

Learning in Nature

Children need more time outdoors in touch with the natural environment. Australian and international research informs us that children who spend more time outdoors in nature are happier, healthier, stronger, kinder and smarter.
<https://bushkinder.wixsite.com/doug-fargher>



MAY
2021

ON *this* MONTH

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Ramadan	April 12-May 12
Play Outside Day	1
Composting Awareness Week	2-8
International Star Wars Day	4
Migratory Bird Day	8
Mother's Day	9
Eid al-Fitr (Festival of Breaking the Fast)	12-13
National Families Week	15-21
National Sorry Day	26
National Reconciliation Week	27/5-3/6

Sustainability CORNER

Jackson in our Bataluk room would like to know if families have any stale or out of date flour that they would like to donate to us to make playdough. Their room is focusing on more sustainable practice and would like to find alternatives for this fantastic sensory experience that isn't so wasteful. If you have any at home, feel free to bring it in the next time your in.

Thank you!

A huge thankyou to Izaboa and her dad who have volunteered to put together our garden sheds.

Kids in the kitchen

NO-BAKE CHOC COCONUT SLICE



PREP 15 min | COOK 15 min | SERVES 16

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (95 grams) rolled [traditional] oats
- 1 cup (80 grams) desiccated coconut
- 1 cup (170 grams) almonds
- 1/3 cup (35 grams) cacao
- 4 Medjool dates, pit removed
- 1/3 cup (80 ml) coconut oil, melted
- 1/4 cup (60ml) maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste [or extract]

METHOD:

Line a 20cm x 20 cm square tray with baking paper. Place the oats, coconut, almonds, cacao, dates, coconut oil, maple syrup and vanilla into the large bowl of a food processor. Blitz until finely chopped. With the motor running add 1-2 tablespoons of water and blitz until the mixture comes together. Pour mixture into the prepared tray, top with a sprinkle of coconut and freeze for 1-2 hours or until set and firm. Cut into 16 squares. Enjoy. X

Recipe and Image from My Lovely Little Lunchbox

Podcast Reviews

A few of the best podcasts for parents now!



PARENTAL AS ANYTHING

MAGGIE DENT | AUS

Maggie Dent, one of Australia's favourite parenting authors and educators gives you practical tips and answers to your real-world parenting dilemmas. Maggie talks to parenting experts from around the world to find practical solutions to the challenges every parent is facing today.

DAD POD: BEYOND SLEEPING IN

OSHER GÜNSBERG & CHARLIE CLAUSEN | AUS

DadPod is a weekly podcast documenting the new Dad adventures of Charlie Clausen and Osher Günsberg. Not just Dad jokes, two Dads talking unapologetically about what it is to be a parent.

MEANINGFUL LIVING

HAYLEY HUBBARD & JESSICA DIAMOND | USA

Parenting is hard. And the thousands of decisions we're forced to make everyday can feel daunting. Should I listen to my paediatrician, my mother, this website? When am I going to find time to read this 500 page book on feeding? Consider Meaningful Living the "Cliff's Notes" to parenting. Because when you remove the doubt, fear, and stress from everyday parenting choices, you create more time for the fulfilling moments.





Ngarawert

This month we have been focusing on drawing. We have put a big piece of paper on a wall where the children can all reach with a range different material for the children to make marks on the paper. The children have all been visiting this area exploring the different choices such as crayons and pencils, they have only added their own marks to the paper. this will be a going experience for the remained of the year. The positioning of the paper will change, and the materials will also change. We have also changed the room around so that there are more designated areas within the room, the children have all responded to this well and the children have been spending more time in each area.

The home corner area has been busy this month with educators been made "cuppas" regularly. The home corner being in a more designated area has allowed the educators to ask more open-ended questions increasing the relationships with the children and having a greater sense of belonging for the children. We have also enjoyed the last of the warmer weather with children busily filling buckets of sand or driving around in the different vehicles.

Most of the children now have a real sense of belonging within the room and have started to form some lovely friendships with others. We have also recently had some younger babies join the room the older children have shown great interest in helping educators look after our littlest members of the room.

As the weather is getting colder, we ask if parents could please make sure there are warmer clothes and a change of clothes as they have been enjoying exploring outside in the light rain in their children's bags with labels on them.

Thanks, the Ngarawert team





Wook Gook

Things are starting to go back to normal in the room with all our toys back out and having the children back with us after being in a gastro outbreak for an amount of time. We have been doing a variety of hands-on activities with the children which they seem to be enjoying.

