

Our task, regarding creativity is to help children climb their own mountains, as high as possible. No one can do more. Loris Malaguzzi



MARCH
2021

ON *this* MONTH

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Japanese Girls Day -----	3
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Harmony Week -----	15-21
St Patricks Day -----	17
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Holi Festival Of Colours -----	28-29

**FEE
INCREASE**

Fee increase from 19th of April to \$95 per day,
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CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY – MARCH 7

Change starts with you. The key to success is stopping litter becoming rubbish. There are so many actions every one of us can take to help reduce the 8 million tonnes of plastic entering our oceans worldwide each year.

‘Step Up to Clean Up’ participate in clean up Australia day and make a sustainable change in your daily life. [Find a clean up event happening near you here.](#)

EARTH HOUR – MARCH 27

Earth Hour has always been for everyone. Every year, the hour of no power turns individuals, schools, businesses and communities into a million-strong movement of people supporting nature through the symbolic action of switching off our lights. This earth hour, make the switch and show your support for a renewable energy future! Find out more.

STRAWBERRY MUFFINS WITH STRAWBERRY GREEN SMOOTHIE



INGREDIENTS

Muffins

- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup (180 ml) lightly flavoured olive oil
- 1 cup Greek (or natural) yoghurt
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste (OR extract)
- 1 cup buckwheat flour (OR 1 cup plain wholemeal flour)
- 1 cup plain wholemeal flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- pinch of salt
- 1 cup (fresh or frozen) strawberries, PLUS extra strawberries sliced, to decorate
- zest and juice of 1 orange

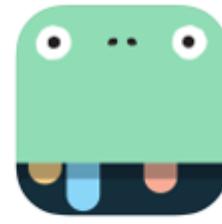
METHOD: Muffins Preheat oven to 180 C, line a 12-hole muffin tin with papers. Set aside. Place the eggs, oil, yoghurt, sugar and vanilla into a large bowl and whisk to combine. Add the buckwheat flour, plain flour, baking powder and salt and using a wooden spoon gently stir to combine. Do not over mix. Gently fold through the strawberries and orange zest and juice. Evenly divide the mixture between the prepared tin. Top each muffin with a slice of strawberry. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until a skewer inserted removes cleanly. Cool for 5-10 minutes before placing on a wire rack to cool completely.

Glaze - Place the honey, orange juice, zest and vanilla into a small bowl and whisk to combine. Add the icing sugar and stir until smooth. Drizzle glaze over the cooled muffins. Serve immediately.

Recipe and Image from 'mylovelylittlelunchbox.com'

App reviews

A mixed bag of apps to keep pre-schoolers entertained and learning.



THE LORAX

Oceanhouse Media | AGE 4+ | \$9.99

If you care about the environment and want your child to care too, then the Lorax App is a no-brainer. The classic Dr. Seuss book comes to life with this app thanks to its interactive activities and exquisite animation. The app has won the Academic Choice “Smart Choice Media” award as well as the Parents’ Choice Award Silver Honour award. The story is about how industrialisation destroys environments and this app teaches environmental awareness in a very approachable way.

BANDIMAL

YATATOY | AGE 3 to Adult | \$5.99

BANDIMAL is a fun and intuitive music composer that lets kids discover the creative world of making music. Set up a drum loop, swipe through animals to change instruments, compose melodies, change loop speeds and add a quirky effect on top. Amusing animals animate in hilarious ways as you perfect your song.

WORLD OF PEPPA PIG

Entertainment One | AGE 3–5 | FREE

The World of Peppa Pig app offers your family a safe and ad-free environment, filled with lots of learning and fun!

Tailored towards the development of pre-schoolers, there are plenty of games, videos and activities for your little ones to enjoy and grow with.





Ngarawert

What a busy month we have had in the Ngarawert room. All the children have settled really well and have found their sense of belonging in the room. The children are starting to form string bonds with one another after spending the first few months getting to know each other.

This month we got our new toy order. We have purchased a lot of new wooden toys, sensory toys, and farm toys as this is what we needed most for the children.

We have also purchased two new rocking chairs and some great outside toys that will be shared with the Wook Gook room. New toys mean big boxes- love children have been enjoying creating a hidey hole out of the left-over boxes. We made play dough this month with the children and they each got their own individual bag to play with to ensure safe hygiene practice with the current COVID-19 practices. The children got really involved with the play dough and the different texture and form of it. We will be using clay in the up coming month to introduce another new texture.

REMINDER: We ask again, to please ensure ALL your child's belongings are labelled including clothes, shoes, dummies, comforters lunch box ect.

Looking forward to the up coming month!

The Ngarawert team.





