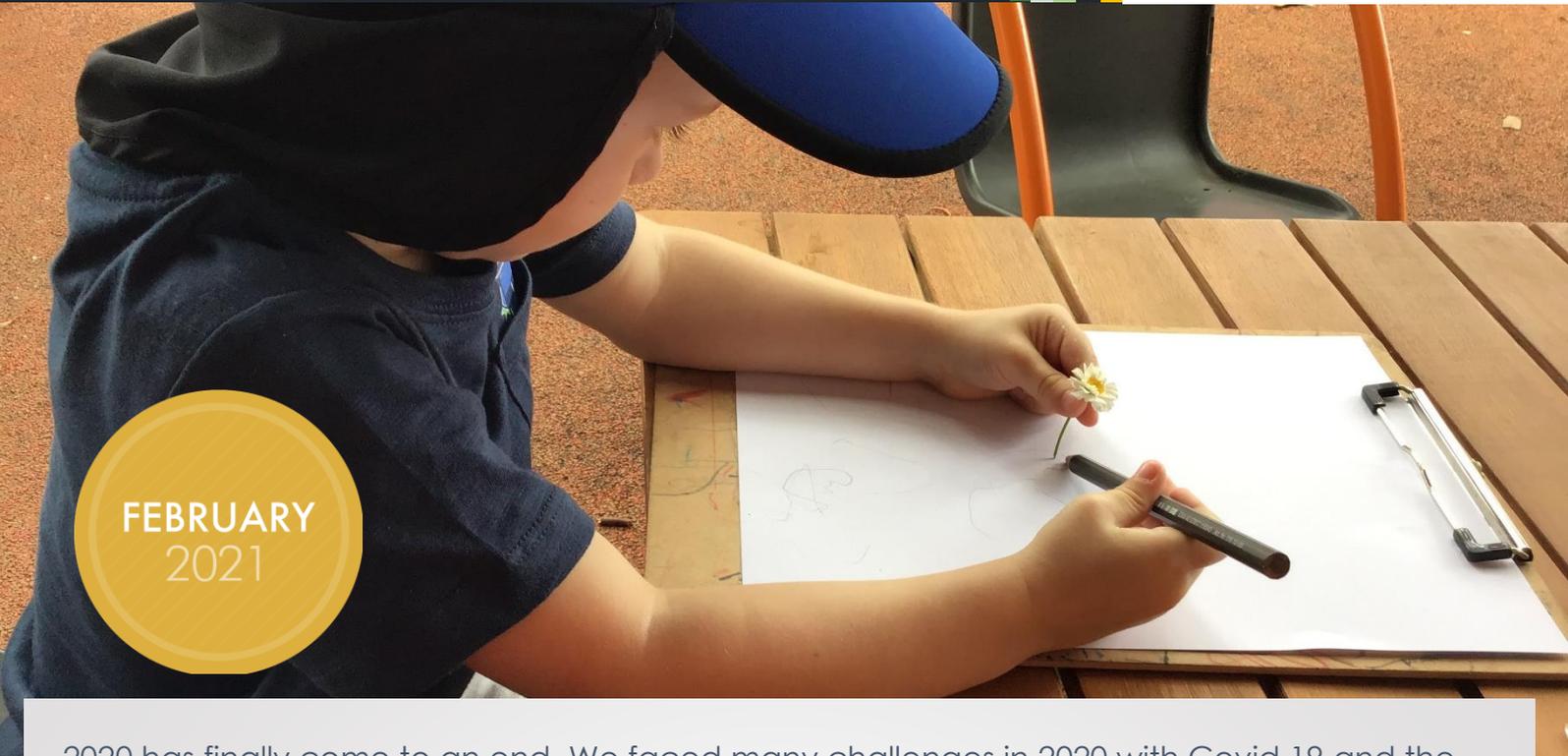


Each time one prematurely teaches a child something they could have discovered themselves, that child is kept from inventing it and consequently from understanding it completely – JEAN PIAGET Child Psychologist



2020 has finally come to an end. We faced many challenges in 2020 with Covid 19 and the uncertainty of what to expect. The Centre had to make many changes with our day-to-day operations to take into consideration COVID guidelines, Job keeper and lockdowns. There were changes made to drop offs, to the way we handle illnesses, to ceasing excursions and incursions and to our ability to waive gap fees for those not attending. Changes were made to keep the children in our care, families and staff safe and to ensure a continuity of the business.

