



APRIL NEWSLETTER 2020

DATES FOR THE DIARY

APRIL 2020

Management Committee
Meeting Wednesday 15th
April @7.30pm

EASTER BREAK

Friday 10th April – Monday
13th April

REMINDER TO ALL FAMILIES

Yarrunga will be closed for the
Easter period -
Good Friday 10th April and Easter
Monday 13th April 2020

Fees

On the 2nd April the Prime Minister announced that from Monday 6th April Childcare would be free for all families.

You will not be charged fees from 6th April; this is regardless of whether you continue to send your children to Yarrunga or keep them at home. If you are keeping your children at home, you will remain enrolled at Yarrunga and your position will be held until you recommence care.

Statements will not be sent during this period.

We trust that this provides some much-needed relief for our families at this uncertain time. Please don't hesitate to see Lisa or Karen if you have any questions.

Yarrunga can now be followed on Facebook and Instagram



WET BAGS

We have several wet bags left, if anyone would like one or two please see Karen or Lisa in the Office, they are \$5 each.



CHILDREN'S T-SHIRTS & JUMPERS

If you would like to order a t-shirt or shirts or jumpers for your child/ren, order forms will be available in the office - Shirts \$12.00, Jumpers \$25 each

Please see Lisa or Karen



NURSERY/TODDLER NEWS



Hello everyone,

We hope all our families are staying safe and healthy through these days as we juggle new ways of doing everything. From home schooling to keeping our family's home while working. We are thinking of you all and if there is anything you need just let us know. Please make sure you join our



Facebook group- 'Yarrunga Nursery' if you haven't already done so, we will post some activities and things on there to keep in touch with everybody. Lesley has had two weeks of and will be back Tuesday the 14th and Nicole will be having next week 14th-17th off for break.



Wishing everybody a Happy Easter we hope the Easter bunny finds you all. We have sent home special cards in your

bags if you have been attending. For those at home we will keep yours for when you soon return!



We have been exploring with lots of painting activities such as butterfly painting, easel painting, glad bag painting this has been great fun and lots of messy play.

Musical instruments have also been popular with lots of singing and musical

masterpieces being played from our room.



Nicole, Lesley, Jungeun ,Serena and Belle

Nurserytoddler@yarrunga.com.au

PRESCHOOL ROOM NEWS

In the Pre-School room this past month, we have started up the Facebook group that parents of the children can interact with and post pictures and comments about what their child is up to at home, give feedback or ideas on our current curriculum, and enjoy daily updates on their child at care.

The children have been practicing their handwashing, often we can hear a chorus of them counting to 20 to make sure all the germs are gone. It's been a great way for them to learn their numbers as they are doing it constantly. Sadly, we've had to postpone our excursion to Wonga Wetlands until further notice along with any other excursions due to Covid-19.

We cleaned out the Yabby tank with the children and helped to fertilise our garden with the Yabby's water, promoting the children to care for their environment, plants, and animals.

The children, boys especially, have been interested in making marble runs in the sandpit and in the Pre-School room. We even got to watch some marble races on YouTube. We've had the bikes and scooters out as well helping to develop their balance and coordination skills. We have enjoyed practicing to balance on the wooden beams, trying to do it on our own.

Children that have been going to sleep, trialled out putting on their own sheets this week enhancing their independence. We are also listening to the children's interests and following up on what they want out on any particular day, boosting their autonomy, given the low numbers.



Krystine, Natt, Netty, Julie, Belle and Robyn.
preschool@yarrunga.com.au

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



MOTHER'S DAY

Unfortunately, our Mother's Day morning tea at Yarrunga will not be going ahead this year. We hope all our Mother's have a very special day.

Children's Photos for this year

McCormack Photography were booked for the week starting 11th May 2020, this has been postponed and we will let you know when the new date will be.

Our Lucky Numbers fundraiser for one of our Yarrunga families raised a total of \$750! Thank you to all who donated prizes and bought their lucky numbers. Please see our Facebook page for the link to the families Go Fund Me page if you would like to donate further. Thank you!

Turkey Risoni Salad



Ingredients: 400g risoni pasta, 1L (4 cups) Campbell's Real Chicken Stock, 3 tbs olive oil, 1 crushed garlic clove, 1 tsp caster sugar, 1 ½ tbs lemon juice, 1 tsp Dijon mustard, 200g tomato medley - halved, 50g spinach, 2 cups chopped cooked turkey.

