



January - March
Newsletter



From Kerri's Kitchen 😊

Menu ideas

We would love some menu ideas from our families as we look at seasonal changes or additions. Send us over your favourite snacks for morning, afternoon tea (or ones we can include for late snack that are easy!). We also really value your feedback in regards to any menu changes you feel we can make. We love to hear from families if there are areas we can improve or change. Telling us what you love is also wonderful! 😊



DIRECTORS CORNER

Hello families,

Our first newsletter of 2021 is finally here! It is the same each year, we find ourselves already in March/April and wonder where the first two and a half months have gone?

We watched our amazing Kangaroo children embark on their journey to school (so many tears and emotions!). We are really proud of all of them and hope they are flourishing in their new environments.

Our new families and children have been building wonderful and caring relationships with the team of educators, and they have all settled in so well. We look forward to the next few months and watching their learning journeys evolve in their environments.

It is really hard to fathom that this time last year we all found ourselves in such uncertain and scary times when COVID19 presented itself. I personally am in awe of how much we all did to support one another through that time, but more importantly to ensure that the children had consistency and continuity of care to keep their lives in a somewhat normal routine through it all.

We are looking forward to what this year holds for all of us, but most importantly the curiosity, wonder and learning that is awaiting all of the children!

Professional Development in March/April for educators:

Exhale: starting the year with an attitude of slow – Tara, Stella and Riley
Practice Plus with Philip Butler: Beginning again in March (ongoing) for more information about Practice Plus see below in the newsletter.



Koalas Room

This year we have begun to build secure attachments with each and every child, discovering their interests, personalities and developmental needs. Our children have begun to adapt to their new environment, as well as building on strong connections with peers + educators.

Our Koala's have shown interest in loose parts over the recent months. We have extended on this interest by recycling materials with the children, collecting natural materials at our local reserve and exploring these through play. These common interests have assisted children to connect with one another through play. We

have also focused on cultural perspectives by implementing our Acknowledgement of Country, and various other creative experiences such as Aboriginal Art.

Our Koala's have shown enthusiasm connecting to the outdoors, both at Rose Cottage and within the local community. The children have been given the opportunity to develop a strong sense of belonging within their environment by engaging in group experiences and excursions to our local reserve.

We are excited to continue our journey with each child this year, learning and developing in the process.



Wombats Room

Over the last three months we have focused on settling the new Wombats into our room. As educators we have taken notice of each child's individual interests and developmental milestones to scaffold different experiences on our program to ensure your child is having the best experience while at Rose Cottage.

Emotional wellbeing has been an integral part of our daily program, we have explored many ways of giving the children different tools to aid them such as the 'Smiling minds' app that engages the children in short mindfulness exercises. Cosmic yoga has been another popular way for us to ensure the children's emotional wellbeing and physical wellbeing is being enhanced while engaging the children in a story time adventure. The children are beginning to learn self-help skills and a sense of responsibility as we have been encouraging them to serve themselves lunch, take off/put on their own shoes, pack their sheets away and help us to set up their lunch table. While these aspects of our program remain permanent, we have also been exploring different interests such as dinosaurs and space. Over the next three months we want to implement Aboriginal culture as a permanent part of our program as well as going on more excursions.



Kangaroos Room

Throughout the last 3 months we have encouraged and supported a child led curriculum based on both the children's interests and their specific goals we have set. We have been providing opportunities for children to actively use their senses as they explore their world through 'sensory play'. This is crucial to brain development like: playdough, clay and essential oils.

We met 'Ditto' the lion who helped us to understand the importance of feeling safe. This information helps children gain body ownership and the right to be safe from an early age and helps to build self-esteem and resilience in children. We also explored our environment during the heavy rain to observe the change in season and weather. The children took magnifying glasses in case we found anything worth zooming in on! We found two snails and a spider, of which the children were very curious about. Offering open-ended outdoor experiences gives the children the opportunity to inspire their minds, take calculated risks and accept challenges that cannot be offered while indoors. We are giving children the chance to create their own play opportunities which is critical for children to develop skills such as creativity, confidence, emotional regulation and not to mention healthy immune systems.

The last few weeks we planted our own garden, soon we are going to be able to collect a few zucchinis. We are also going to have a few strawberries and lemon.

Stella is teaching numbers in Portuguese, we could observe that they are very interested, they are able to say "1 to 10" and How are they in Portuguese. We continue to support children interested and encourage them to learn and speak more words in Portuguese.



May Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3.	4.	5.	6.	7. Mother's and grandmother's afternoon tea	8.
9.	10.	11.	12.	13. Parent Payment Fee Day Healthy Harold – Kangaroo's	14.	15.
16.	17. Scholastic's Book Fair begins	18.	19. Simultaneous Storytime 11am "Give me Space"	20.	21.	22.
23.	24.	25.	26. National Sorry Day	27. Parent Payment Fee Day National Reconciliation Week begins	28.	29.
30.	31.					

Practice Plus with Philip Butler

As a team of educators, we have been focused on a program named "Practice Plus" with Philip Butler from Semann & Slattery for almost four years now. Semann & Slattery are a company that provide early childhood centres with consultancy services, training and organisational development programs and leadership coaching to educators and leaders who value quality, innovation and evidence-based practice.

Practice Plus has helped us to gain perspective on current practices and the level of quality we deliver in terms of our educational program, documentation and interaction with children during their time at Rose Cottage.

This is a very critically reflective practice and encourages the educators to think about their current practices and ways in which we can improve and deliver high quality across all aspects of our service.

We will be ensuring we keep our families in the loop of any changes that may be considered and that you are a part of this decision-making process. We would love any feedback along the way, as always. Your input and choices are very valued.

SOME FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Colder weather approaching

As the cooler months come upon us, we ask families to please ensure children are coming with jackets and other items so that they can wear while we are outdoors. The cold weather does not stop our play in the outside environment, rather just appropriate clothing to match the weather. Gumboots and rain jackets welcome!!

Rose Cottage educators and our roles

Our roles as early childhood educators are rewarding, diverse and at times complicated. We have wonderful days, and other days we have been challenged mentally and physically while providing the very best and highest quality of care we can for the children. I wanted to share a small article with our families relating to our roles as early childhood professionals:

<http://thespoke.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/job-real-raw-meaningful/>

Why is "play" important?

- *Through play, children can use the skills they have already mastered to extend their knowledge and understanding of the world*
 - *Through their explorations, children are making connections and building up ideas, concepts and skills*
 - *Children feel comfortable and confident when they are playing and consequently feel able to experiment, take risks, question and explore.*