Through all of 2020 Yarram Early Learning kept its doors open to support the families that needed care for their children. With the support of Jobkeeper we were able to keep all of our amazing staff employed and were able to offer the flexibility that many needed to support their own families. Unlike many other industries that were heavily affected we were so lucky not to have any redundancies.

So well done to the Yarram Early Learning team for their dedication in what was the most difficult year that we have yet faced. Not only did we make it through but amongst all that stress we can proudly say we had our accreditation and came out with a rating of exceeding. Thankyou to our supportive Committee of Management and to our amazing understanding families for helping us to get through the year.

Now it time to focus on 2021! Lets hope to a year of health and happiness and of less stress and disruptions. This January we have welcomed over 24 new children to the Centre and we've welcomed back 113 children from last year.

Cathy Gay - Director

## ON *this* MONTH

### AROUND THE COUNTRY

World Wetlands Day -----	2
Safer Internet Day -----	9
Chinese New Year -----	12
National Apology Anniversary -----	13
World Day of Social Justice -----	20



## CRISPY CAJUN CHICKEN TACOS



PREP 10 min | COOK 10 min | MAKES 6

## INGREDIENTS

*Crispy Air Fried Cajun Chicken:*

500 grams **chicken breast**, cut into bite-sized pieces

1/2 cup (125 ml) **buttermilk**

2 1/2 cups (300 grams) **corn flake style breadcrumbs**

2 tablespoons **flour**

2 1/2 tablespoons **store-bought Cajun seasoning**

2/3 cup (90 grams) **parmesan cheese**, grated  
**sea salt and pepper**, to season

*Zesty Lime Sauce:*

1 cup (250 grams) **Greek style yoghurt**  
juice and zest of 1 **lime**

1 clove **garlic**, minced

1 handful **coriander leaves**

1 tablespoon **olive oil**

**sea salt**, to season

*Tacos:*

6 **tortillas**, warmed according to packet instructions

1 **avocado**, mashed with the juice of 1 **lime**

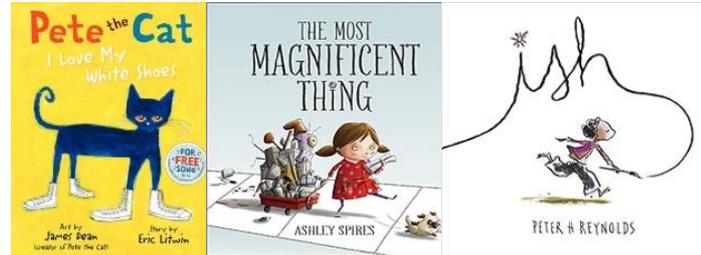
2 cups **iceberg lettuce**, finely shredded

**METHOD:** Place the chicken and buttermilk into a bowl and stir to combine. Into a separate bowl, place the cornflake crumbs, flour, Cajun seasoning, parmesan, salt, pepper and stir to combine. Dredge each piece of chicken in the breadcrumbs and place the crumbed chicken onto a tray lined with baking paper, drizzle with a little olive oil and bake in a preheated oven (200 C) for 10 minutes or until chicken is golden and cooked through. **To make the Zesty Lime Sauce:** Place the yoghurt, lime zest and juice, garlic, coriander, olive oil and salt into the jug of a food processor and blitz for 1-2 minutes or until lusciously combined. **To assemble the tacos:** Top warmed tortillas with lime avocado, shredded iceberg lettuce, crispy Cajun chicken bites and drizzle with zesty lime yoghurt sauce. Enjoy x

Recipe and Image from *My Lovely Little Lunch Box*  
[mylovelylittlelunchbox.com/2020/04/20/crispy-cajun-chicken-tacos/](http://mylovelylittlelunchbox.com/2020/04/20/crispy-cajun-chicken-tacos/)

## Book reviews

Resilience can be learned like any other skill. It takes practice and patience. Check out this collection of books that teach resilience.



