

Learn, Play, explore

Early Learning & Kindergarten

Mt Evelyn Newsletter

Cire
early learning



From the Director's desk

July 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome to July!

June has been filled with many exciting moments, including welcoming two new educators to our team, Pam and Rhiann.

Pam will be working with us on a casual basis, while Rhiann will be with us full time. Please be sure to introduce yourself and help them to settle in.

I would also like to take this moment to say farewell to Dyamai as she heads off on her Maternity Leave. We thank her for all her contributions to the Centre, wish her well for the future and eagerly await her return.

Xplor Playground- Please ensure you are checking the Comms section in Xplor regularly and that you have your notifications turned on. We don't want you to miss out on any important information!

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please use the Xplor App to notify us. This can be done by selecting **Bookings>>> New>>> Absence or Holiday>>>** Then complete the details accordingly.

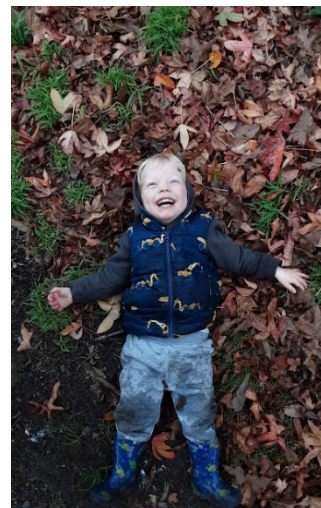


Going outside in all weather

The weather can be a bit unpredictable at the moment so please ensure that your child has adequate clothing in their bag. This includes a warm jacket/coat, beanie and even a change of clothing. The outdoor environment can have so many wonderful benefits, both physically and mentally; and wet weather can provide additional opportunities for learning and exploration.

Please be sure to check out the article below from the Raising Children Network to discover ways that you could engage with the outdoor environment at home.

[Outdoor play for children | Raising Children Network](#)



Exploring Reggio Emilia

This month Debbie and I (Anna) have had the privilege of attending the Reggio Emilia Australia Conference, held at the exhibition Centre, Melbourne. The convention was held over two and half days and consisted of lectures, key note presentations, a panel discussion and interactive classes.

Over the past few years, Cire has been working towards aligning our services and our approaches with that similar to the Reggio Emilia approach. Educational approaches are not commonly spoke about in everyday households; so, I will

give a brief overview of some of the principles of this approach and why we as educators, managers and teachers feel so strongly about this approach.

Image of the child- Children are seen as capable. They are not something to be filled with knowledge, but something to be unfolded as they are born capable and curious.

100 languages- There is not one right way for children to express their thoughts and idea but figuratively hundreds. Languages may include poem writing, drawing, dancing, modelling, collage, singing, acting, story writing and so forth.



The role of the First, Second and Third Teachers- This principle is largely about acknowledging that a child's parents are their First Teachers. (Did you know the Reggio Emilia approach was created by a group of parents and teachers trying to rebuild after world war II?) The role of the Educator (or Second Teacher) is to be a co – learner, learning with the children and helping carry out their research and what the children want to achieve. The Third Teacher being the environment or the classroom. This is why it is important to create inviting spaces for children to explore. It is important that all the teachers work together.

Project inquiry and play based -The learning that takes place in Reggio Emilia schools and Infant toddler centres is play based. This means that children learn through play and by investigating and exploring items and concepts that exist in their learning environments. Project work is a big part of everyday life in a Reggio classroom. Project work is based on concepts and ideas rather than item and themes. It is a group effort, with all children using different languages to become involved in the common project, or watching from the outskirts developing their knowledge at their own pace. The Project is not about finding the correct answer but the process used to along the way. Projects can continue for weeks, months and even years. The teachers and educators document the children's voices and collect samples and evidence of other learnings. At the end of the project a celebration is normally held exhibiting the children's findings along the way.

What's happening in the Kookaburra Room?

Exciting news! The Kinder Room have recommenced their KinderGarden program on a Friday. This program allows for each child to venture down to our veggie patch each fortnight. We were very excited to see what had been happening in the garden while we have been away and did some work to make it clear and safe again. The children helped to put clippings into the compost bins as we pruned some of the plants and we even found some little potatoes left behind from last year.

We also thought about the many ways we can keep ourselves, others, plants and even insects safe while we were in the garden. Everyone was so respectful as they explored the environment.

We are so excited to be doing this again and look forward to seeing what we can grow! Watch this space...





The Kookaburra room have also been focusing on lots of numeracy activities. We engaged the children with things to count, sort, group and just experiment with. We also included stories and games on the numeracy topic which the children really enjoyed.

There were lots of collaborative games and play amongst the children this month. It was great to see children taking turns and waiting patiently and even encouraging each other.



Artwork this month has focused on creativity and experimentation. Pasting and painting of various mediums was enjoyed.

There was lots of manipulative equipment out which not only inspired creativity but enhanced fine motor development and problem-solving skills.