This month we have decided to start using basic sign language with the children to help them communicate when they can't quite tell us what they are needing, some of the children are picking up on it quite quickly and it is lovely to see them communicate back to us.

We have chosen to make our way down to the community room to participate in PMP when possible, during the week, this is a great opportunity for the children to build up their gross motor skills and have a large space to get some exercise especially since the weather is starting to cool down and will be quite cold outside.

Some of the hands-on activities that the children have been doing are located in the front entry of our room, these include clay which the children are quite fond of the feeling between their fingers when they are creating their masterpieces, making our own paper out of left-over old paper and making some small people in which the children's birthdays will be displayed on with a photo of themselves. Sensory activities are a huge hit with the children, we have created some sensory bags that are stuck to one of the tables.

Reminders: Please make sure that all your children's clothing is labelled as well as lunchboxes, containers, and drink bottles. Also please remember that the weather is starting to cool down, so we ask that you please provide appropriate clothing including jackets and beanies.





Bataluk

Throughout April the Bataluk room have been exploring sensory play with natural materials. The children had natural colored playdough to touch and build with whilst they explored with the different natural materials they could incorporate into their play. Each child had different ideas and thoughts as they enjoyed their own investigations into the natural playdough and the different senses that were explored. The children's words were documented, and future planning has been discussed on how to broaden the ideas of sensory play from the children's thoughts.

We also finished up enjoying our Easter crafts in the Bataluk room making Easter hats that could be scratched out to reveal different colors underneath. These were used whilst exploring on our Easter egg hunts throughout the room and the outdoor yard. There were many conversations in the room amongst the children, educators and families in the days surrounding the Easter egg hunts. We went on excursions to the community room, where the children participated in PMP (Perceptual Motor Program). PMP are experiences that help children's gross motor skills such as, hand/ eye coordination and foot/eye coordination, it helps to aid them in balance, overall coordination, and fitness. This is something the children really enjoy and are delighted to participate in. The children over the school holidays had the chance to get their faces painted by a professional face painter, there were many butterflies and rainbows, dinosaurs and spiders. Every child had a big smile on their face whilst talking about their face painting and couldn't wait to show everyone back in the Centre and families on arrival.

We are hoping to start back with our excursions to the Yarram Memorial Park and possibly other places of interest of ideas from the children. If a new local place is of interest to the children to visit, we will have a new excursion form to fill out for permission. The children have been enthusiastic and full of joy whilst we discuss our excursions and then partake in them. These excursions will be on going for the year.





Tiddalek

Hello dear Tiddalek families,

I am feeling so happy that I have had the privilege in meeting your beautiful children over the last couple of weeks. They have been so kind and accepting of me coming into the room as a new educator and I am loving their sense of imagination and creativity. They have been very confident in reminding me of what their name is and how the routine of the room works. I will get it eventually. I have worked at some beautiful early childhood services over the years and Yarram Early Learning has now become one of them.

At present I am very focussed on getting to know your child's strengths, interests, and areas that they may need support with. I have also been very lucky to be accepted into a team of passionate early childhood educators who know and understand your child. For now, I am co-teaching with Jodie and Keira (until she is ready to go on maternity leave), Britt, Sarah, and we welcome Hannah into the Tiddalek program. Britt, Sarah and Hannah are all working towards their bachelor qualification in early childhood. (How amazing is that?).

For this term we have been very busy building up the children's awareness of being mindful, kind and keeping each other safe. As we have begun our nature kindergarten sessions, the children have been very patient in preparation of getting ready for our journey to the Yarram Botanical Gardens. Just getting everybody ready and the long walk are an adventure in itself. We have set clear rules and boundaries and with all of the excitement our main focus is safety, ensuring that children are comfortable and take responsibility as much as possible for themselves and other children in the group. The nature program is building up your child's resilience, self-development, understanding of different environments and many moments of problem solving, co-operation, patience and taking calculated risks. All very important concepts to ensure that they are ready for their next journey to the primary school environment. Please be mindful that we are out in a bush environment so your children will come home quite dirty some days, with perhaps a little scratch or graze here and there. We follow all regulations and policies that we would when we are at the centre environment. We invite you to join us for the walk or pop in at the site when you can to say hello.

