

yarrunga

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2022

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Dec 2022:

Last day for Children
Thursday 22nd December

Jan 2023:

Children return - Tuesday
10th January 2023



Yarrunga can now be followed on Facebook and Instagram

YARRUNGA'S CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The last day for children will be on Thursday 22nd December.

The first day back will be Tuesday 10th January 2023.

Please ensure that your fees are paid up to the end of the year
and there will be no fees charged for the period we are closed

23/12/2022-9/1/2023

Yarrunga Policies:

Just a reminder to families and for all our new family's information - our policies can be accessed on our website www.yarrunga.com.au and the password is 2640



Policies being reviewed this month: Children's Wellbeing Decision Making
Tree Procedure and Child Wellbeing Plan Procedure



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.

Drop off at Yarrunga.

Reminder that children and families are not able to enter the premises until 8am due to licensing requirements. Please wait outside of the gates until then.

Thank you, we appreciate your co-operation.



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 Deb or Karen



WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK!

What information would you like us to include?

Call us on: (02) 60217597 or EMAIL

How can we make our newsletter better?

Educator's rooms for 2023:

Nursery: Emma, Chrissy, Kaitlin & Serena
Junior Preschool: Tash, Nat & Nicole
Preschool: Krystine, Alana, Olivia & Maree
Float staff: Lesley, Jodie, Serena, Jay & Emily

SCHOOL LEAVERS:

Most of the children have already had their "Big School" visits and we wish them well for their next adventures - Primary School.

Harrison Evans	Scout Nicholls	Matilda Wheatley
Mack Wiseman	Nicholas Hanna	Lana Jo Swart
Paige O'Connell	Zara O'Connell	Harry Heyme
Gabriel Kay	Ella Younger	Eli Myers
Ebony Hollis	Hazel McKenzie	Jude Bennett
Vince Cale	Thea Enscoe	Jack Jones
Lachlan Dallinger	Betty Sellwood	Ivy Collins
Matilda Lum	Harper Richter	Hudson May
Julian Wilson	Evie McCallum	

There are also a few Yarrunga families that are not returning next year, we wish them well and thank them for their continued support.

FEE INCREASE

Yarrunga's daily fee will increase to \$104 per day from the 10th January 2023.

A letter explaining the increase has been emailed to families.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2023

	<u>Executive</u>	<u>General Committee</u>
PRESIDENT	Ivy Ellis	Ben Nott
SECRETARY	Julia Fenech	Rhianna Childs
TREASURER	Luke Heyme	Elle Lazzarotto
VICE PRESIDENT	Nathan Honeyman	Jess Edmunds
VICE SECRETARY	Jane Vance	Meaghan Tanner
VICE TREASURER	Tyson Smith	Derek Murray
		Kate Ramsden

NURSERY NEWS

What a wonderful year we have had getting to know everyone! We have had lots of rain and we are cherishing all the sunshine at the moment. We have been utilising all the yards and enjoying all the challenges and managed risk taking. This also includes playing with the older children and gaining knowledge from them as well.

We have now finished all the children's end of year assessments ready to hand out with their learning journals and cute Christmas presents. We look forward to showing off our singing and dancing skills at our Christmas concerts.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and happy and safe new year. Thank you to all the children and families that are moving on to the Junior Preschool room next year and we look forward to caring for those staying with us.



Nicole, Emma and Chrissy
nurserytoddler@yarrunga.com.au

Educational Leader & NQS Newsletter

2022 has seen Yarrunga's children, families, educators, and staff embrace the freedoms associated with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Please read my **AGM Report (attached)** for highlights of what we as a united unique Yarrunga community have achieved this year. Without the genuine partnerships we enjoy between our children, families, educators, and leadership team / management this would not have been possible, and I thank you all for your committed support!

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and relaxed New Year.

Thank you, Krystine Masterson

JUNIOR PRESCHOOL NEWS

With the end of the year fast approaching, we have been reflecting on how far every child has come. Children's resilience in learning and development establishing friendships and community involvement.

We are so proud of every child in our care and have enjoyed being a part of the children's development and learning journey.

