

PEACE IS NOT WHEN EVERYONE AGREES. IT IS WHEN WE CAN RESPECT OUR DISAGREEMENTS AND STILL PLAY IN THE SANDBOX TOGETHER - UNKNOWN

The Ranges Early Learning and Care Centres



AUGUST
2020

ON *this* MONTH

AT Ranges ELC and ITC

National Science week -----15 – 23
Book Week -----17- 21

AROUND THE COUNTRY

National Tree Day ----- 2
National Aboriginal & Torres Islander Children's Day --- 4
Homeless Persons Week ----- 3-8
Dental Health Week ----- 3-9
International Day of the World's Indigenous People ---- 9
International Youth Day ----- 12
World Elephant Day ----- 12
National Science Week ----- 15-23
Keep Australia Beautiful Week -----17-23

Director News

Dear Families,

It has been more than two and half years since I left to be the Director of our service in Gawler. Now I am back at ITC joining the team as Director. Some of you might not know that before going to Gawler, I was teaching the Toddler group at the ITC for 5 years supporting the educators, families and children's learning and development.

I am back to work with you in continuing to make ITC a leader in providing high quality education and care. My challenge in the next couple of weeks is getting to know all the children and families at the ITC. In the last couple of days, I have made some inroads in getting to know some of the children and some families and look forward to working with you. Carman has now moved back to the ELC and will be supporting both the team and families there as well as continuing to manage our In-Home Care Service.

Across all Centres the teams are working very hard in supporting the children's learning and development. At the ELC the Preschool children are focusing on the Human Body this term while the Junior Preschool are continuing Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Islander education and have moved to creating and recording the stories to accompany their mural they have made.

At ITC all the groups are exploring the concept of colour – what are colours and how they change and colours in our community. Lastly, we are still managing the risks around COVID-19 and the potential impact for the centres. With the latest developments in the State we are continuing to monitor the measures we have in place and we ask you to refer to information about COVID-19 management on page 5 of the newsletter.

As always if you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact us.

Fortunate Mapuvire - Director





NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY – AUGUST 4

Children's Day is a time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to celebrate the strengths and culture of their children. The day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, as well as learn about the crucial impact that culture, family and community play in the life of every child. Our theme *Elders of Tomorrow* highlights the uniqueness and importance of the knowledge and wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, starting in childhood. **Find our more here.**

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL WEEK – AUGUST 17 - 23
Keep Australia Beautiful Week is held late August each year, to raise awareness about the simple things we can all do in our daily lives to reduce our impact on the environment and encourage action. **Doing your part is simple, find our more here.**

LEMON, THYME & HONEY CHICKEN



PREP 25 min | COOK 35 min | SERVES 3-4

INGREDIENTS

Chicken

- 6 chicken drumsticks
- zest of 1 lemon
- 6 sprigs of fresh thyme
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- sea salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 tablespoon honey ****Not suitable for bubs under 1 year, leave drumsticks honey free**

Pesto pasta salad

- 500 grams short pasta (such as fusilli, penne or rigatoni)
- 3-4 heaped tablespoons of basil pesto
- 1 punnet of cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cucumber, thinly sliced
- 2 cups rocket
- 1/3 cup pecorino/parmesan, shaved
- 4 bocconcini balls, roughly torn

METHOD:

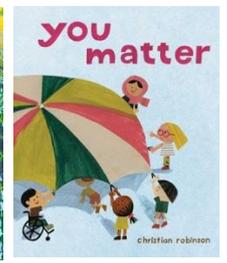
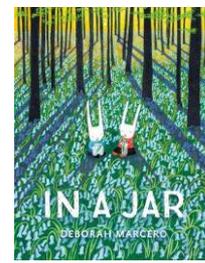
Chicken – **Preheat** oven to 200.C. **Place** the chicken on a lined oven tray. **Zest** a lemon over the chicken, adorn with thyme sprigs, drizzle with olive oil and season with sea salt and freshly ground pepper. **Roast** for 30 minutes, drizzle with honey and cook for another 5 minutes or until cooked, golden and caramelised. **Serve** with pesto pasta salad.

Pesto pasta salad - **Bring** a large pot of salted water to the boil and cook pasta. **Drain** and rinse under cold water. In a large bowl place, the cooked pasta and pesto and mix to combine. **Add** the cherry tomatoes, cucumber, rocket, pecorino and bocconcini balls and toss to combine. **Serve** with golden roasted lemon, thyme and honey chicken.

Recipe and Image from 'mylovelylittlelunchbox.com'

Book reviews

Beautiful picture books that promote strength, courage and unity.