Wook Gook

This month in the Wook Gook room the children have been spending a lot of time outside due to the weather working in our favour with lots of sunshine and minimal rain. A huge hit outside with the children at the moment is water play, we have also been able to recently have shared play outside with the children in the Ngarawert room again which the children love spending time with the babies.

Continuing on from our last program we have the home corner, the children spend a lot of time in this area. They love showing each other how they nurture the babies along with creating some dishes of food which they share with each other or the educators. Along with the home corner we have the quiet/book corner which this children tend to spend time in.

As part of our sensory we had a big tub full of different coloured playdough with some photos of animal tracks and some large safari animals in which the children were able to create footprints into the playdough. We also enjoyed a leaf painting experience outside on some cardboard with some homemade paint, the children loved being able to paint outside.

Reminders: Please make sure that all of your childrens clothing is labelled aswell as lunchboxes, containers and drink bottles. 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 would also like to say a huge thankyou and goodbye to Jane who has moved into the Bataluk room and welcome Jeannie who has joined the Wook Gook team. We look forward to another fun filled month!

The Wook Gook Room





Bataluk

Children and educators in the Bataluk room have been focusing on creating natural play spaces within the room. We have had multiple areas set up for the children to explore their creativity and give them the opportunity to create using their imaginations and discussions with educators about our local community and what it has to offer. Children also have had the opportunity to collect a large range of the natural materials used in their experiences from our outdoor yard while excursions have been on hold (due to resume from next week onwards). The children are thoroughly enjoying collecting items for their experiences and having the opportunity to help design and create some of their play spaces.

The Children have been involved in discussion with educators and peers about sensory exploration. We have talked about materials that could be used, collection of the materials and how they are to be placed together to create a sensory experience. The children have been thrilled to have the opportunity to create something on a large scale from beginning to end and are all very proud of their individual contribution towards these projects. The children so far in previous programs have made play dough, clay sculptures, slime and currently making Ooblek formed from cornstarch and water.

Reminders

- HATS - All children are required to have their own hat when the UV is above 3, please ensure that their hat is sun smart and covers your child/ren's face, ears and neck.
- LABELS – Please ensure your child/ren's lunchbox, containers, drink bottles and clothing are clearly labelled so we can return them home.
- CLOTHING – Ensure your child/ren have a spare set of weather appropriate clothes and shoes for those messy play experiences and rainy days.

Regards,
The Bataluk
Room Team





Tiddalek

This past month we have all settled into Kinder extremely well, the children are forming wonderful relationships with each other and all educators in the room. There have been some staffing changes in our room and we have farewelled Jeannie to the Wook Gook, the children will miss her dearly and we thank her for everything she has done to help the children transition into Kinder this year. We have welcomed Britt to our team and she has been working hard on getting to know all the children and forming great bonds with them all individually.

As the weather has been exceptional the past few weeks, we have spent much of our time outdoors and enjoying the program and exploring all the different places in the yard. We have also been working very closely with the Bataluk room and the children are enjoying playing with siblings and friends outside from both rooms. While the warmer weather lasts, we are enjoying all the sensory and water play we can and the children are loving getting muddy and having fun in both the sandpit and mud kitchen.

Sarah has been working with the children at gathering time to incorporate Indigenous practices that we start with every day. The children pay their respect to the land we are on with a welcome to the country and have been learning a new song to welcome each other to the room as well.

We look forward to the next month with the children and are excited to start introducing new things to our upcoming programs.

Kiera, Jodie, Sarah and Britt





Narrt

By rotating a weekly cooking night all the children have participated and taken home samples of their cooking experience. Sometimes our cooking gets messy, however it is important to let the children be involved in each step, enjoy the mess and most of all have fun together. During our cooking process we have a great opportunity to extend the children's mathematical thinking. This can be through conversation and open questions such as "How many eggs?". Through counting, measurements, and process of following a recipe, the children explore concepts of simple mathematics. Relevant to children's development. Children follow health and hygiene procedures. We use the opportunity to promote health and nutrition with children throughout the experience. Building on children's self-help skills and encouraging them to enjoy cooking. The children enjoyed these experiences, each getting involved and participating. Our science experiments this month, children really got involved, writing an invisible message, also filling up a water bottle with vinegar and bicarb soda then placing a balloon on bottle to see if we could blow up the balloon. This was a successful experience. Another experience, a few drops of food colouring into the milk we then dropped in a little sponge soaked in dishwashing liquid and let it disperse colour in the milk. Also, we stuck a skewer through a balloon without popping. The children were fascinated by this. All children had a try to do this experience.