## THE MOST MAGNIFICENT THING

Ashley Spires | 1 - 4

Award-winning author and illustrator Ashley Spires has created a charming picture book about an unnamed girl and her very best friend, who happens to be a dog. The girl has a wonderful idea. "She is going to make the most MAGNIFICENT thing! She knows just how it will look. She knows just how it will work. All she has to do is make it, and she makes things all the time. Easy-peasy!" But making her magnificent thing is anything but easy, and the girl tries and fails, repeatedly.

## PETE THE CAT: I LOVE MY WHITE SHOES

Eric Litwin | AGE 1 - 4

Pete the Cat goes walking down the street wearing his brand-new white shoes. Along the way, his shoes change from white to red to blue to brown to WET as he steps in piles of strawberries, blueberries, and other big messes! But no matter what colour his shoes are, Pete keeps movin' and groovin' and singing his song...because it's all good.

## ISH

Peter H. Reynolds | AGE 4 - 8

A creative spirit learns that thinking "ish-ly" is far more wonderful than "getting it right" in this gentle fable from the creator of the award-winning picture book *The Dot*. Ramon loved to draw. Anytime. Anything. Anywhere. Drawing is what Ramon does. It's what makes him happy. But in one split second, all that changes.





# Ngarawert

The Ngarawert team would like to welcome back each and everyone of you. We are excited for the year ahead and to watch your children blossom throughout. We are hoping to go on some excursions through the year as obviously due to COVID19 we were not able to go out of the center last year. For the first couple of months, we will be focusing on getting to know your child (if we don't already) and tuning in to how they communicate and what they need to ensure they feel safe secure and supported in their environment. As you know we have requested goals from Parents/Guardians to help support a high-quality level of development and care.

We are wanting to work closely with families and are looking for parent input- if you have any feedback, suggestions or enquiries please let us know either through the playground app, email, or face to face on pick-up/drop-off. We are always encouraging the children to use self help skills. For example, before and after meals the child will get a face washer to wipe their own hands and face, washing hands in the sink after nappy changes ect. This also helps the children feel empowered and capable of doing things themselves.





# Wook Gook

What a great first month back it has been in the Wook Gook room, firstly we would like to say a huge welcome to all our new children that have either moved up from the Ngarawert room or have started new at the centre as well as some new staff including Nikkita who has joined us from the Bataluk room and Breanna who has come from OSHC. We are so excited for what's in stall over the next year.

Throughout the last program the aim for the children was to settle in and be comfortable with their new environment and the educators. To facilitate this we asked parents to bring in a photo of their child, family and pets if included to be part of an ongoing display in the Wook Gook room. In the room a lot of the children seem to enjoy playing in the home corner which includes a kitchen, dining and baby area. This area gave the children opportunities to express their feelings and work together as well as creating a happy environment to play in. The nook is set up as a quiet space for the children to relax if needed which includes a variety of books as well as some pillows, the children love to have the educators sit and read the books to them. As apart of our art corner there were pictures on the wall representing summer in which the children were able to draw and paint on pieces of paper. Exploring the indigenous ways of knowing and being, the children were given a tub of sand to do some finger drawing with inspiration from photos that were stuck on the wall above the area.

**Reminders:** Please make sure that all of your children's clothing is labelled. Also please remember to pack a labelled wide brimmed hat for your child. Hats are to go home each day with children and are no longer to be kept at the centre. If you forget to pack your child's hat, we will notify you and request a hat delivered.

We look forward to another amazing month  
The Wook Gook Room





# Bataluk

Welcome families to the Bataluk room in 2021

We are so pleased to have you all with us during this new year. Some families will be familiar with our Bataluk room and some will be very new, we are here to answer any questions or queries you may have during the year. It is our pleasure to care for and educate your children as they grow.

We have our welcome boards out the front of the centre with each educator's name and face on it. Our room consists of room leader Kerry & educators Shantaz, Deanne & Jackson.