Method: Add stock to a medium sized saucepan and bring to the boil, add risoni and cook for 10 minutes or until all the stock is absorbed. Transfer to a large bowl to cool. In a small bowl combine olive oil, garlic, lemon juice and mustard. Add tomatoes, spinach and turkey to risoni. Stir well to combine

JUNIOR PRESCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to the Junior Preschool entry into the Yarrunga newsletter!

My gosh, what a strange and totally unexpected turn our lives have all taken in the past month. We hope that you are all staying safe and sane in this abnormal time.

If interested, we have provided a couple of useful links below to assist families with young children. The first link was published by the *World Health Organization (WHO)* and offers tips for how to support and talk with children about COVID-19. While the second is an Australian article from the *National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health*, offering links to websites, factsheets and tools to assist in communicating about the virus, cope with stress and trauma, including what's portrayed in the media.

https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/helping-children-cope-with-stress-print.pdf?sfvrsn=f3a063ff_2%20parents

<https://emergingminds.com.au/resources/supporting-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/>

Thank you to the families who have joined our *Junior Preschool Facebook* page. This is a fun and engaging way of ensuring that we are staying connected to each other, in this time of social distancing and isolation. We would love for you to actively contribute to this group and share your ideas, photos and experiences with us. If you are not yet a member and would like to be added, please let Lisa know.



Our group continues to dwindle, but this has not dampened the spirits of class members, who are relishing the smaller numbers! We have kept things as consistent as we possibly can, ensuring that children continue to feel safe and secure in their learning and care environment, here at Yarrunga. Opportunities for social play continue to dominate the play scape, with the youngsters enjoying being able to co-construct their learning with their peers.

An interest in nature is becoming increasingly evident, with the discovery of bees, millipedes and spiders fascinating group members, who are enthusiastically sharing their finds and eagerly discussing with each other.





Our scooter bikes have seen a lot of love over the past few weeks, with some mad motorists taking to the ramp to test out their stunt riding skills! As children sit and steer these 'bikes', be it on flat ground or on the ramp, they are building gross motor function, exploring motion and engaging in a healthy, active lifestyle. An unexpected benefit of this activity is that children are also practicing their sharing and turn-taking skills, as they patiently await a go on the scooter prop.

One difference in our daily routine is that lunches have become alfresco dining experiences, which we are all loving! Linking in with this, we have also been spending more time outside in the fresh air. This also assists in maintaining a greater degree of social distancing, with a larger area for play and exploration.

Wishing you all a happy and safe Easter break. We hope you have a lovely time; however you and your family are able to celebrate it.



Alana, Chrissy and Emma

juniorpreschool@yarrunga.com.au

Educational Leader:

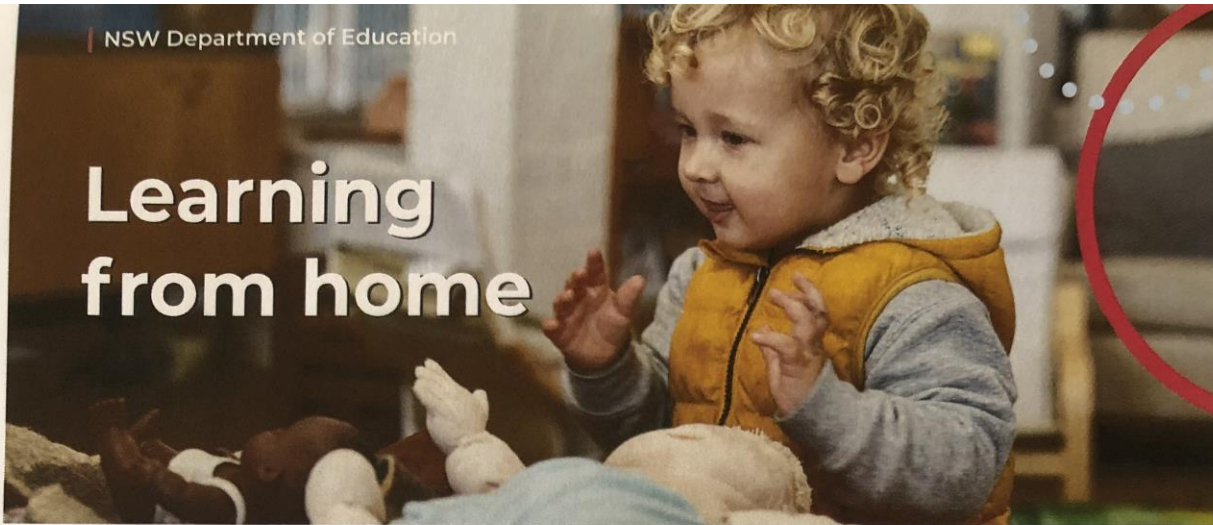
March has seen attendances drop as some families have chosen to keep their children at home. Educators have recognized the importance of keeping children and their families socially connected with Yarrunga in these difficult times by creating face book pages for each education and care group. The sharing of learning experiences has been very uplifting for children and educators. We all enjoy seeing our friends at play in their home settings and are following up and extending interest links. It has also been reassuring to share additional learning resources with families to keep their children busy and productive whilst they are limited in social options, particularly for those parents who are working from home. We are hoping to provide a live feed option for our preschool group and are exploring technological options for connecting with our friends in the broader community i.e. Borella House residents.

