve their recycling knowledge, build better recycling habits and build trust in recycling. **Find out how you can help here.**

FAMILY FAVE – CRUMBED CHICKEN



PREP 10 min | COOK 10 min SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

- 500g chicken breast, thinly sliced into schnitzels,
- 1 cup quinoa flakes (available in the health food aisle)
- 1/2 cup tapioca flour (or corn flour works too)
- 2 eggs
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 1 tbsp garlic powder
- Salt

- 1/2 red cabbage
- 2 radish
- 1 pear, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup walnuts
- Aioli

METHOD: Slice the chicken. Add the eggs to a bowl and whisk. On a large plate, mix the quinoa flakes with the tapioca flour, garlic powder, zest and some salt. Dip the chicken into the egg and then into the dry mixture. Heat some olive oil or ghee in a frypan and cook the chicken until browned. For the slaw, thinly slice the cabbage, pear and radish. Add to a bowl and top with a drizzle of good quality aioli and sprinkle with the walnuts. **Serve the crumbed chicken with the salad.**

*Love this recipe and want more? Go to [Jo Kate Nutrition](#) Jo's course **The Nourished Family** provides you with a realistic approach to nutrition, health and cooking and will teach you foundational principles to use for the rest of your life.*



Realistic & accessible parenting advice!



MAGGIE DENT

Commonly known as the 'queen of common sense', Maggie Dent has become one of Australia's favourite parenting authors and educators. She has a particular interest in the early years, adolescence and resilience, and is an undisputed 'boy champion'. Maggie is an advocate for the healthy, common-sense raising of children in order to strengthen families and communities. She is a passionate, positive voice for children of all ages. Her blog includes articles, videos, podcasts and top tips! A one stop shop for parenting advice. www.maggiedent.com

JANET LANSBURY

Janet Lansbury is a parenting advisor, writer and teacher. She has served on the board of directors of Resources for Infant Educators (RIE) for over a decade, written childcare articles and been a frequent presenter at early childhood conferences. A former actress/model (Janet Julian), Janet found her true calling when she gave birth to her first child and sought guidance from renowned infant expert Magda Gerber. Inspired and mentored by Gerber in the early 1990s, Janet became a RIE Parent/Infant Guidance Class instructor and has since had the privilege of providing support and guidance to thousands of parents and caregivers. Janet's blog has a worldwide following, it is easily categorised for each stage of childhood. You are bound to find the advice you are looking for. www.janetlansbury.com



FOCUS: DON'T 'JUST GOOGLE IT'

One day, as I was going out, I couldn't find my car key. I nearly googled — "where is my car key?" Since when did I become comfortable using "google" as a verb? Since when did I become a part of *Google Generation* which I define as people who excessively rely on the search engine to solve any real-life issues.

I'd like to examine the impact of over-reliance on internet search engines. I'm not a neuroscientist or a psychologist, but I'm looking at the issue as a forgetful adult who relies on Google a lot and also as a concerned parent of a 10 years old whose favourite phrase is "Just google it".

The impact on the brain - Let's start with the benefits of using technology to gain knowledge because there is no doubt, we're able to obtain information more easily and swiftly than the pre-Google era of 1998. A neuroscientist professor Steven Pinker argued in *The New York Times* (June 10, 2010, *Mind Over Mass Media*) that; *Far from making us stupid, these technologies are the only things that will keep us smart.* While Professor Pinker acknowledges that the constant feeding of information can be distracting or addictive, he is casting a positive outlook on how technologies can assist human brainpower. However, he was focusing on scientific discoveries as a way to measure brainpower and smartness. Needless to say, brain development cannot solely be measured by the amount of knowledge we can store in our brains. We need to look at how we can transform this additional knowledge. A technology writer Nicholas Carr in *The Atlantic* (July/August 2008 Issue, *Is Google Making Us Stupid?*) argues that; *as we come to rely on computers to mediate our understanding of the world, it is our own intelligence that flattens into artificial intelligence.* Carr also warned of *capacity for concentration and contemplation* being chipped away by the internet. I think both arguments, albeit over 10 years old, are still very relevant today. I can definitely relate to the side effects of the internet — distraction, and addiction.

The danger of the internet search One Christmas evening, my family was playing Trivial Pursuit. One question came out "What is the longest river in the world?" Relieved to have gotten an easy question, my wife answered, "Nile". "No", my son disputed. "Just Google it!" So I took my phone out to settle the dispute and Googled it. "Nile, it is", I said. "No. It depends on how you define the source of the Amazon.", my son insisted. So I typed "Which is longer Nile or Amazon"

He was right, some scientists claim that Amazon is actually longer than Nile. The dispute arises from the fact that it's extremely difficult to pinpoint the exact source of the river in the snow-capped mountain. We found many interesting research papers on this topic.

