

EARLY LEARNING & KINDER

Cire
children's services

▶ **Mount Evelyn** NEWSLETTER



March 2022

From the office

Term one has come to an end. What a relief it has been that children have been able to attend a full term of school and kinder. Families are also returning to workplaces. This is exciting but still comes with caution. We continue to be vigilant with our hygiene practices and also keep our watchful eye on children's illnesses and other factors to ensure the health and safety of everyone connected to the service. Therefore, if your child displays any cold like symptoms or appears to be unwell, please be mindful to keep them home, and if required returning a negative covid test and be asymptomatic. I do understand that there are challenges as you return to office and workplace, however we have guidelines that we are required to follow to keep all children, families and educators safe.

Xplor app and sign in/out.

We are becoming more confident in using Xplor as the main communication between the service and families. We are doing our best to get the information onto the app as quick as we can including sharing stories and photos when the opportunity arises. Thank you for your patience with this.

In regards to Xplor please remember to sign in and out each of your child's attendance as this is part of the compliance and Child Care Subsidy assigned to your fees.

If you do not have the app, please speak to me and we can assist in setting it up again.

Good Friday and Pyjama Week

April 11th until the 15th is pyjama week. So dress up in your pj's and donate to the Good Friday Appeal. Raising money for the Children's Hospital.

I am sure that we all know someone that has been supported by the Royal Children's Hospital either directly or indirectly and what a great job they do!!

If you can donate something big or small to support this wonderful cause and help at RCH.

<https://fundraise.goodfridayappeal.com.au/fundraise/rs/melissasaaghy-walsh/cire-early-learning-centres>



Scan the QR code to visit our registered fundraising page today.

Cire
early learning

Contacting the Centre.

I just wanted to let you know that the service mobile phone is not always accessed throughout the day as its main purpose is for emergency and evacuations. I am aware that at times you may receive messages or calls from the phone, but it is mostly kept in an accessible place in the event that we need to evacuate or use in an emergency. Please refrain from using this as a means to contact service or educators. Please call: 9735 1918

Kinder-Garden Program

As second term begins we are looking into starting back with the KinderGarden program.

We will begin with explaining to children the expectations of the program and what it will look like moving into the term.

Unfortunately, Farmer Jill isn't continuing with the program so we will seek out how it will look and keep you all informed.

Clothing and Lost Property

As the weather changes it is very important that you have named your children's items as the lost property pile has grown significantly!

Lost property is currently outside the front door. Please check these piles to see if any belong to your child. Any items in lost property after the Easter weekend will be donated to the second chance bins.

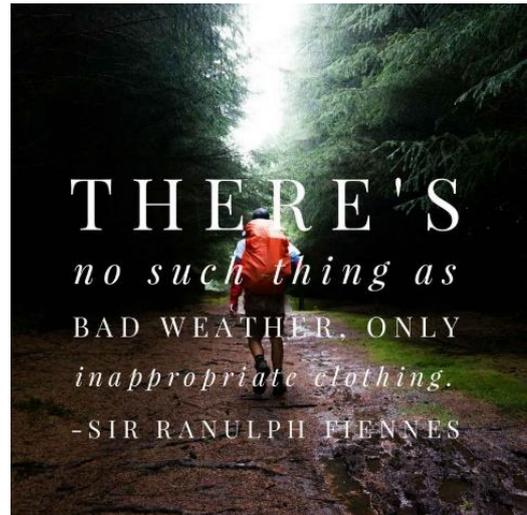
Could you please ensure that all of your child's clothing is clearly labelled so that we can ensure they go back in your child's bag. There are also children with the same clothing which makes it tricky for educators to know who things belongs to if they are not labelled.

As the weather changes and children remove items throughout the day things can get misplaced despite asking children to put items in their bags.

We have also had a number of items brought in from home and being misplaced. Please ensure these items are also labelled. While every attempt is made to ensure these are put in your child's bag, this may not always happen as children like to show and their peers. Please be mindful not to bring expensive or sentimental items in. If your child wants to show their friends you may want to take a photo so they can share with the group.

Cooler weather – clothing

Despite the weather getting cooler, we will continue with our outdoor/indoor program, so if you can please provide a jacket and beanie for your child that would be great. Could you also provide a change of clothes in the event that your child gets wet. Ensure all items are named.