Planning for all children, whether they are in attendance or not, is ongoing and mid-year assessments will be completed in June. We look forward to sharing your child/ren's progress towards their learning goals and overall engagement in the educational program.

Please be assured that all educators are following recommended health guidelines and have increased cleaning schedules to ensure the wellbeing of everyone associated with our Yarrunga community.

Thankyou,
Krystine

Learning from home



If your family is spending additional time around the home, it's useful to engage in fun educational activities with your children. Below you'll find some information about the benefits of play-based learning to your child's development and their readiness for school. We've also included examples of play-based activities you can engage in with your child at home.

We understand that learning in the home is different to learning at an early childhood education service. Where possible you should maintain a connection with your service and carers who may be able to provide additional assistance and support.

What is play-based learning?

Children are naturally curious about the world around them. They experience and come to understand the world and their place in it through play. Creating opportunities for children to explore, experiment, question and discover new concepts about the world in playful ways is central to their learning, development and wellbeing.

In play-based learning, children engage with the people, places and objects around them to form their understanding of the world and how they fit into it. Play-based learning is an important way of developing children's knowledge and skills, and preparing them for a lifetime of learning both in school and beyond.

How does play-based learning benefit my child?

Play-based learning has a powerful impact on children's early cognitive, physical, social and emotional development. Play-based learning that is child-led and fun can help children to:

- Become autonomous learners
- Develop a lifelong passion for learning
- Develop numeracy and literacy skills

- Develop fine and gross motor skills
- Develop language skills and vocabulary
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Build confidence and social skills
- Foster creativity and imagination
- Develop emotional maturity

Play-based learning doesn't need to happen in formal settings like pre-school for children to get the benefits. Children's early years are often spent mostly at home, which means that families and caregivers are children's earliest teachers. Families can support children's learning and development by creating opportunities for play in the home.

Play can happen both indoors and outdoors. You don't need expensive toys or equipment. Play-based learning can build on everyday activities in the home and make use of common household items. Cardboard rolls and boxes, plastic cups and buckets, wooden spoons, food packaging, old clothes and pots and pans are just some of the items you can use. Feel free to get creative!

Ideas for play-based learning in the home

Playing with Babies

- Reading, talking, telling stories and singing to your baby will help them learn about language, words, and sounds.
- Tummy time strengthens your baby's head, neck and upper body muscles. This will help them develop movement control. Try to do supervised tummy time every day.
- Toys and objects in different shapes, textures, colours and sizes can help your baby reach and grasp. Soft blocks, balls, stuffed toys and plastic rings are good options.
- Listening to music can help your baby's hearing development. Try listening to nursery rhymes together or make your own music with items around the home. Plastic bottles filled with rice make fun shakers and you can use wooden spoons and pots and pans to make drums.
- Sitting your baby near sturdy furniture can encourage them to pull themselves up and stand. You can encourage crawling by making tunnels out of cardboard boxes or chairs.