We have been busy doing lots of Xmas arts and crafts and singing our favourite Xmas carols to get in the spirit of Xmas.

Just a friendly reminder to our JPS families to make sure we pack spare clothes and sun smart clothes as we have a lot of our friend's toilet training and with this warmer weather, we have been engaging in water play.

We wish all our JPS families a very happy Xmas and a wonderful New Year.

From the JPS room

Natt, Liv, Kali, Lesley, Jodie and Kaitlin

juniorschool@yarrunga.com.au

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Wow hasn't 2022 flown by. We think our year has been characterized by building and strengthening relationships, and these friendships have enabled us to thrive and learn in a play-based environment. Our mixed-age play has laid the foundations for us, as the big kids, to develop skills of leadership and empathy as we have modelled social learning and more intentional practices including scissor cutting, using machinery, and taking calculated risks safely.

Relationships have also extended to our broader community, and we have thoroughly enjoyed the many excursions and incursions building upon Yarrunga's Community Connections Program. We all agree that this year's Wiradjuri Language and Culture program has reignited our passion for learning about Australia's first peoples. We have practiced singing songs in language, counting and learning the names of Australian animals. Acknowledgement of Country is cemented into our daily routine, and we aim to extend culture authentically throughout the day including greetings and farewells. Meg's kitchen garden program has seen some of our fussiest eaters try the meals they have prepared, and Liv has developed lots of collaborative ideas with us to promote sustainable living.

Of course, all the usual literacy, numeracy, problem solving and creative experiences that children self-select each day has also helped them to blossom into the beautiful young people they have become! It is with a little sadness and lots of best wishes that we say goodbye to those children (and families) heading off to big school or other adventures next year.

We look forward to another rewarding year in 2023 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and relaxing New Year.

Alana, Krystine, Tash, Kaitlyn, Robyn, Serena & Emily W
preschool@yarrunga.com.au

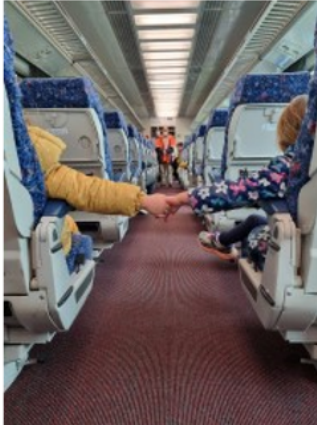


DIRECTOR'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022



Welcome and thank you for making the time to attend our AGM. Yarrunga Early Learning Centre has been serving the Albury community since 1982, which saw us celebrating our 40th Birthday. We are proud of the impact we have had on local families. The support of the community over the years continues to enable us to provide high quality education and care, create a nurturing environment and foster a lifelong love of learning for your children.

2022 has proved to be another challenging year for our local community, as we have juggled Covid-19 and restrictions in our service. While a difficult year to navigate, we have made it through without closure, with much thanks to our wonderful staff, understanding families and supportive Management Committee.



Throughout these uncertain times we were able to continue our Community Connections program. We enjoyed a Bunnings BBQ, bike weeks and visits back in our local Community Library, Botanical gardens, Wonga wetlands, bus rides, shops and café. We were also successful in a Community Connections grant from the Department of Education, which allowed us to purchase more indigenous resources and complete our Yarning circle and firepit. With our extended NAIDOC week celebrations as we shared our growing connections.

We also saw the wider community back in our environment with incursions from Bunnings, Halve waste, Weaving with Marg, Cultural lesson with Gwenda Stanley, Wiradjuri Language with Ruth Davey's and Declan the music man.



In 2022 we were saddened to farewell Jungeun from our Yarrunga team as she needed to support her family overseas. We welcomed Maree and Kaitlin who were familiar with Yarrunga through study and casual work, ensuring consistency for children and families. We welcomed Jodie back from maternity leave.