THE BUG GIRL

Sophia Spencer and Margaret McNamara | AGE 4 - 8

Real-life 7-year-old Sophia Spencer was bullied for loving bugs until hundreds of women scientists rallied around her.

Now Sophie tells her inspiring story in this picture book that celebrates women in science, bugs of all kinds, and the importance of staying true to yourself.

IN A JAR

Deborah Marcano | AGE 3 - 7

Llewellyn, a little rabbit, is a collector. He gathers things in jars--ordinary things like buttercups, feathers, and heart-shaped stones.

Then he meets another rabbit, Evelyn, and together they begin to collect extraordinary things--like rainbows, the sound of the ocean, and the wind just before snow falls. And, best of all, when they hold the jars and peer inside, they remember all the wonderful things they've seen and done. But one day, Evelyn has sad news: Her family is moving away. How can the two friends continue their magical collection—and their special friendship—from afar?

YOU MATTER

Christian Robinson | AGE 4 - 7

this sensitive and impactful picture book about seeing the world from different points of view.

In this full, bright, and beautiful picture book, many different perspectives around the world are deftly and empathetically explored—from a pair of bird-watchers to the pigeons they're feeding. Young readers will be drawn into the luminous illustrations inviting them to engage with the world in a new way and see how everyone is connected, and that everyone matters.



FOCUS: The incredibly simple secret to making mornings in your house more harmonious

I am definitely a crabby Mum first thing in the morning! I don't want to be talked to. I don't want to talk back. I don't want to make breakfast; I don't want to hear the cartoons. I just want to be left alone until I'm ready.

This is not because I've woken up on the wrong side of the bed. It's because I have a brain, and brains are computers and they need to load before they can work. When we turn on our computer, we don't expect that we can immediately get stuck into that spreadsheet or Google search, we know it needs time to load. Our brain is no different! It needs to become active. It needs to get ready before we can do all the things.

But with our modern-day, rushed and urgent lifestyle, we make very little time or space first thing in the morning to prime our brain before we need to start using it.

And if we, as adults, experience this crabby, anxious morning feeling just imagine how much harder it must be for a child, especially a young child who doesn't yet have the emotional regulation skills that we as adults generally do. And yet they're expected to get up, get dressed, sit at the table, have their breakfast, do their teeth, remember their library book, pack their lunch and all the other morning jobs. Imagine the crabbiness, the anxiety that they must experience.

All of these morning tasks require what we call 'executive functioning' and the brain needs to be active before it can make these things happen.

If our kids haven't had sufficient time in the morning to play, to do some stretching, to move, to have some music, use their imaginations, a little bit of creative time or fresh air — then their brain is not necessarily going to be primed in the way they need it to be so that they can function easily.

But fear not! Because it is super simple to prime our brains, and one of the best ways to do this is with music.

Research tells us that when we experience music, more of our brain activates than it does when we experience any other thing. And this can happen from listening to music, making music, or even just thinking about it.

So, simply listening to music in the mornings as part of your daily routine will help activate your brain and your child's brain so that everybody can work together more harmoniously in the mornings. I recommend choosing songs that your children love, make a playlist, listen to your favourite CD. You could opt for an early morning disco



party — just turn on the music and all have a quick dance around the lounge room together.

A really important element of music is its physicality. Movement, dancing, stretching. This, in conjunction with rhythm and melody, absolutely does wonders for getting the brain active and ready to work!

These strategies are super simple, they don't take a lot of time and you don't need to be musical to be able to achieve them.

So if you or your children are finding that you're crabby in the morning, anxious, worked up, not functioning at your best, not able to get the jobs done on time then these simple, music based exercises are a must — and a fun one at that — to get you walking out the door harmoniously and calmly.

This article is a guest post by Allison Davis on maggiedent.com Allison Davies is a Registered Music Therapist who specialises in brain care, and a National 2016 AMP Tomorrow Maker. Allie lives in regional NW Tasmania with her young family. She is joining Maggie Dent and Dr Kaylene Henderson for Maggie's one-day conference Calming Today's Anxious Children happening in Wollongong (26 September 2020). www.maggiedent.com/calminganxiouskids

Davis, Allison. (2019). FOCUS: *The incredibly simple secret to making mornings in your house more harmonious*. Retrieved from <https://www.maggiedent.com/blog/the-incredibly-simple-secret-to-making-mornings-in-your-house-more-harmonious/>

SOUND SPOTTERS

The ability to listen closely is a key ingredient of phonemic awareness. This is the part of instruction that is skipped most often, because we assume that young children know how to listen. They may not!

