



March 2020 Edition

From the Teacher's Desk

Hello and welcome to the March newsletter. The beginning of the year is always a great opportunity to reflect on our practices and set goals for improvement.

The staff worked together to discuss what are our strengths, what could be improved and what are the possibilities for change. This feeds into our Quality Improvement Plan for the year. As part of this process, we would also like to hear from you.

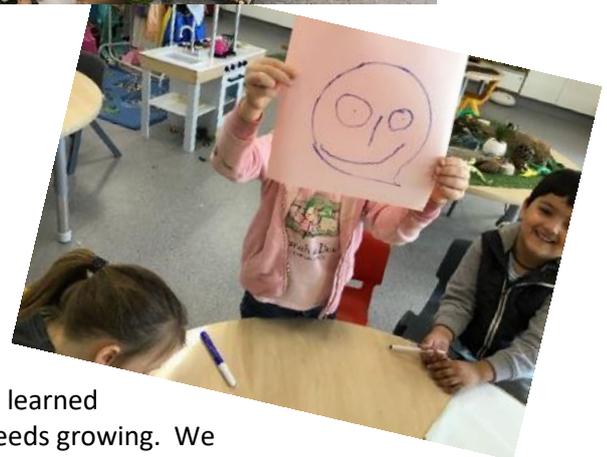
In the foyer there will be a simple question "What does quality early learning mean to you?" I would like to encourage you all to take the time to write a word or short sentence that describes what you believe a quality early learning service is. This information will then be discussed with the staff and placed in our quality improvement plan.

Emotions

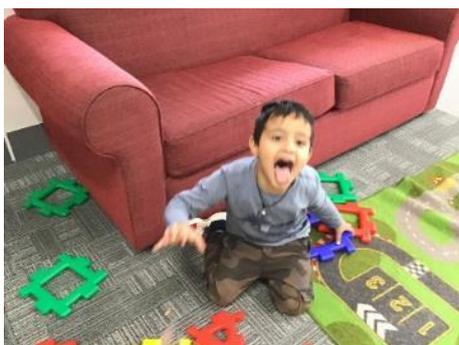
We have also been teaching the children some ways to manage their emotions. We discussed with the children that being friendly and involving themselves in play are some of the best ways to stay happy. The children also made drawings of happy faces on paper. They also learned about some different face expressions such as happy, sad, angry etc. We also discussed with the children some easy ways to be happy such as playing with their friends, talking to their elders, sharing their toys and much more.



Sharing books to comfort others.



We also learned about seeds growing. We incorporated this in our program as we learn about the Aboriginal ways of learning. The children are learning about the land that gives us food and how we can care for our land. The message conveyed is that we belong to the land and it is our responsibility to look after it for future generations.



COVID-19 Update

As you are aware, we are currently facing some challenging times in the wider community. On advice from the Government, our Occasional Care service along with all Cire Children's Services remains open. I can again confirm that we have not had any cases of COVID-19 amongst our children, families or educators.

Our primary goal is to ensure the health and safety of our children, families and staff.

We follow the strictest of hygiene practices and our primary goal is to ensure the health and safety of our children, families and staff.

Our services are cleaned daily with hospital grade cleaners and disinfectants and our educators are conducting a clean and disinfect of doorknobs, taps, light switches and all surfaces at regular intervals across the day.

We have the following hygiene practices to enhance infection control measures:

- We have hand sanitisers at the service entry and outside each room.
- Educators and children wash their hands on arrival to the service and at regular times throughout the day, including (but not limited to), before and after meals, after toileting, after blowing their nose.
- Surfaces including doorknobs, gate entries, table tops, chairs, benches and iPads are cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day.
- All toys are disinfected daily and for the younger children we have a mouthed toy bucket where toys that have been mouthed by children are immediately placed, so that they can be disinfected to minimize any spread of infections.
- As an additional precautionary measure, educators only will use the iPad to sign your children in and out of the service.
- We follow strict exclusion periods as set out in Staying Healthy in Childcare. If children are sick please keep them home and if educators are sick we also enforce exclusion periods.
- We are enforcing social distancing by adults in line with Government guidelines.
- We are also using intentional teaching and educational expertise to implement social distancing practices for the children (where possible). Our activities and experiences are spread out across the room and on different tables to further encourage this.

These hygiene practices have been part of our everyday practice and are valuable learning experiences for the children. We have increased and enhanced these practices due to the current climate with these added measures is in place to protect children, families and educators.

As you would also all be aware, on Thursday the Australian Government made an announcement regarding free childcare. Whilst we are still seeking clarification regarding some aspects of the package, this is fantastic news for families. This initiative will ensure that children can continue to have access to early education and care which is so important for children's development. It also ensures that working parents still have access to quality care for their children and do not have to rely on family for care including grandparents who may be more vulnerable to COVID-19.

We understand and can appreciate that many families are nervous about the current situation, but I can assure you we are working hard to continue to provide high quality and safe environments for our children, families and our team of wonderful educators who have worked tirelessly through these challenging times

We will continue to offer support to you and your family and will update you regularly.

A Glitter Germ activity to try at home

You will need:

Glitter (or / shallow dish with water / soap

Sprinkle a little glitter on children's hands. Get the children to wash their hands with just water. Repeat the experiment, this time getting them to wash with soap and water.



Have your child observe which method removes more glitter.

Then put glitter on your hand and touch your child's shoulder, hands and hair. Have them see how the glitter (germs) can spread by touch.

Harmony Day

We promote cultural diversity throughout our Service. To symbolize this we encourage a sense of citizenship and pride in our nation. On 20 March we celebrated National Harmony day. This celebration is for the elimination of racial discrimination. It is a simple and powerful way of expressing that there is no place in our community for racial intolerance or disharmony. The orange posters placed around the Centre are a way of showing others that we believe; living in harmony in a culturally diverse society benefits all citizens.



Sustainability

The children learnt about recycling.



St Patrick's Day

Another opportunity to seize an international festival is St Patrick's Day which is celebrated on the 17th of March. It sets out to reflect the talents and achievements of Irish people on many national and world stages and it acts as an exciting showcase of creative energy, ideas and enthusiasm of the Irish people of every age and social background. We all wore green to celebrate at the Service and had some fun activities – thank you to Rachael for providing us with



St Patrick's Day celebrations

Cire Children's Services Facebook Page

Cire Children's Services now has its own Facebook Page. Please follow and like our page.

Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/cirechildrenservices/>

Dates to Remember

28 March – 13 April – School holidays

Friday, 10 April – Good Friday Public Holiday
(Centre closed)

Sunday, 12 April – Easter Sunday

Monday, 13 April – Easter Monday Public Holiday
(Centre closed)

Tuesday, 14 April – Curriculum Day, State wide

Friday, 24 April – Learn about ANZAC Day

Saturday, 25 April – ANZAC Day

