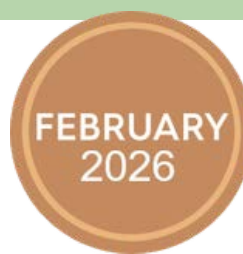




Managers' Report



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Feedback 
is always welcome

We have been very busy at Yarram Early Learning with the children, educators and teachers engaging in various programs and community activities. The 3- & 4-year-old kindergarten children have been enjoying participating in Toy Library and exploring all the new toys that are out on offer. Toy Library is a fantastic community program that offers memberships for a very low cost to support children in borrowing new toys to take home, play and return. The Toy Library opening times can be viewed on their calendar with the following link <http://yarramtoylibrary.setls.com.au/calendar> and an information flyer has been attached for viewing below.

The Gidi children have been engaging in weekly visits to the Library and Community Room for a Perceptual Motor Program (PMP). The 4-year-old kindergarten children have also begun visiting the Community Room for PMP. PMP supports children's gross motor development, hand-eye coordination, balance, and empowers self-confidence and participation. Throughout Term 1 Room Leaders and Early Childhood Teachers at Yarram Early Learning have been observing the children's strengths, areas for development and collating these observations in conjunction with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) Developmental Milestones to create individual learning plans for the children. These plans are implemented throughout each term in collaboration with families to set targeted objectives to support early childhood development, family goals and age-appropriate skills.

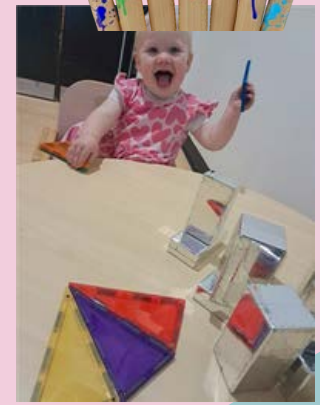
We want to thank all families for their ongoing support, feedback and communication with the Early Learning Centre. We look forward to continuing to support your child/children's early childhood learning and development.

Thank you.

Important Dates

Good Friday public holiday
Friday 3rd April
Centre closed

Easter Monday public holiday
Monday 5th April
Centre closed



The outdoor environment has been widely popular with the children as they discover and face newfound challenges including jumping on the trampoline, riding the bikes and using balance and coordination to master the obstacle course.

Engaging in messy play experiences including paint and mud fosters the children's holistic development through sensory exploration, stimulating brain growth, creativity and fine motor skills.

We hope to continue the children's sensory pathway discovering use of natural materials.

This month, the children have enjoyed sensory art experiences using mud, paint, glitter, sand and dirt, exploring different textures with both their hands and feet. Messy play has brought heaps of laughter while supporting creativity and confidence.

We have made the most of the warm weather through water play, washing baby dolls, muddy trucks, tables and chairs.

The children have also taken an active role in looking after our space. They help care for our new yard plants by watering them and proudly participated in daily tasks such as washing tables and sweeping. There is a growing sense of responsibility and pride in our environment which we will continue to work on throughout the year.

We also celebrated Lunar New Year with our Chinese kitchen dramatic play and created lanterns, now displayed in the hallway alongside our collaborative mud artwork.



Wook Gook



We have started interacting with our community and we have attended our first visit to Yarram Library. The children engaged with our local Librarian as she presented Storytime. We will continue to visit the library every week.

Throughout February the children have been learning about China. They have enjoyed discovering the Panda, Chinese Drum and cultural props. We also a Chinese area in our room which included hanging Chinese lanterns.

Bataluk



With excitement, children ventured on their first Out and About with the Tiddalek group to visit the Lucky Dragon Chinese Restaurant to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year. “The Year of The Horse.” During the walk, the Bataluk children watched the 4-year-old children transform into a large red dragon which vibrantly moved along the footpath entering the restaurant with a roar of enhancement. Owner Alex and family warmly greeted the children. Inside the children discovered the symbols of Chinese culture and enjoyed a bowl of steamed rice. To bring to life the learning, the Bataluk children performed dancing, galloping, trotting and walking horses for the year of the horse and the Tiddalek children sang Puff the Magic Dragon. To end the celebrations Alex delighted each playroom with a Chinese dragon. To continue the Bataluks learning. Thank-you to Misha’s family for providing Chinese wall posters, banner and gifts for Chinese celebrations.

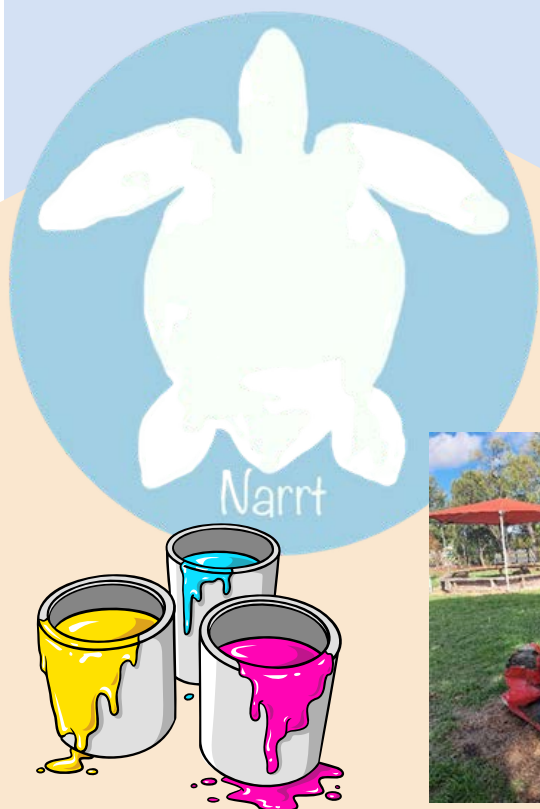
To highlight the local districts’ engagement with Farming and contributions to the Wellbeing of the Community, the children’s learning has a focus on the United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. Our beginning is with digging into earth. What is and lives under the ground and on top of the ground, beginning with grass. While looking at the grass a frog found its way into our playroom, with new home (habitat) established from the children’s ideas of comforts- pillows, blankets and softness of protection. Thank you to all families for sharing their daily conversations and contributions.