Preparing for Primary School

Friendly reminder that applications to enrol in a government Primary school for 2024 are due to close by **Friday 28 July 2023**. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please come and have a chat with Lauren, Lucy or Debbie.

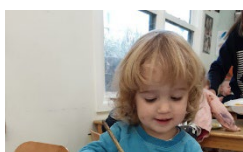
What's happening in the Wombat Room?

Over the past few months we have continued our investigation into movement. The Wombat room children always have a strong view of nature, so this is often the lenses we approach our learning subjects with.



We have been looking at how insects move. We have looked specifically how Bees, worms, Crickets, beetles and butterfly's move.

We played many games where children are to act various movements out with their own bodies, studied worms in our outdoor environment and recently you may have seen the construction of our very own butterfly wings.



Celebrations this month have included winter solstice. For this the children have been discovering winter! We have enjoyed making paper lanterns to light the darkest day of the year and played with ice and water in our sensory tubs as we spoke and looked at images of winter.



We are working with the children to develop their emotional regulation skills. Within the room we currently have an emotional basketball area; with balls with different faces, books about emotions and a mirror to support them in labelling their emotions. Before children learn to regulate their emotions they first have to be able to recognise their own emotions and identify them in others. To help the children build their emotional regulation skills we ask that families spend time with their children talking about emotions and helping children to not only identify their emotions but, emotions you may be feeling as parents and guardians. Thank you to the families who have brought in family photos for our family tree. If you haven't already, please bring one in so we can add it to the tree. You can bring it in as a hard copy or email us a copy.



Also, just a reminder to bring your children's wet weather gear as we are still going outside on cold and rainy days. Gumboots, warm rain coats and spare changes of pants, shirts, socks and jumpers would be appreciated. From your Wombat team!

What's happening in the Koala Room?

Hi everyone!

The past few months we have been exploring lots of sensory experiences. We extended the children's interest of farm animals by making an edible mud with chia seeds, and food colouring. We also hide the animals in the sand and the children used their hands and shovel to dig, scoop and pour the sand to find the animals. We then made each animal sound when we found the animals. This activity supports the children's gross motor skills, while learning about the animal sounds.

In addition to exploring sensory experiences, we are also doing different styles of painting using nature. We have used gum nuts, leaves and sticks so far. We will continue to explore more different nature materials for our arts.



We also added a bridge in the Koala room to encourage the children to confidently balance their body when standing.

As the weather is becoming colder please remember to bring your child's coat or jacket and ensure it is clearly labelled. Thank you so much.

Kind regards

Aimie, Cherry, Tiarna and Hailey



Monthly spotlight from the team - All about... Tiarna!

Hello my name is Tiarna,

I began my career as an educator just over a year ago,

I began working in the Koala room a year ago and simply haven't left. I love working with all children but I especially love working with the babies. When I was younger I use to babysit my brother and my family friends' children. So, I suppose that's when my love for early education started.

I'm currently studying my certificate 3 in early childhood education and care.

In my spare time I love to go camping with my partner and seeing new places. My favourite place I have been camping to is Echuca. I enjoy being on the river and spending time with friends and family. I also love travelling to different places around the world with my family. I've been to Bali and Thailand. I am excited to visit more places in the future.



NIADOC Week

Cire Mt Evelyn would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Wurundjeri People past, present and emerging of the Kulin Nation on which we play, learn and work. This week is an important week for aboriginal and Torres Strait people all over Australia- a celebration of culture, history and achievements.

To celebrate NAIDOC week here at Cire Mt Evelyn, we explored many different provocations which encouraged children to explore, discover and appreciate Aboriginal and Torres Strait perspectives and culture.



Provocations included:

- Story reading – Welcome to country – Aunty Joy Wandin – Rainbow serpent
- Watching film clips of Aboriginal dancing
- Our usual Acknowledgement of Country
- Sand drawing of symbols
- Singing along with Ta ba naba -Wiggles
- Messages stick painting and exploration
- Aboriginal Flag painting exploration
- Lemon myrtle cookies



Dental Visit

Friendly reminder that Inspiro Dental Screening will be visiting us on Tuesday the 18th of July and Wednesday the 19th of July.

The screening will be performed by an Inspiro dental clinician and dental assistant and is a basic, non-invasive procedure used to identify oral conditions that may need further investigation.

It involves the dentist taking a quick look inside the child's mouth with basic dental tools such as a mouth mirror, probe and dental tweezers. If a child is concerned about any of these tools, the tool(s) will not be used during the screening. We are also offering a free fluoride treatment which involves a cream applied to the teeth.

At the completion of the screening, your child will be given a dental screening report (and a show bag) advising of any recommended examinations or treatments for future follow up by parents.

Please ensure you have returned your consent form if you wish for your child to participate.



July

NAIDOC Week- Sunday 2 July to Sunday 9 July 2023

Dental Visit – 18-19th July 2023

National PJ Day- 27th July 2023

National Tree Planting Day Friday 28 July 2023

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/>