We have been able to continue the professional development of Educators throughout the year. While there were limited spots available for face to face training sessions this year, educators were able to utilise a large number of online courses, webinars and team building sessions, Weaving with Aunty Marg. Nicole and Robyn continue their studies at Charles Sturt University and are sharing their knowledge with the team. Nicole is completing her final placement throughout November and December. Well done to Kaitlin who completed her Certificate III in Children's Services this year. Throughout the year we have continued to support students from Charles Sturt University, Wodonga TAFE and local High schools for their professional practicums as part of their Early Childhood Courses.



Our casual educators are integral to Yarrunga, and we are fortunate to have dedicated, experienced casual educators. This year we have welcomed 2 new casual educators; Sophie and Emily. Emily has been successful in obtaining a permanent role at Yarrunga next year.

I would like to thank our amazing staff at Yarrunga. 2022 didn't prove to be any easier than 2021, however our staff remained positive, professional and as always put the children as top priority. Our educators are the backbone of Yarrunga, and without them Yarrunga wouldn't have the reputation that it does within our local community.



Thank you to our wonderful President Genna, I appreciate all your support, guidance and assistance supporting me through my first year as Director. It will be sad to say goodbye as you move on, with all your children now at big school.





Finally, thank you to our committee, we are so lucky to have so many families willing to give up their time to be involved in the operations of Yarrunga. This year we sadly farewell members of our executive committee.

-Genna Richter who has been part of our Yarrunga committee for the past 5 years and has held roles both as President and Vice President. Genna has been a great support for myself. Thank you Genna.

-Rinelda van den Berg who has been Treasurer at Yarrunga for the past 12 months and has done an amazing job working with Karen to keep our books in order and ensure Yarrunga remains financially stable. Thank you Rinelda.

-Heike Wilson, who has been a parent at Yarrunga for 5 years and a committee member for 3 years holding the role of vice president this year. Thanks Heike.

-Melissa Sellwood, who has been part of our community for 5 years and always bringing a smile to everyone's face. Thank you for supporting me through my first year as Director. Thank you Melissa.

-Therese Lum has been a parent with Yarrunga for 10 years and a valued member of our Committee and held many roles and quick to jump in help in times of need. Thanks Therese.

On a personal note.... I have been at Yarrunga for almost 15 years now. Firstly as an Educator as I first moved to the area. I was unfamiliar with the community and Yarrunga itself. That soon changed as I felt like I was part of something big and beautiful from the beginning. My family grew and I returned to Yarrunga with my children knowing this was the best place on the border. I have spent time in all rooms and as Educational Leader. It has been a challenge and delight as I have completed my first year as Director.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas with your families and loved ones.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022



Good evening, everyone and welcome to our AGM for 2022. Thank you for taking the time out of your week to come along, it is greatly appreciated. For any new families attending tonight, I hope you are able to learn a little more about the behind-the-scenes management of Yarrunga and perhaps be inspired to join the committee for 2023.

Yarrunga is a community-based centre since 1982 and over the past 12 months we have certainly seen our links with community be reignited again after being put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions and uncertainties. These community links are very important to Yarrunga and allow us to share in the richness of varied experiences and knowledge basis, and I would like to recognise and thank everyone that has contributed to the Yarrunga community this year. It has certainly been fantastic to see our children back out in the community, as well as having families and other community members come into Yarrunga to contribute to our program. This year we have continued to work with Albury City Council and Ultimate Alfresco to finalise our shade sails for the southern side of our building. This has been a very slow process and a huge thank you goes to Ben Nott for your persistence in getting this off the ground. We hope to see this finally get underway in the next couple of weeks and be ready for the children to enjoy in early 2023!!



The installation of a yarning circle in the lower yard has been a fantastic addition to our learning space and has allowed us to continue to foster our commitment to providing opportunities for the children to develop their understanding of Australia's Indigenous heritage. This certainly culminated in 2022 with a fantastic NAIDOC Week celebration.

We hope to continue accessing local and Government grants in 2023 to further develop the learning spaces in the Preschool outdoor space.

The Committee has had the pleasure of supporting Deb in her new role as Director at Yarrunga in 2022. We have been so fortunate to have you leading our team this year and you have certainly had to hit the ground running. The challenges faced this year as a result of the pandemic continued to impact our team and you have been able to juggle staff illness and shortages each week, ensuring that all the children are well cared for every day. You have been a fabulous support to all the staff and made yourself available on a regular basis to care for their health and wellbeing.



