



From the Director's desk

June 2023

Welcome to our June newsletter! June was a month filled with many exciting changes.

We welcomed Nav to our team. Please be sure to introduce yourselves to her and make her feel at home!

Special News - Jess is returning to us! Towards the end of June Jess has been doing some touch point time, doing a couple hours here and there. She will officially return from parental leave on Tuesday 11 July working 3 days, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday increasing her days until she returns full time on 21 August.

Mel is back from holidays with the start of term 3 next week, April the week after and Elise the week after that.

National Reconciliation Week began on Saturday 27 May 2023, continuing until Saturday 3 June 2023. The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023 is 'Be a voice for generations'. The theme encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise.

For the work of generations past, and the benefit of generations future, act today for a more just, equitable and reconciled country for all.

Watched on Xplor to see how our rooms continue to enhance the children's understanding and embed these learnings into our environments.

What's happening in the Nursery Room?

Hello families from the Galah room

We had a busy month last month; we started by using our fine motor skills to paste paper onto rainbow shapes to create colourful rainbows that hung on the walls.



We celebrated winter and all things cold by painting on bubble wrap and making snowflake prints, we hung the prints on the roof of the room along with blue and white pom poms to create a winter wonderland. We also decorated all the windows by painting winter themed pictures on the windows for the children to enjoy.

Climbing has been a big interest in the room this month and while the children have been busy exploring, they used the opportunity to grow their gross motor skills and balance by climbing all over our big foam climbing blocks.

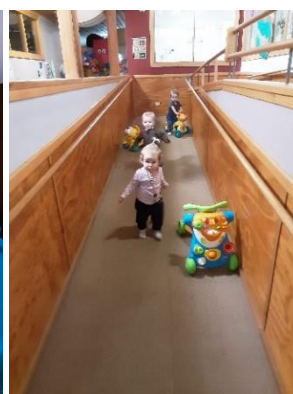


The children have also been showing a growing interest in picture books and reading stories, the educators in the room have been busy reading stories and pointing out pictures to the children to help grow their language and communication skills

We have had dress ups and accessories in the room this month to help encourage self-help skills and imagination. We experimented with bangles and necklaces, explored all the hats we could find and paraded with all the bags we could carry.

This month we said big happy birthdays to Tilly and Michelle. We welcomed Harlow and Avinaaz and Matilda into the room.

Next month we are going to focus on Aboriginal culture to help celebrate NAIDOC week and to bring recognition into the Galah room.



What's happening in the Toddler Room?

Lorikeet newsletter June 2023

Projects, Projects, Projects...

We have been very busy working on group projects in the Lorikeet room! It has been amazing to watch the ideas evolve as the children become interested and engaged in the process.



We love to get feedback about all the exciting adventures that our families go on so that we can build learning around real life experiences in our local community!



Inspired by family trips to the snow...

The children were given a selection of bark that Jenelle found in her yard and white strips of crepe paper to explore their creative ideas. We chatted about Mount Donna Buang and the snow on the trees. I wonder where this will take us on our journey of learning about our local natural playground ???





**Twinkle Twinkle
Little Star**

Scarlet loves to sing Twinkle Twinkle and has inspired other children to sing with her at times. We have been practicing making diamonds with our fingers, searching for stars in our room! The children made their own stars using a variety of glittery materials.





World Ocean day 8th June 2023

To encourage the children to learn about the impact we have on our oceans, we created an opportunity to learn with their help and creative ideas at the forefront of what we set out to achieve. Through creative art, sensory play with whales and water and role play as pirates we were able to evoke imagination and learning. Through conversation we were able to share our knowledge with the children about interactions between people, animals and nature and the impact that this has on our world.

The children helped to create their own recourses by making telescopes to see in the ocean, they were participating in a sustainable practice to express themselves creatively. We talked about sea creatures that they could see while pretending to be pirates walking the plank, they learnt through imaginative role-play! We made an aquarium as a group with paper and paint to explore the colours of the ocean, working together in a project gave a sense of community and co-operation. Exploring with our senses with water, whales and fish was a great opportunity to learn about how cold the water felt and the children learnt through discovery and exploration with their hands. We have been singing songs like "12345, once I caught a fish alive" and "slippery fish" to add another dimension to our learning about oceans and how we need to protect them.