Covid 19 Restrictions

Thank you to the families that have supported us and followed the direction of the Department of Education and Training (DET) where the COVID 19 restrictions have been applied. I understand that it has come with some uncertainty and that it has also affected the educators and stakeholders here at Cire Early Learning, Mt Evelyn. I would also like to advise you that we continue to be vigilant in our risk mitigation policies and procedures,

The virus has spread quickly to the Ranges and that childcare services within the community are being affected and we do not wish to be one of them. We will call families to collect their child if they attend unwell or develop symptoms throughout the day. There will be no flexibility in regard to this and if you are unable to collect we will then contact your next authorised contacts. Please adhere to the procedures and we will do our part to keep the children and educators safe.

With the change in weather, we often see an increase in cold and flu so again please be mindful of your child's health, and if your child is displaying any cold or flu like symptoms they are to remain home until better.

Thank you for your extreme patience and understanding with the external drop off at the door. I understand at times this is slow, however we are meeting every week to make this smoother transitions. I will continue to keep you posted.

I have attached some details from the guidelines in regard to the external drop off/pick up.



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From the Koala Room

Hello everyone,

What a busy start to the year has been. So many new faces.

We are all settling in quiet nicely, getting to know each other, the room's routines and all the educators. I've already seen so many changes in the children's development, from walking, crawling, sitting and talking.

Over the next few months we will be exploring our nature project; Nature unfurled.

We have begun exploring nature through our five senses.

What does nature look like? What does nature feel like? What does nature sound like? What does nature smell feel? What does nature taste like?

Just a reminder to pack wet weather gear. There is no such thing as bad weather just inappropriate clothing.

Kind regards,

Koala room



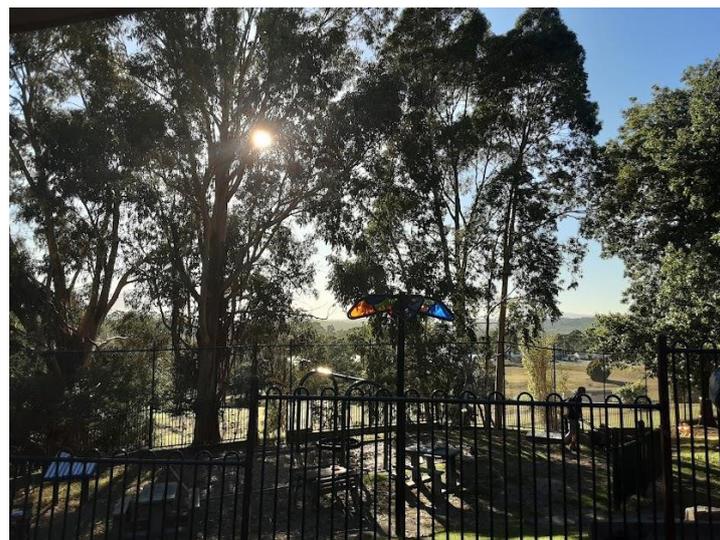
From the Wombat Room

We have been learning about colours in the wombat room.

Each week we have focused on individual colours of the rainbow. We began with yellow after we noticed lemon leaves on the ground below our lemon tree, they smelt great! Cherry kindly gave us some lemons from her lemon tree too! We touched them, smelt them and found other yellow things to look at.

Each week we have looked around our room and yard and have collected items as we find matching colours. We have explored through paint, pasting materials and we have been learning the Rainbow song. The rainbow song gave us an opportunity to also explore seeing colour in a new way, next we looked at Auslan sign language and have been practicing signing colours. It has been amazing to see where finding lemon leaves in our yard has taken us!

I wonder what we can discover next.....