The 4-year-old kindergarten children have been busy throughout the beginning of Term 1. They have engaged in Chinese New Year cultural learning, visiting the Lucky Dragon Restaurant for an eating experience and a walk down the main street to showcase their dragon dance. They have continued this learning in the classroom singing “Puff the Magic Dragon” and playing in the Chinese kitchen.

The children have also been broadening their flower knowledge by drawing and painting artworks of Sunflowers, Billy Buttons, Flowering Gums, Cosmos and Dahlias. Their thoughtful artworks can be seen displayed throughout the classroom. Through this learning they have developed flower terminology, fine motor skills, conversational language and creativity. The children are beginning to explore the work of artist Wassily Kandinsky, in particular The squares with concentric circles art piece. This artwork has had the children thinking about lines, shape and colour building on their foundational knowledge. A dot exhibition has been displayed on the kindergarten ramp for the children to view their individual art pieces. We are so proud of each child and their engagement in the classroom.



Tiddalek



Narrt

This month the OSHC children have explored both the indoor and outdoor environments as they get back into routine. February’s focus was for the children to interact with the outdoor play space, as they are encouraged to play and enjoy the space while we still have beautiful weather. The OSHC children have also been engaged in different sensory activities such as painting, and cloud dough. The children helped mix conditioner and corn flour, before rolling it around until it became a soft, smooth texture. This experience encouraged the children to get involved in making their activity and provided a sensory experience that engaged their sense of touch and smell.

Our focus in term 1 will be getting to know the new children in our room. Children who have previously attended have been helping the newer ones settle in by assisting them with routines, room rules, manners, and the age-appropriate daily reading routines.

This forms part of establishing our belonging to our space in OSHC, developing our community with each other, and our rapport with the whole group.

We started out talking about our families, including our pets to help new children introduce themselves. We drew our families on the whiteboard and included our pets.

We then moved on to making face masks of our favourite animals, using Google to search images for inspiration.



Cognitive Development in Preschoolers

Cognitive Development is the growth of a child's ability to think, reason, understand and remember. It refers to the construction of thought processes.

Play is important for Cognitive Development. Children want to learn and they learn best through play activities. While they interact with play activities, they are problem solving, experimenting, thinking, creating and learning.

Playing with your child builds your relationship and it gives your child confidence to explore.

Play ideas to support your child's Cognitive Development include:

- Reading books
- Stacking and building game
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Memory games
- Outside play
- Cooking

Let your child take the lead, they learn best when they are interested in an activity. While playing ask your child to describe what they are doing. This is a great way to encourage and practice language skills.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/preschoolers/play-learning/play-preschooler-development/thinking-play-preschoolers>



Staff Spotlight



Britt

What is one of the most rewarding aspects of working in Early Childhood?

One of the most rewarding aspects of working in Early Childhood, is when in the 4 year old kinder room, towards the end of the year, you look back and reflect on the children you have had in your care and how far they have come both physically and emotionally. Then when they have left to go to school, you see them out in the community and they still see you as a big part of their journey and want to come and say hi and often exchange a hug. This is what makes choosing Early Childhood Education a career worth having.

Who has been the biggest influence on your career path and why?

My director in a centre I worked at in Pakenham a few years ago. She saw something in me that I didn't. Pushing and guiding me to strive for more and to break through my comfort zones. She is the reason I continued my career in Childcare, and to this day I am so grateful.

What is the most interesting place you have visited?

When I was 17, I went to Turkey with my secondary college, to spend ANZAC day at Gallipoli. It was an experience I'll never forget. We were there for 2 weeks.

If you were stranded on a deserted island, what three items would you want to have with you?

*I think I would take my Coffee, a swag and a volleyball.

What is a fun fact about yourself that most people wouldn't know?

My First ever job was when I was 14 and 9 months at a fish and chip shop. My favourite thing to do at work was roll the steaks in cling wrap and cut them up for steak sandwiches and slice the potatoes to make potato cakes.



Tips to Encourage Language Development

Babies develop language skills through play. The more you play and talk with your baby, the more they hear and learn. This helps their brain develop and it helps them improve their language skills, which includes their ability to understand, communicate and learn.

Babies learn new language skills at different ages, but most babies at 3 months of age will coo, smile and laugh. Between 4 and 6 months they will start to babble and make single syllable sounds. Between 10 and 11 months they may speak their first word.

To encourage language development, speak to your baby about what you are doing around the house. While changing a nappy, you could talk about what you are doing or sing songs. Repeat your baby's attempts at words back to them and use gestures.

raisingchildren.net.au/babies/play-learning/play-baby-development/talking-play-babies



FREE YARRAM TOY LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP 2026

That's right — NO yearly membership fees for 2026. Just \$2 per toy hire for endless fun.
Contact: Kirsty - 0409 929 923



Opening Days:
Mondays, Wednesdays & Saturdays
Please use QR Code for Updated Calendar!



Yarram
Toy Library