While traditionally Nile is considered the longest, there is no clear answer. Unless you're a geologist, you probably do not have enough knowledge to fully understand the way rivers are measured, or even the exact definition of river.

This event highlighted a few issues with internet search.

1. The answer depends on how you formulate the question.
2. There is not always a clear answer.
3. You need to read full articles to fully understand the subject.

Learning is fun - My son is an avid reader. He read somewhere about this subject and knew the answer, whereas I and my wife learned this "fact" without learning the context. We were efficient like a machine in terms of storing and withdrawing necessary information. But we think everything in binary. We simply use our brain to store knowledge and that's it. We stopped thinking.

Our brains should be better than that. I was glad that my son challenged Google. On that night, we actually learned something, not through Google, but through discussion, and by actually being curious about the rivers, and imagining how the scientists' 14-day expedition went, and so on. It was also much more fun than just getting the straight answer and moving on.

We always seek for instant gratification. We expect our demands to be satisfied without any delay. Yet, we must understand that learning takes time and efforts. Arafeh and Lenhart in *The Digital Disconnect* (2002; Pew Research Center) found that some students think internet *as a way to complete their schoolwork as quickly and painlessly as possible, with minimal effort and minimal engagement.* That's us, trying to take a short cut to get the answer. By doing so, we missed so many interesting things which could have led to more questions and findings. We missed all these opportunities. But I was relieved that my son was not becoming a robot like us. He knew how to use the internet to his advantage— get the information backed by his own knowledge.

Final thoughts We cannot imagine our lives without the internet. I remember my school days when I had to use encyclopedia for research. I check the index, find the right volume and page, and read the whole article. I couldn't use "Ctrl + F" to skip to the exact section I needed to read. But this effort taught me many things along the way to the answer.

The technologies are keeping us "smart", if it means we get correct answer quickly. But learning how to get to the answer is more important for brain development. Only the creativity in the process can lead to achieving unthinkable. Otherwise, we will just become a machine.

Source: Casper. (2020, August 23). Don't just google it! Retrieved from <https://medium.com/age-of-awareness/dont-just-google-it-2f3971b08882>

NUMBER PUZZLE



Cereal box number puzzles are so easy to make and a fun way to create an easy numeracy activity your pre-schooler will enjoy.

Simply cut a side out of a cereal box and write a range of numbers your child is learning or working towards (1 – 5, 1 – 10, 1 – 20). Then cut between the numbers to make rows and columns, you can make this as easy or as challenging as your child needs. Activity and image from handsonaswegrow.com/cereal-box-puzzles-counting/



HEALTH & SAFETY: Water safety supervision

Kids' water safety is paramount all year round, but especially during the summer when families will be spending a lot more recreation time in swimming pools and various bodies of water. Susie Allison at Busy Toddler has shared an amazing (an incredibly easy) water safety tip that airline pilots use for cockpit safety, and guess what? This safety measure adapts surprisingly well for kids in any environment but is especially handy around water.

Allison's husband is a former airline pilot, and the couple started this system "almost the day our first came home from the hospital." Shared in a Reel on her Instagram page, Allison writes, "My husband and I have been using a cockpit safety measure for our whole span of parenting AND IT WORKS WONDERS. It keeps the kids safe, makes sure supervision is specified, and helps us never just assume the other adult is watching out."

"When airline pilots need to make a change of controls in the cockpit, the pilot currently flying says: 'Your airplane.' This signals a change of controls is coming. The other pilot must respond back with 'My airplane,' acknowledging that they are now flying the aircraft.

Allison continues, "When one of us needs to make a change in supervision or go do something different or help someone else, we announce it and make a verbal change: 'Your Kate & Matt.' And we wait for the other to respond 'My Kate & Matt.' This is the verbal and acknowledged shift of supervision duties for those two kids from one parent to the other. THIS SYSTEM WORKS."

And when it comes to assumptions, well, those don't come in to play. Allison writes, "We never assume the other is watching. We never assume they noticed we walked away. We never assume the kids are being supervised."

By stating clearly "Your" and the names of your children, then waiting for confirmation, you will know that your partner has taken over keeping an eye on the kids, which is especially important around water.

"Your kids." - "My kids."

Water Safety

Drowning continues to be one of the biggest killers of Australian children. Every year a number of children are killed and hundreds more are rescued from near drowning situations. The most common factor in childhood drowning is lack of supervision.



Using a method like the one described in the opposite column ensures an adult is actively observing children at all times. Active supervision should not be limited to pools and water ways either. Whenever a child is in water, including a bathtub they should be supervised by a competent adult.