To our incredible educators and staff, a sincere thank you for all the hard work you have put in again this year! We welcomed some new faces to our team this year and it has been great to see you develop your relationships with the children. Yarrunga's staff have again shown how strong they are as a team, supporting one another and ensuring Yarrunga continued to provide nurturing programs and experiences for our children.

A big thank you to our committee members for 2022. It is wonderful to have so many families who are able to spare some of their time to be involved in supporting Yarrunga. We farewell some longterm members of the committee again this year, Melissa Sellwood, Heike Wilson and Rinelda Van Den Berg. Thank you so much for all your contributions over your time with Yarrunga!

Thank you for entrusting me with the role of President again this year. It has been a privilege to be able to share in the care and education of my children whilst they have been here at Yarrunga. I will certainly miss being part of 'myrunnga'! May everyone have a wonderful Christmas and New Year period with family and friends

Thank you
Genna Richter



TREASURER'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Yarrunga Early Learning Center is a not-for-profit organization, fees are based on expected utilisation in order to achieve a break-even result. When setting the budget each year we are continually challenged with the increase in running costs. The financial year of 2022 saw the persistent challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. We navigated a third year of COVID issues, fewer restrictions, no further government financial support and remaining impacts to our service.

Tireless work from Karen, a baptism by fire for Deb and the amazing work from the whole team ensured that we were able to maintain the service that we are known for in the community.

We persisted with the new systems of Early Learning Funding grants, (in 2020 we lost our legacy funding). During 2022 we were successful to secure two grants; both went towards our NAIDOC week celebrations including the purchase of indigenous artefacts and the completion of the yarning circle. Ultimately successful grants improve the service we can provide, and we will continue to seek out grants that align with our philosophy.

Despite teething problems, the audit of our financial statements went well with the change over of auditing firms.

With regards to the financial statement's wages remain the major expense. This area is considered and budgeted carefully with provision for wellbeing and training to demonstrate our investment and commitment to our wonderful staff. Income is still primarily from fees.



TREASURER'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022 - continued

The coming slides will show that this year's results shows a deficit; attributed to depreciation and the full asset write off scheme. Surplus funds have been transferred to the building savings account. We continue to save towards future capital projects. Staff and kids eagerly anticipate the completion of the shade louvres for the staff lunch area and the Junior pre-school room deck to be completed during 2023.

With the pandemic and other natural disasters potentially still presenting challenges into the 2023 financial year we will continue to monitor our financial situation closely to ensure Yarrunga remains in a strong financial position.

I would now like to table to the meeting, the audited financial statement for year ending June 30th 2022; including Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, Statement of changes in equity, statement of financial position, Statement of cash flows and Detailed income and expenditure statement.



EDUCATIONAL LEADERS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Educational Leader & NQS Report – AGM 16.11.2022

2022 has seen Yarrunga’s children, families, educators and staff embrace the freedoms associated with the easing of COVID19 restrictions. This year we have been able to creatively plan multiple learning experiences that complement our community connections program. We have also enjoyed lots of social gatherings at Yarrunga to celebrate family, culture and diversity, and promote wellbeing.

Leadership plays an important role in the development and implementation of an effective educational program. Yarrunga’s educators and staff collaborate on how best to respond to the voices of children and families by drawing on their professional strengths and partnering on projects to achieve common goals. Our centre Philosophy and context provides a sense of purpose and direction for Quality Improvement.

Through the passion and commitment to early childhood education and care from all of Yarrunga’s Stakeholders I am pleased to highlight our achievements for 2022.



Embracing culture and diversity

- **Harmony Week**

A celebration of food, music, clothing and art. Families cooked with their children, and we created wonderful displays to share our learning. Noticing the enjoyment of children as they cooked in the kitchen with their families Meg has introduced a cooking program with children from all rooms participating in the lunch preparation routine with Meg on different days.