After a busy morning or afternoon lie quietly on the floor with your children. It's not nap time, but it's a great time to unwind, which is important for young children. As you lie there quietly for five to ten minutes, listen for sounds. Become "sound spotters". Don't use your eyes — use your ears. There are always sounds and weird noises you can hear in your home or outside: an air conditioner, doors closing, stomachs growling. The possibilities are endless! Your part is to talk about the sounds you and your children hear. Use a little enthusiasm and exaggeration to get the kids interested in this activity. The key phrase is, "Who can spot a sound with their ears?"

Find more early literacy activities here



COVID-19 Update

It is sad what is happening in Victoria and are hoping that in South Australia we are not caught in the same situation. It pays to be vigilant and to continually observe the guidelines from the Government and Health Authorities. At The Ranges we take the safety of our community seriously and continuously take risk assessments to ensure our practices are in line with SA Health guidelines and The Ranges Pandemic Safe plan. We will continue to keep families updated as the situation changes and of the impact these may have on the centres. At this stage we are operating on the side of caution as several positive cases have been detected here in SA and we are following our Pandemic Safe Plan working under Stage 1. We may move to other stages if the current situation and advice changes, below are the details of Stage 1 for both the service and families. The full copy of the Pandemic Safe Plan is attached to this newsletter email.

What Ranges is doing under Stage 1:

- Review Government restrictions & health advice
- Keep all staff and families informed on the changing risks at the workplace and control measures implemented to control the risks
- Eliminate or minimize risk as reasonably practicable
- Provide a safe environment for all educators, children and families as per our policies
- Temperature checks upon arrival

What Families need to do under Stage 1:

- Families are required to wash hands upon arrival/ or utilise hand sanitizer.
- Families will expect a temperature check of their child from educators as they enter the building.
- If a temperature of 37.5 or above is detected the child is not permitted to attend the centre and will be required to go home.
- Families are to keep sick children at home as per our Infectious Disease Policy.
- If the children are presenting flu like symptoms, families will be asked to collect their child and ensure the symptoms have gone before returning them to the centre
- When tested for COVID-19, families are required to keep their child at home until the result is negative.
- Ensure the person who tests positive/has been in contact with a positive case is self-quarantining at home for the required time as per PHU direction.

We are in this together and together we can make our community safe. Keep safe!





WHAT'S IN THEIR POCKETS?

Looking into a child's pocket opens a magical window into their daily experience. Small children in six countries emptied the contents of their pockets and were asked about their haul. From Argentina to the Ukraine, the results were as cute and baffling as you might expect.

The six families chosen to be featured in the story all agree that it has been an adventure to discover what their kiddos are carrying around as treasures.

The biggest similarity among the international kids was candy. Half of them said it was their favourite thing to keep in their pocket. When asked, 'If you could fit anything in your pocket, what would it be?', **William**, from the USA, doubled down on his sweet tooth, saying: "Five thousand pieces of candy!" On one memorable day, William's pockets contained Skittles with all the colours licked off. He told his parents the colourless Skittles were candies for Harry Potter. **Nadya** from the Ukraine chose 'slime' as the number one thing she wished she could carry in her pocket. The reason? Because "mother forbids it." The fun continued when parents were asked the question: "What's the weirdest thing you found in their pockets?" The mother of **Bilal**, a five-year-old from India, answered with four words. "My husband's credit card." **Wyatt's** parent in the U.K admitted, "I was both incredibly confused and relieved when I found my missing house keys there once." She explained, "Not all of my house keys, just the keys that were attached to a BB-8 key ring that he'd decided was now his."

What treasures have you found in your child's pockets?

Source: goodnewsnetwork.org/whats-in-their-pockets-a-look-at-children-around-the-world/



Staffing News

We are in the process of recruiting more educators to improve on our already high-quality delivery of education and care. If you know anyone who is qualified please let them know and talk to us.

Zac is leaving us to pursue training basketball in schools. We wish him all the best in his new endeavours! His last day is this Friday. In his own words to you he said *'I would like to thank all of you for giving your trust in me to make sure your child/ren feel safe and comfortable when they come to Ranges. I wish all families the very best for the future and hope to see you down the track'*. Please join us in wishing him the best.

We will keep you informed of our staffing changes as they happen. If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to talk to us.

5 Minute MOVES

Thunderstruck

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

Find an open area to jog laps in or simply jog in place at a moderate pace. Find the song "Thunderstruck" by AC/DC on YouTube and play it. During the song, you should listen closely for the words "Thunder" or "Thunderstruck". Every time these words are said, perform a burpee (or a version of that your child/ren can perform). This will go on for the entirety of the song!

You can choose any song you like; simply choose the word/phrase in the song you will perform the burpee on and press play.

Source: successiblelife.com/9-fun-workout-games-to-make-your-fitness-routine-more-enjoyable/