A dramatic play scene has been added and changed fortnightly in the program for the children to build on and extend their imaginary experience. We have had a vet clinic out for two weeks and a hair salon out for two weeks as well. The children have been exploring these experiences thoroughly with their imaginations and having beautiful social interactions together.

Thank you
Janette and Brianna



From the Committee

FEE INCREASE

It is the time of year when we as a Management Committee make decisions regarding the budget for 2021. With much reflection and deliberation, it has been decided that it is necessary to raise fees just slightly to maintain our current high standards. We have worked hard to limit the increase and minimise its impact to families.

From Monday 19th of April fees will increase to \$95 per day

This change will impact families differently depending on CCS % but for a great majority of families you will see an out of pocket increase of

POLICIES

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 March are:

- **Asset Management**
- **Employee Assistance Program**
- **Financial Management**
- **Developing and Assessing Employee Performance**

The policies that were passed in February are:

- Interactions with Children
- Management Committee Recruitment and Orientation
- Privacy and Confidentiality

FOCUS: Types of Play As Your Child Grows

Children love to play because it's fun—but it's also vital to a child's healthy development. In fact, during play, children learn and practice key social, cognitive, organisational, physical, and emotional skills, including creativity, imagination, and problem-solving. The benefits of play are progressive in nature, meaning that the skills kids develop during their fun and games build upon each other.

Seemingly simple activities like rolling a ball back and forth with a sibling or putting on a costume hone skills like learning to take turns, fine motor skills, proprioception (awareness of the body in space), and getting along with others. Influential sociologist Mildred Parten was an early advocate for the benefits of play. Her work described six essential types of play that kids take part in, depending on their age, mood, and social setting, and explained the ways that children learn and interact with each other during play.

Descriptions and typical ages that each stage of play emerge are included below. However, every child develops at their own pace and may engage in these types of play earlier or later. Plus, while these stages are progressive, they often occur simultaneously and stick around while new stages come about.

Unoccupied Play - Unoccupied play primarily occurs in infants, from birth to three months. This is the first stage of play, and to the untrained eye, likely doesn't look like play at all. However, infant activity of observing their surroundings and/or displaying random movements with seemingly no objective is actually unoccupied play. Despite appearances, this definitely is play and sets the stage for future play exploration.

Solitary (Independent) Play - Solitary play is just what it sounds like—your child playing alone. This type of play is important because it teaches a child how to keep themselves entertained, eventually setting the path to being self-sufficient. Toys for independent play can be anything that babies, toddlers, or pre-schoolers play can play with on their own, such as stuffed animals, blocks, toy figures, dress-up costumes, noisemakers, play 'tools', dolls, push toys, and books.

Onlooker Play - Onlooker play is when a child simply observes other children playing and doesn't partake in the action. Your child may watch what you or other adults are doing as well. Onlooker play is typical for children between two and three years old and is especially common for younger children who are working on their developing vocabulary. Don't dismiss the importance of this stage,

which builds on the previous ones. It's a healthy form of learning through play and part of your child's play journey. It could be that the child feels tentative, needs to learn the rules, and/or maybe is the youngest and wants just to take a step back for a while to watch before joining in play with others. Watching helps them gain confidence and learn the framework for future stages of play. During onlooker play, by observing and possibly mimicking the play of others, your child is building their own skills.

Parallel Play - Put two 3-year-olds in a room together and this is what you are likely to see: the two children having fun, playing side by side in their own little worlds. It doesn't mean that they don't like one another, they are just engaging in parallel play. This type of play begins around age two and differs from playing together in that neither child tries to influence the play of the other.

Associative Play - Slightly different from parallel play, associative play, which commonly begins between ages three or four, also features children playing separately from one another. But in this mode of play, they are involved with what the other is doing—think children building a city with blocks. As they build their individual buildings, they are talking to one another and engaging each other but primarily working on their own. Typically, this form of play phases out by age five.

Cooperative Play – Co-operative play is where all the stages come together and children truly start playing together. Typically occurring between four and five years of age, this is the predominant type of play seen in groups of older pre-schoolers on up or in younger pre-schoolers who have older siblings or have been around a lot of children. However, the earlier stages of play will still be used to varying degrees by these children at other times as well. Co-operative play uses all of the social skills your child has been working on and puts them into action.

Other Types of Play - While the above stages are important and vital to your child's social development, there are other key types of play that also contribute to a child's development. These kinds of play usually show up once a child begins to engage in cooperative play and include the following: *Competitive Play, Constructive Play, Dramatic/Fantasy Play, Physical Play and Symbolic Play.*

Rock, Amanda (2021). *11 Important Types of Play As Your Child Grows* Retrieved from [verywellfamily.com/types-of-play-2764587](https://www.verywellfamily.com/types-of-play-2764587)