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL DROWNING REPORT BY THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA SHOWS THAT IN 2020/2021

25 children aged 0-4 drowned in Australia

An increase of 108% on 2019/2020 and a 9% increase on the 10-year average. 24% of these deaths occurred while bathing.

14 children aged 5-14 drowned in Australia

An increase of 56% on 2019/2020 and a 27% increase on the 10-year average.

Before summer really kicks in familiarise yourself with these four key actions to ensure the safest Summer possible.

Supervise - Actively supervise children around water. Eyes on. Hands on. Focus all of your attention on your children all of the time, when they are in, on or around the water. **Restrict** - Restrict children's access to water. Place a barrier between your child and water. If you can't create a child safe play area with no water in it. **Teach** - Teach children water safety skills. Make sure your child grows up water aware, water familiar and water confident. **Respond** - Learn how to respond in case of an emergency. Many children are alive today because their parents knew how to perform CPR and respond quickly.

Source: Royal Life Saving Australia (2021) Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2021 Retrieved from royallifesaving.com.au

Source: Schmidt, Ellen. (2021, July). This airline safety tip works wonders at the pool with your kids. A two-word hack used by pilots is also great for kids' water safety. Retrieved from mother.ly/parenting/two-word-water-safety-tip

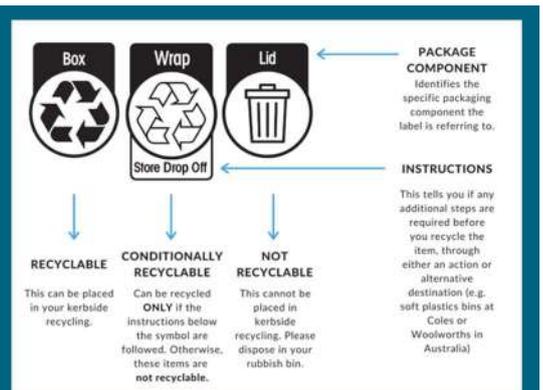


CHECK IT BEFORE YOU CHUCK IT

Recycling can be confusing, getting to know the Australasian Recycling Labels (ARL) will help make recycling much easier. The ARL ensures packaging is disposed of correctly and can be recovered for future use in new products.

Curby begun on the NSW Central Coast, but is now being introduced to 1 million Australian homes. Curby makes recycling soft plastics easy. Register your interest [here](#)

Source: recyclingnearyou.com.au/arl/





SLEEP / NAP TIME

Sleep is important for all of us because it's a time for rest and recovery, allows our brains to form new pathways and is a chance to replace chemicals and repair muscles. Because young children grow and develop so quickly, they need much more sleep—including daytime sleep—than adults.

Naptime is not only important for regaining energy, it's also beneficial for brain development in young children. Several studies have shown that napping allows for improved cognition and memory development.

In fact, one study had preschool children play the game "Memory" either after a nap or after quiet playtime. The children who napped showed better recall than those who did not.

What if my child no longer has naps? Children who do not wish to sleep are provided with alternative quiet activities and experiences, while those children who do wish to sleep are allowed to do so, without being disrupted. If a child requests a rest, or if they are showing clear signs of tiredness, regardless of the time of day we provide them with a comfortable, safe area they can rest in.

Our sleep times: *(Customise or delete this paragraph)*

Room Name: Sleep/ nap time

Room Name: Sleep/ nap time

Room Name: Sleep/ nap time

Source: <https://www.tuck.com/daycare-preschool-naptime/>

National Quality Framework | Quality Area 2:
Element 2.1.1 – *Wellbeing and comfort*. Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation.

IS YOUR CHILD TURNING 4 BEFORE THE 30TH JUNE 2022?

DON'T FORGET TO RSVP FOR OUR KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION EVENING. . .

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT

Monday, 15th November
5pm to 6pm



- Government Incentives to Reduce Fees
- Prep Readiness and School Transitions
- Nature Explorers Program
- Abecedarian Approach to Learning
- Cultural Inclusion
- Nature and Loose Parts Play

Waterford West Education and Care Centre
2 Carnation Street, Waterford West

Phone: 3805 2092
www.wwecc.com.au

Open to Centre Families and our Logan Community
Free Kindy Information Pack



RSVP: Fri, 12th November

5 Minute MOVES

HIT THE PLAYGROUND

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day. Next time you are at the playground don't just sit back and watch the kids have all the fun! Join in too. Your children will love having you play along and climbing, crawling, hanging and sliding all increase the heart rate.

See how many slides you can all have in a minute? Who can cross the monkey bars? Who can swing the highest?