- **NAIDOC Week**

Every year our commitment to reconciliation and ensuring that Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are valued grows. This year through Meg’s leadership and community connections we have been able to really immerse ourselves in culture through dance, ceremonial face painting and story-telling with Dinawann Connections, Traditional Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies with Uncle Darren Wighton and Teisha Maksymow McGuinness, artefact displays, and the sharing of authentic foods. Thanks to Jack Condon and Keanu Wighton we are able to enjoy our new fire pit and Yarnin’ Circle for numerous learning opportunities. It’s wonderful to hear our children refer to the Wiradjuri goanna totem that Keanu engraved on the log seating in language “Guga’.

- **Celebrating family**

Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and Grandparent’s Day saw family generations come together as they shared lunch, played games and visited their children’s rooms. Once again Meg is congratulated for her delicious feasts.





Community Connections

- Educators and children from all groups have enjoyed venturing out along the bike path, playing at local parks and gardens, visiting the train station (the Junior Preschool children also stopped for some delicious Babycinos at Cafe Musette), shopping for our aquarium pets, purchasing fundamental movement equipment from the sports store, and partnering with families to learn about their places of work.
- We have also learned about the role of emergency services and participated in storytelling and music/movement experiences through various incursions during the year; and
- Yarrunga's 40th birthday celebrations highlighted our tradition of long-standing family associations through multigenerational employment and student enrolment. It was also a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and reflect on our ongoing journey.

Relationships with children

- As Educational Leader I want to congratulate all educators for the way they have continued to embrace mixed age group learning. It is absolutely delightful to see the way siblings play and learn together as well as the social connections that are formed as children learn skills of leadership and responsiveness when they share play spaces and equipment together. Examples include the way our preschool children model the use of scissors and tools for their younger peers, and the affection that children exhibit with all educators. This has certainly helped with transitions and more meaningful orientations to new environments for children and families.



QIP – Policy Audit

- Through ongoing reflection of our professional practices, it was established that a policy audit was needed to ensure our policies are reflective of our current context. We have linked all policies to the National Quality Standard and introduced a colour coding system to make it easier for staff and families to link the content.

Where to now...

In 2023 my aim is to work with our Yarrunga team to consolidate professional standards by developing long and short-term goals related to staffing and Quality Improvement processes.

I take this opportunity to thank our wonderful director, Deb, for all the hard work and dedication she has given to Yarrunga. Her commitment to the wellbeing of educators, children and families has always been foremost and is characterized by the cohesiveness of our team under her leadership.

On behalf of myself, educators and staff I thank the Management Committee for their ongoing support and commitment to the provision of quality early childhood education and care.

Thank you

Krystine Masterson



Thank you to our current Management Committee:

- Genna Richter
- Heike Wilson
- Melissa Sellwood
- Ivy Ellis
- Rinelda van den Berg
- Luke Heyme

- Therese Lum
- Ben Nott
- Jane Vance
- Nathan Honeyman



Pause for quick photo of current committee.



Grievance Policy

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

Genna Richter (phone 0428109382) 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.



Interactions with children

QUALITY AREA 5: RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN

Date Created: October 2011

Date to be reviewed: January 2024

Version No: 11

Policy Statement:

Yarrunga Early Learning Centre Inc aims to integrate quality interaction into daily behaviours and promote effective interactions that take place between our staff and with the children in our care and their families.

Background:

Interactions with children will.

- promote a safe, secure, and nurturing environment
- be authentic and responsive
- be based on fairness, acceptance, and empathy with respect for culture, rights, community, and the individual.

Scope:

This policy applies to all educators within Yarrunga.

Relevant legislation:

Education and Care Services National Regulations, (Regulations 155,156,168) Education and Care National Law Act 2010 (Section 166 Offence to use inappropriate discipline.)

National Quality Standards:

- **Quality Area 1 - Educational program and practice**
- **Quality Area 2 - Children's health and safety**
- **Quality Area 5 - Relationships with children**

Links to other policies:

Reference sources:

The Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics (2016) as a guide to inform the decisions and behaviours of staff in their daily interactions with children.