What's happening in the Kookaburra Room?

Kookaburra News Article for June 2023 (Pre-Kinder)

Hello, and Welcome to our Kookaburra News Article.

Our group of happy Kookaburra children have been very busy learning all sorts of skills over the last few weeks and months.

Like what, you ask?

Reconciliation Week: Saturday 27 May 2023, continuing until Saturday 3 June 2023. The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023 is 'Be a voice for generations'.

During these days, we highlighted our Indigenous experiences. When creating Handprints, we used the colours of the Aboriginal flag and had discussions about the meaning of each colour. We are becoming more confident in recognising and naming our indigenous symbols, together with matching the symbols to photos representing each symbol. For example: We can now match the symbol of a witchetty grub to a photo of a witchetty grub.

We are practicing our Acknowledgement to Country and using our Clapping sticks when we sing.

To acknowledge our connection to Country we collected natural items from our playground to create artwork for our room. In recognition to our changing seasons, we created 4 different canvases.



Cooking, measuring, pouring, stirring, kneading, waiting for your turn, listening to instructions.

When baking muffins and making playdough, the above list are all skills we need to practice to have a successful outcome. When baking muffins with Elise, the children were so interested in the process that they showed great concentration and chatted to each other as they had their turn. While doing this, Elise talked to the group about each ingredient as they practiced their fine motor skills to manipulate measuring cups & spoons.

While participating in these real life experiences, children are able to practice their skills in places like the sandpit as they incorporate their imaginations into their play.



Gross Motor Skills: Balancing, climbing, building confidence and feeling secure as they move their bodies in more complex ways.

Aframe: When climbing up and over the Aframe, there are a few skills to master.

- Safety: letting the person before you climb, so you don't get a sandy gumboot to the head.
- Slowing down and concentrating as you climb helps gain confidence, less slipping. When climbing over the top you have jobs for all of your body parts to co-ordinate, as well as be confident enough to try by yourself and not reach for an educator to support you.

Sandra stayed close during these learning moments, with hands close for support, offering guidance in best placement of hands and feet to successfully climb over.

With our confidence building, we branched out to the big plastic stepping stones, climbing the rope ladder, throwing and catching balls and even climbing small trees.

It is that time of year, where our group is a little bit older, confidence is growing, and our skills are leaping forward each time we practice or try something new.



We would also like to welcome Navkiranjot (Nav) to our Yarra Junction Cire team and the Kookaburra Room. We look forward to getting to know Nav and share ideas together as we move forward through the 2nd half of our year.



Thank you for reading our article,

Sandra, Laura, Elise, Navkiranjot and our Kookaburra Friends.

What's happening in the Kinder Room? Cockatoos Newsletter Term 2

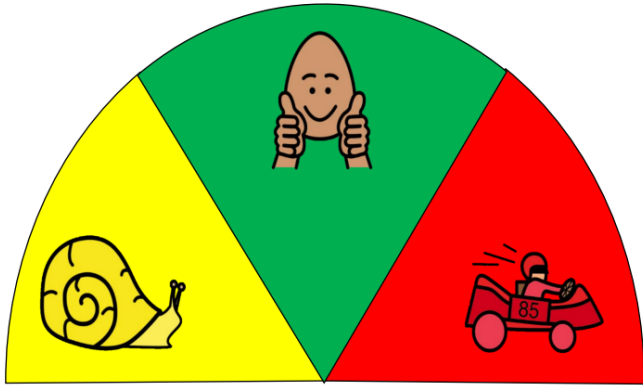
The Alert Program

The Alert Program for self-regulation is used by Occupational Therapist to teach children about arousal levels (e.g. energy) and self-regulation. The program uses the analogy of an 'engine' to describe the different states of alertness.

The children have been learning how to identify engine speeds in themselves and others. The children are learning different strategies to increase or decrease their engine speeds to suit specific situations. There is no right one engine speed, however, there are some engine speeds that are better suited to some situations than others. This learning is ongoing and the next stage involves introducing the children to a social story and then sensory strategies will be next. For example, if a child's engine is running too high or too low, a tactile strategy such as hugging a teddy, playing with cold or warm water or sandpit play may help bring their alertness to where it needs to be. The Alert Program provides children with important school readiness skills and we will keep you updated on this and how families can implement this at home.



The engine speedo we have been using: -



How is My Engine Running?