Due to Covid 19 regulations parents and families will now be dropping off and picking up at the front door near the office, an educator from the Bataluk room will meet families at the front door. Communication about your child's day and any notes will be passed on whilst dropping your child off. If you are concerned or wanting a private chat with Kerry our room leader or one of our educators, please let us know on drop off or call the centre to make a time to chat that suits you.

Every morning as your child enters the Bataluk room we assist them in finding their own named locker tag and proceed to pick a locker. We then guide your child to wash their hands and go on to play. We do have children with allergies in our room, so it is important that we all practice good hygiene methods on arrival, before and after eating and after a nappy change/toilet.

Each day we ask that you pack your child a hat, drink bottle, healthy lunchbox, and a spare change of clothes. We are a sun smart centre and with the warmer weather it is important that hats are wide brimmed and sun smart. We also supply sunscreen unless your child is sensitive. If your child needs a specific sunscreen, we ask that you pack one that we will label with their name.

As we progress into the year we will be taking the children on excursions to the park, wetlands and areas within the community. These excursions will have consent forms that will need to be signed by parents/families giving permission for their child to partake.

We ask that toys are left at home to avoid getting lost and left behind. Comforters are more than welcome if needed.

We are so pleased to have you all along for the journey that 2021 will bring!





# Tiddalek

We would like to welcome our Kindergarten children, parents and families to the Tiddalek room for 2021.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the indoor and outdoor environments, reacquainting with old friends and making new ones. We have been exploring how to be a good listener and showing respect for our friends, Educators, Teachers and Kindergarten environment. The children are already displaying a good sense of belonging and are beginning to develop qualities of citizenship.

Just a few reminders to assist you and your child with a smooth transition into our room every morning;

- **COLDPACKS:** Please put a cold pack in your child's lunchbox to keep perishable items cold.
- **HEALTHY LUNCHBOX:** We encourage fruit, yoghurt and cheese for morning snacks and sandwiches, wraps, cold meat and salad for lunch time. Please pack enough healthy snacks to get them through the whole day at kinder.
- **WATER BOTTLE:** Please send your child with a water bottle with water only.
- **LABELS:** Make sure to label all your child's items such as lunch box, drink bottle, hat, jumpers, t shirts, socks, shoes etc.
- **HATS:** As we are a SunSmart centre all children must wear a hat when the UV is 3 or above otherwise they cannot play outside. It's helpful to have a special "kinder only" hat that stays in their bags so that it is not forgotten.

For those who are not familiar with Xplor, each fortnight the indoor and outdoor programs will be uploaded to the platform for you to be able to read in your own time to gain an insight into what your child will be learning or experiencing in each program. If you have any questions about these programs or anything in relation to Kinder in 2021, please do not hesitate to speak with one of the teachers or educators.

Until next month,  
Kiera, Jodie, Jeannie and Sarah





# Narrt

What a month January has been. We have been very busy and active up at our Vacation care program over the school holidays. We welcomed so many new smiling faces with some new prep children enrolling into OSHC. It was such a beautiful experience to watch them engage & build bonds with our other children over the weeks.

Our excursion to Port Welshpool, was unfortunately quite wet and windy, however the children enjoyed hot chips for lunch and we made use of the Gazebo at the port.

It was such a beautiful day outside for our Water Play day, the children approached the day with their heads held high & were ready to get wet. Even the educators participated in these experiences. The children chased after each other on the oval, shooting each other with water pistols. We also had an opportunity to slide down a water slide, covered in dish soap & water – creating a splash at the other end.

We had a busy day on our bikes & scooters around the school yard. The children were disheartened that we did not go to the skate park, but we decided that due to the improvements being made down there and all our prep children, we needed to stay at the school for everyone's safety. All the children made the most out of the situation and enjoyed the physical activity in the sunshine.

We headed up to Tarra Bulga on another day, exploring the bridge & running along many dirty, muddy tracks. The children had so much fun on this excursion. The drive back was full of sing a longs, laughter and chatter.

At the school we have been busy with arts & craft, games in the gym, playing on the play equipment, building bonds & relationships with each other, and engaging in lots of fun social activities.