Community Early Learning Australia sample policies. www.cela.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/interactions-with-children.pdf

ACECQA - Guide to the National Quality Framework acecqa.gov.au/nqf/about/guide

ACECQA - Inappropriate discipline information sheet acecqa.gov.au/media/29626

ACECQA - Relationships with children information sheet acecqa.gov.au/media/22966

ACECQA - Supporting agency: Involving children in decision-making information sheet acecqa.gov.au/media/22936

ACECQA - Supporting children to regulate their own behaviour information sheet acecqa.gov.au/media/22971

Commonwealth of Australia - Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
acecqa.gov.au/media/24251

Starting Blocks - Developing children's positive behaviour in child care startingblocks.gov.au/other-resources/factsheets/developing-childrens-positive-behaviour-in-childcare

UNICEF - United Nations Convention on the rights of the child unicef.org/child-rights-convention

Strategies:

The Nominated Supervisor and Educational Leader will:

Guide professional development and practice to promote interactions with children that are positive and respectful.

Establish practice guidelines that ensure interactions with children are given priority and those interactions are authentic, just and respect difference.

Educators and staff will:

- Respond to children's communication in a just and consistent manner.
- Uphold children's dignity, rights, and agency.
- Provide positive guidance and support towards acceptable behaviour.

- Provide opportunities to become self-reliant and develop self-esteem.
- Pre-empt potential conflicts or challenging behaviours by monitoring children's play and supporting interactions.
- Respond sensitively to children's attempts to initiate interactions and conversations.
- Initiate one to one interaction with children, particularly babies and toddlers during daily routines and conversations with each child.
- Support children's efforts, assisting and encouraging as appropriate.
- Support children's secure attachment through consistent and warm nurturing relationships.
- Support children's expression of their thoughts and feelings.
- Encourage children to express themselves and show an interest and participate in what the child is doing.
- Encourage the children to make choices and decisions.
- Acknowledge children's complex relationships and sensitively intervene in ways that promote consideration and alternative perspectives and social inclusion. Guidance strategies should be reflective of this approach.
- Acknowledge each child's uniqueness in positive ways and be responsive to their strengths, interests, and abilities.
- Use positive language, gestures, facial expressions, and tone of voice when redirecting or discussing children's behaviour with them.
- Speak positively in front of children and when speaking about children and their families.
- Respect cultural differences in communication and consider alternative approaches to own.

Children's Rights, Family and Cultural Values

Interactions within Yarrunga are greatly enhanced when children's rights and family and cultural values are given due consideration and respect. Administrative procedures, initial conversations, documentation and ongoing communication with children and families are a reference point for interactions and a foundation for authentic and respectful communication.

Active Listening

Educators and staff must use listening as a foundation for interactions. Listening is based on observation and in leaving spaces in conversations and communication, suspending judgement and in giving full attention to children as they communicate. Truly attending to children's communication promotes a strong culture of listening.

Children and Families

A culture of respectful interaction is promoted when children's attempts to communicate are valued. Turn taking and regulating children's conversations promotes active engagement. Respectful communication with families generates greater confidence in interaction.

Reflection and Consideration

Time is dedicated to reflecting upon interactions within children. Reflections should consider how to spend extended periods engaged in interactions with children that comprise of communication and listening.

Role Modelling

Educators model positive interactions when they:

- Show care, empathy and respect for children, educators and staff and families.
- Learn and use effective communication strategies.

Remember - quality interactions increase children's knowledge and understanding of themselves, each other as unique individuals, and develop the skills and understandings they need to interact positively with others.

Principles for Supporting Positive Behaviour

Staff respect individual children's needs and differences in age, ability and experience regarding issues surrounding behaviour guidance and encourage discussions regarding individual family expectations with parents/guardians.

Evaluation and Review

Interactions between educators and children are genuine, positive, and responsive and based on respect, fairness, acceptance, co-operation, and empathy.

This is evident in conversations, communication, pedagogy, and planning for children and families.

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through identification of practice gaps, Yarrunga will review this policy every 18 months.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

In accordance with R.172 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, Yarrunga will ensure that families of children enrolled at the service are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at Yarrunga, a family's ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.



happy
holidays!