Our Woolworths supermarket

One of our children put forward their idea to make a supermarket. In the kinder room we aim to collaborate with children and their families regarding the curriculum. Therefore, we took this opportunity to create a grocery store play space with the children and families. Thank you to our families for contributing items for our Woolworths. The Woolworths play space has afforded the children so many learning opportunities such as responsibility in re setting the area, exposure to print (symbols, money, and words), technology (cash registers and calculators), role playing, social skills and more.



Emotions

Naming, recognising and learning to respond to emotions is an important school readiness and life skill. We integrate this learning throughout the curriculum. Some examples are noticing and naming emotions in each other, characters in books, through games and art. We teach the children that all of our emotions are okay, but we can choose how we respond. The children created some beautiful feelings rocks.



School visits

The children have enjoyed visits from the Launching Place Primary School Prep Teacher Lara Mackie and Yarra Junction Primary School Prep and Music Teachers (Kim Taikato and Tania Scott). The teachers engaged the children in group times and activities. This included a wonderful drama experience of Tiddalick the Frog and We're Going on a Bear Hunt, the stories were brought to life by the children. The teachers commented on the wonderful behaviour displayed by our children.





General

The above examples are just some of the learning that has been occurring throughout the term. Children have enjoyed bringing in books from home, please continue this. Our Indigenous education continues to be embedded within the curriculum such as our Acknowledgement of Country and what this means in our everyday lives, such as caring for our trees at kinder. The I Can Classroom book is continually being added to and this instils a growth mindset and is a lot of fun. We will be introducing small group times before lunch to allow for more targeted intentional teaching in response to parent goals. More information to follow on this.



Healthy Harold (Harold's Big Feelings – Belonging and Connecting Incursion) will be visiting us on Tuesday 18th July at 9.30am.

It has been a wonderful term of learning, fun and relationships.

The Kinder Team.

JULY 2023

NAIDOC Week

Sunday 2 July to Sunday 9 July 2023

Healthy Harold Incursion (Kinder Room)

Harold's Big Feelings – Belonging and Connection Incursion

Tuesday 18 July at 9.30am

National Tree Planting Day

Friday 28 July 2023



Term Dates for the remainder of 2023

- Term 3
Monday 10 July to Friday 15 September 2023
- Term 4
Monday 2 October to Wednesday 20 December 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/>

Update from the Educational Leader

The Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standards stress the importance of Educators being intentional in their work with children, families', community and other professionals. The concept of intentional teaching raises our expectations for all Educators and has the same positive effect as holding high expectations for every child. The E.Y.L.F defines Intentional teaching as 'Educators being deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful in their decisions and actions'. The Early Years Learning Framework, also referred to as the EYLF is one of the early childhood curriculum frameworks, which guide the Educators in developing quality, early childhood education programs and guides all our practices.

You may have seen evidence of intentional teaching in room reviews as well as previous issues of the newsletters. Our Centre events are a perfect example of intentional teaching – we plan the events and the experiences then foster the children's interest and involvement in learning more about the event particularly through interactions with adult and peers.

At Cire we understand the importance of intentional teaching. Intentional teaching is the opposite of teaching by rote or continuing with traditions simply because things have 'always' been done that way. Here are some examples of being deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful as an Educator. This is important that you as the parent also embrace these points to develop your child's learning and development –

- Understanding the importance of relationships and interactions for learning.
- Recognising a child's right to be consulted and respecting their viewpoints.
- Asking children open-ended questions to extend their thinking.
- Being aware of the possibilities for learning in everyday experiences in the home environment, in an education and care setting, and in the community.
- Having high expectations for every child's capacity for learning.
- Being flexible by adapting or changing plans when something unexpected happens.
- Using play-based approaches for learning.

Intentional teaching is not worksheets/ colouring-in, expecting young bodies to sit still and concentrate for prolonged periods of time, learning to write/ count, expecting all children to participate in all activities.

“Contrary to popular belief, the best indicator of how well children will adapt as adults is not school grades, but peer friendships.” (Hartup, 1978)

Over the next couple months, we will be consulting with our team, children and families and collaborating to refine our program and documentation. These updates will be communicated in order to ensure that everyone has aligned expectations in relation to what will come home, be visible in their children's learning and the frequency of Xplor posts – stay tuned!