Playing with Toddlers

- Making collages with paper, scissors, and glue can help your toddler develop fine motor skills and use their creativity. You can use scraps of paper or fabric, dried pasta or cereal, tin foil, pipe-cleaners, ice-cream sticks, buttons or even natural items like feathers, sand and leaves.
- Building blanket forts or cubby houses in the home will encourage your toddler to use their imagination and solve problems. You can make a blanket fort by hanging a blanket over a table. Large cardboard boxes can be used for cubbyhouses, with holes cut out for windows and doors. You can paint and decorate the cubbyhouse together as a fun activity.
- Sports equipment like balls, rope and hoops encourage throwing, catching, jumping, running and stretching. This develops your toddler's gross motor skills.
- Listening to family-friendly music and radio is an enjoyable way of increasing language and communication skills. Music and rhyme can increase pattern recognition and dancing is a creative way to help your child express feelings and ideas. This can help foster their social and emotional development.

Playing with Preschoolers

- Playing games like dress-up, make-believe, hide and seek or I Spy engages your child's imagination and creativity.
- Playing with sensory materials like playdough can develop your child's fine motor skills. Playdough can be bought or made at home. Consider using shape, alphabet and number cookie cutters to build literacy and numeracy skills. You can also add textured materials like beads, buttons and pasta shells to playdough to encourage sensory exploration.
- Playing board games and sorting puzzles will help children learn to think critically and solve problems.
- Doing simple household tasks together like cooking, gardening, hanging up washing and tidying up messes can teach children about teamwork and build their confidence.
- Building obstacle courses in the house or yard supports both fine and gross motor skills. Make obstacles using empty cardboard boxes, jump rope or cord, small ladders, hoops, cones and more to encourage movements like running, jumping, stepping, climbing, and hopping. This helps overall physical fitness and coordination.
- Reaching out to family and friends by video or phone call can foster social, communication and language skills. This sort of playful interaction can teach children how to get along with adults and other children.

These are just some of the activities you and your child can do together. The most important thing is for you and your child to spend quality time together, talking, exploring, laughing and having fun.

Remember that children aged 1–5 need **three to four hours** of play every day. Play activities should be spread throughout the day.

For more information contact your child's service or the Early Childhood Education Directorate on **1800 619 113** or ececd@det.nsw.edu.au

If parents have any concerns or complaints, please follow the attached *Grievance Policy*

Grievance Policy

1 Informal Resolution of Grievances

Initially any grievance raised will be approached in an informal manner. (Informal Procedure for Resolution of Grievance). If required, an appointment time with the Centre Director and/or

President of the Management Committee

Kathryn Chandler (phone 0457 717 624) to discuss the grievance can be arranged.

2 Formal Resolution of Grievances

2.1 In the event informal processes are unable to be used or informal processes fail to achieve a satisfactory outcome for any of the parties involved in the grievance, the formal process will then be used. Determining whether the grievance will be handled formally is at the discretion of the Director/President of Management Committee based on feedback from the concerned parties at the conclusion of the informal stage (Formal Procedure for Resolution of Grievance).

2.2 When a formal resolution of grievance is pursued, all interactions must be documented by the Director (Complaint form), signed (by Director and or parties involved), and a copy given to each party concerned.

2.3 Any allegation that the safety, health or wellbeing of a child has been compromised, or relating to a staff member, the details of action taken in response to a complaint will be recorded and kept in a confidential place.

3 Regulatory Authority – ACECQA

3.1 The Nominated Supervisor or Certified Supervisor will notify (within 24 hours of the complaint being made) ACECQA of a complaint that alleges

- a serious incident has occurred or is occurring while a child is being educated and cared for by Yarrunga.
- the National Law and/or National Regulations have been contravened.

The required Forms to be completed are;

Notification of Complaints and Incidents (Other than serious Incidents) as required by the Education & Care Services National Regulations – through the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQA IT System). Log in to access the portal.

A scanned copy of the written complaint will be uploaded prior to submitting the form electronically.



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NO FOOD FROM HOME! A reminder that we have children attending Yarrunga with severe allergies to egg, dairy, nut and sesame. Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. We want to do our best to keep those at risk safe.

Please refrain from bringing food from home.

If you are bringing treats to share for your child's birthday, please check with room educators for allergies prior.