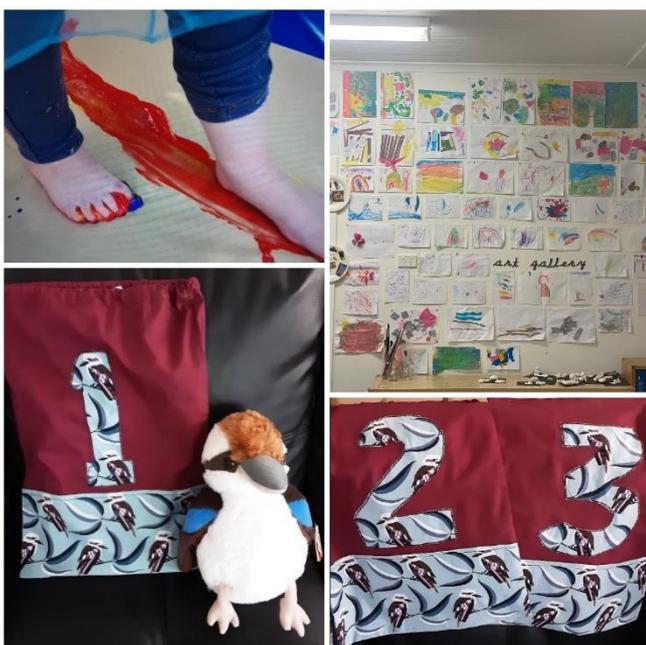
Discovering the lands in which we learn and play..

From the Kookaburra Room.

What a busy month we have had in the Kinder room. Now that children have settled into the room and we have started to take on new and exciting learning journeys. This month we welcomed educator Zoe to our team and what an impact she has already made. She has been able to come into the Kinder room and get to know the children quickly and has fitted in really well.

Our beach project has come to an end with children feeling that they had learnt a lot and were ready for the next project to begin. We will start our next project in Term 2. The show and tell bags have started to go home with children really enjoying being able to bring something special into the room and show and share this with their peers. This is a great opportunity for children to learn how to speak in front of peers and gain confidence. Please ensure that if your child has not got the bag, they do not bring in home items as it takes away from the show and tell experience for the other children. Kevin the Kookaburra has also started going home and his adventure book is beginning to tell his adventure stories.

As term one ends, a reminder to parents with children heading off to Primary School next year - if you haven't already started to look into which school you will be sending your child to, now is the time as enrollments are due in early August which is only four months away!



Introducing new educators.

Since the start of the year, we have welcomed some new educators:

- Janine has joined the Wombat team
- Tiarna has joined the Koala team
- Zoe has joined the Kookaburra team.
- Hailey has joined our casual team



April

11-14th Pyjama Week

15th Public Holiday - CLOSED – Good Friday

17th Easter Sunday

18th – Public Holiday - CLOSED Easter Monday

25th – Public Holiday - CLOSED ANZAC DAY



**Wishing all our family and friends a happy and safe
Easter break**

Extracts from 'COVIDSafe ECEC Settings Guide'

4. – Management of an unwell child or staff member

Children who have any symptoms, however mild, will need to stay at home, even if they are not a positive case or a close contact.

It is important that any child (or staff member) who becomes unwell with COVID-19 symptoms while at service returns home and gets tested unless those symptoms are known to be caused by an underlying health condition or medication.

The symptoms to watch out for are:

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss or change in sense of smell or taste

Some people may also experience headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Health care plans, where relevant, should be updated to provide additional advice on monitoring and identification of the unwell children in the context of COVID-19.

Staff and children do not need to present a medical certificate stating they are fit to return to an education setting after a period of illness, but they should not return until they no longer have symptoms.

9.1.4. - External drop off and pick up

- Staff and parents / carers are to observe physical distancing measures by not congregating in areas inside or around the ECEC service.
- Local service arrangements to practise physical distancing and minimise interaction within the services and at entry points should include:
 - if the physical layout of your service permits it and it is otherwise safe, children are to be dropped off and picked up in ways that do not involve parents entering the premises including the foyer, children's rooms and play areas.
 - drop off and pick up is to occur outside, where possible, to avoid people congregating in foyers.
 - where pick up and drop off occurs into areas outside the foyer, be particularly mindful of the supervision of children and ensuring unaccompanied children do not leave the service.
 - multiple entry and exit points to reduce the number of adults congregating.
 - signage to direct one-way flow of adults where practical.
 - staggered start and finish times, which may occur naturally in some service types. Where this is not the case, consider how the arrival and pick up time could be spread out. One example may be to divide the group and allocate times, noting that it is not expected that session times are extended to accommodate additional arrival and departure procedures.
 - signs at the entrance to encourage 1.5 metres physical distancing.

Please understand that we are in the process of reviewing these guidelines in accordance of weather and other factors, while maintaining safe risk mitigation practices.