The Tiddalek room is in transformation with lots of beautiful indoor plants to add beauty to the room, we will be embedding some life skills experiences into the program such as cooking each week, gardening, and child led projects full of creativity and inspiration. I am sure they will be excited to show you or discuss with you after their day. If you have any beautiful materials, scarfs, artwork, or homely things that you would like to donate to the room, please speak to Trace.

I look forward to meeting you all face to face very soon. (I have a lot of names to remember so please bear with me).

If you have any ideas of how we can accommodate your children's learning or have any concerns and would like to chat to an educator, please feel free to make a time to see myself, Jodie or Kiera.

On behalf of the Tiddalek team, Trace.

Jodie, Keira, Britt, Hannah and Sarah.



Naart

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who has welcomed Sarah and myself to the Naart team. With quite a rushed change over, it has been an eventful but fantastic school holidays and start to term two. Starting off our school holidays with a few days getting to know the children and families by having a few quiet experiences at the school ground. Starting off the school holiday program with some easter activities, wheels day and some science experiments. The highlight for the first week of the school holidays would have to be the visit from Jess from The Roo Keepers, who brought along some furry and scaly friends. Jess spoke about what we would do if we saw a snake out in the bush and a little bit about the possums and reptiles. The final experience was all of us getting a chance to hold "little Lucy", who in fact was not little at all, but a 7" Black Headed Python!

The second week of the school holidays showed a forming of relationships both with the new team leaders and amongst the children. We started off our week with home creations of musical instruments, developing an interest in cooking in the kitchen making, bacon and eggs for breakfast, hamburgers for lunch, and muffins for afternoon tea. We also set out on our first excursion as a new team and group to Wulgunggo Ngalu. Exploring the culture of the Aboriginal people in our community and watching a native dance performed by some of the Aboriginal men. We were met by the kinder children from Yarram Early Learning who also participated in these experiences. We also set up a craft day making hacky sacks and any other crafts the children may have started and wanted to finish during the holidays.

We are excited for this next term and look forward to getting to know the children better and develop a great team at Yarram Early Learning OSHC Club! We have some exciting new things coming up in our next program.

Thank you

Brittany
& Sarah



Centre News

Parents welcome into the centre again

Due to COVID-19 restrictions being eased, we would like to let families know on drop of or pick up that you may come into the centre with your child/ren. Please let the office know if you would like to come in and an educator will greet you at the door and bring you through. We do ask that this is only for 10-15 minutes at one time. We will require families to sign in and out as a visitor in our Ipad located out the front and the office staff can assist you with this.



20 years of
Reconciliation
Australia



National
Reconciliation
Week 2021

27 May – 3 June

nrw.reconciliation.org.au

#MoreThanAWord
#NRW2021

National Reconciliation Week

Our centre has decided to use this upcoming National Reconciliation Week as a catalyst for change at our centre.

Our team leaders will be attending a Professional Development session on 6th of May entitled “*Reconciliation in education and care: How to walk the talk*” from Community Child Care around Reconciliation.

As a team we will be creating a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) through Narragunnawali that will include practical actions that will drive our centres contribution to reconciliation both internally and in our community.

www.narragunnawali.org.au/

www.reconciliation.org.au/

Drink well

Healthy drinks are important for healthy teeth.

- Encourage your child to drink plenty of tap water.
- Plain milk is better than flavoured milk.
- Eat fresh fruit instead of drinking fruit juice.

Everyday drinks:

- Water
- Plain milk
- Soy milk with calcium.



Fluoride

- Helps protect teeth against decay.
- Is added to drinking water in some areas.
- Most Victorian households have access to fluoridated tap water.

To find more information on fluoride log onto www.health.vic.gov.au



Limit sometimes Drinks:

- All fruit juices and fruit drinks
- Soft drinks (including diet varieties)
- Cordials
- Sports drinks
- Fizzy (carbonated) drinks
- Energy drinks
- Flavoured water and flavoured ice teas
- Flavoured milk and yoghurt drinks.

These drinks are high in sugar. Sugar is linked to tooth decay.

For more information, please visit our website at www.dhsv.org.au

dental health services victoria
oral health for better health



INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMERS

Australian Government Mobile Service Centre



Serving Regional Australia

Visit the Mobile Service Centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

Information about Department of Veterans' Affairs programs and support services for veterans and their families will also be available.

Staff can provide you with information and support. They can also help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

YARRAM

Near Memorial Park, Commercial Road

Wednesday, 19 May 2021 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Thursday, 20 May 2021 9 am to 3 pm

For more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice

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