We are looking forward to the year ahead. We can't wait to watch all the children continue to build strong and meaningful relationships with each other & creating bonds with our educators, Janette & Brianna



# From the Committee

NEW: Each month we will now include a page "From the Committee" in our newsletter. This is an opportunity for our Committee of Management to let you know what they are working on and a little about what goes on behind the scenes.

YELC committee of management are currently investigating opportunities of growth in the preparation for 3YO funded kinder for 2022. A goal of the committee for 2021 is to create and implement a strategic business plan which will help to guide the service over the next 5 years.

The organisation held its AGM in JANUARY and the election of office bearers for 2021 are:

## **Executive Members:**

Chairperson-Malissa Nicol  
Vice Chairperson-Caroline Lubach  
Secretary-Gregor MacAulay  
Treasurer-Michael Hobson

## **Committee Members:**

Anne Morris  
Helen Dwyer  
Joel Brayshaw  
Linda Mirims

## **POLICIES UP FOR REVIEW**

While it is important to have policies and procedures in an early childhood education and care service, it is equally important that the policies are regularly reviewed, and amendments made to cater for changes in legislation and researched best practice, and changes to service procedures that aim to support ongoing quality improvement.

Engagement in regular review of policies and procedures ensure that they align with quality practice within the Service and are responsive to feedback identified through the service's risk management and quality improvement systems.

Yarram Early Learning encourages parents to give feedback on Policies when they come up for review and this can be done via the comment box on our website. <https://yarramelc.com.au/policies/>

### **The policies up for review in February are:**

- **Interactions with children**
- **Management committee recruitment and orientation**
- **Privacy and confidentiality**



## MUSIC AND DANCE

If you've ever witnessed pre-schoolers grooving to music, you can't help but smile. They obviously love the feeling of moving to the tunes we play for them. But music and dance are much more than just fun activities for children. In fact, it's very beneficial for pre-schoolers to participate in these "performing arts". Here's why:

**Music and dance engage the brain:** Children learn new things, like sounds, words and patterns through music. And with dance, they can explore and control their body movements. These activities are great for development and stimulate connections in the growing brain.

**It helps cultivate communication skills:** Bringing together kids with songs, rhymes and actions lets them discover how to interact and connect with others. They develop listening and social skills that will give them self-confidence and better prepare them for school.

**Music and dance allows kids to express themselves-** Happy, nervous, tired? Engaging in creative activities lets kids release their emotions and express their feelings. It's a fantastic opportunity for children who aren't yet able put their thoughts into words.

**It helps foster physical skills:** Young musicians and dancers learn skills like balance, control and coordination. Singing and movement is also good aerobic exercise- linked to stress reduction, physical fitness and overall good health.

**Music and dance contribute to creativity and imagination.** With children spending more time in front of screens rather than physically playing, music and dance encourages them to be curious and imaginative. This creative outlet can also give them opportunities to learn about other cultures through the arts.

Source: <https://www.nvrc.ca/notices-events-blog/active-living-blog/5-benefits-music-and-dancing-preschoolers>

## EGG HEADS



**Gardening is a great way to keep children busy, whether you have a large garden, a small patio or even an apartment without a balcony, you can always find a way to do some planting and bring a bit of nature into your children's lives.**

All you need is some empty egg cartons (even egg shells), a bit of soil, some seeds... You don't need much to have a good time! Simply fill the cartons with a little soil, add your seeds and water.

Choose fast-growing seeds. Radishes, fava beans, dried beans, lentils and chickpeas, etc. are all ideal for planting with children, because their journey from seed to shoot to plant is fast and they require little care - just a little water and you'll be seeing progress every day. Some flowers, such as nasturtiums and marigolds, grow quickly and can be used to decorate salads or desserts.

## 5 Minute MOVES

### CRAWL CHASE

When was the last time you got on your hands and knees and crawled like a baby? Give it a go, it is quite tiring and is a great brain workout too. This activity is simple and requires no equipment just a little space.

It is tag on all fours. Take turns being 'in'. Everyone gets into crawling position and crawls away trying to avoid being tipped! *Have fun.*