



# Ulverstone Child Care Centre

## Newsletter– June 2020



*"Together we care, nurture and learn."*

**Centre news ....** We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all families for their support and understanding during the recent Covid-19 restrictions and challenging times we have all faced. It has been overwhelming to witness so much gratitude from our families and to share this appreciation with our valued educators. Moving forward we are beginning to look as much like 'back to normal' as possible and we will begin resuming care arrangements with most of our families from July.

Welcome to all of our new families that are commencing care in July and are beginning the orientation process. Having restrictions with our room entry has been a little challenging during this time but we are working with parents and appreciate your support and patience.

Child care fees and the child care subsidy will be reintroduced from July 13th . Please contact the office on 64253505 if you have any queries or wish to change your booking arrangement, we have a small amount of availability within rooms. School holidays will commence on the 6th July and cancellations will need to be made prior to the holidays to receive cancellation fees in the 2nd week. (July 13th) Please contact the office if your child/children will not be attending.

We will continue with no cash payments into the future, and we are asking families to set up direct debit as our preferred method of payment. Our accounts are weekly/fortnightly balance owing. Direct Debit forms are available at the office.

We will shortly be beginning the transition to an online app for child observations and planning. This is through Xplor and the Playground app. Parents will receive an email inviting them to join Playground and set up an account in order to receive learning documentation (observations, videos) notifications and communication. This is both an exciting time of change as well as daunting so please feel free to discuss this with any of the educators within your child's room should you like more information.

**Staffing...** At the end of July Carol our Centre cook will be retiring. Carol commenced work at the Centre nine years ago, beginning as a cleaner. Carol then took on the role of the Centre cook, starting the transition from lunch boxes to cooked meals. This was quite a challenge in the beginning but the children soon had their favourite meals and Carol's recipes made it to a cookbook. We often hear parents say how their children have tried new foods at childcare and Carol has worked with a number of families over this time starting sometimes with a taster plate and then progressing to eating a variety of foods. We thank Carol for all her hard work during her time with us, from cooking lunches, organising menus, Christmas party food and relish and jam preserves. We will miss your organised efficiency and wish you all the best on your next chapter. Enjoy your retirement Carol!



At the beginning of August we welcome back Jess Jones who has been on maternity leave. Jess will be working at our long day care and OSHC services and comes back with a wealth of experience.

During June our educators have been concentrating on sensory/messy play in their environments. We have all brainstormed ideas and listed activities and ideas to use over these 4 weeks. Each room has contributed photos and room news to the newsletter.

For the month of July we will be working on 'Movement and Music' in our environments.





**Room Resources**—Recently we have purchased new resources for each room, which has included new wooden low chairs, water play tables, balance bikes, Lego, table top toys, outdoor hanging easels, dolls and furniture and a shelving unit for the Young Endeavours sandpit area. We would like to thank families and friends that supported our Easter raffle which raised \$400 and contributed to new containers for our storage areas.



### Before School Care .....

To coincide with the main centres theme “Messy/Sensory Play” the Before School Care children have enjoyed making, setting up and creating with play dough. While play dough is gooey, colourful and fun we cannot underestimate the educational benefits.

Fine motor skills are strengthened as children roll, poke and squish, creativity and imagination is explored as children pretend their creations become something else. Science and maths skills such as predicting, experimenting and estimating are practiced together while providing the children the opportunity to engage socially with their peers. The opportunities are truly endless.







## Sensory play in the Baby Room

The beauty of sensory play is not only the benefits of early childhood development but also the endless fun and enjoyment. Sensory play is hands on, it involves taste, touch, sight, smell and hearing.

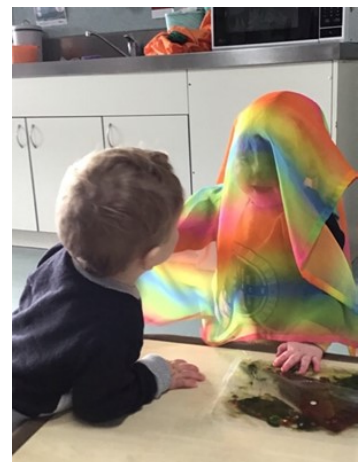


Our babies were offered opportunities to investigate and explore a variety of resources and materials. These included crunchy dried pasta and spaghetti, shredded paper, shaving cream, soft delicate flour, finger painting and chia seed slime.



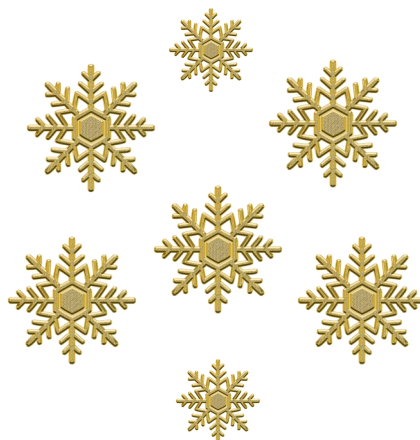
**Outcomes 4 : Children are confident and involved learners**

**Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of well-being**





**Toddler Room News ...** Through the month of June as a room we have been exploring sensory and messy play. Children experiment with colour mixing and recognition through stamping and painting. Together we have measured rice and lentils using mathematical concepts such as full, half full and empty. Children engage with coloured spaghetti, developing their fine motor skills while manipulating the tongs to transfer the spaghetti to various shaped and sized containers. Children have also explored the texture of goop and soapy slime.



**Policies reviewed for March/April/May .....** The following policies are available to view in the foyer at the main centre. Curriculum Policy, Enrolment Orientation and Induction, Clothing, Excursion, Food Handling & Storage, Child Safe Environment, Continuous Quality Improvement, Confidentiality, Emergency Situations & Lockdown Procedures, First Aid, Parental Authorisation, Physical Activity and Screen Time Policy, Sleep & Rest, Supervision, Single Staff Emergency Procedure, Certified Supervisor Agreement, Hygiene Policy,



**Young Endeavour Room News...** Over June the Young Endeavour children have explored messy play through the sense of touch, using goop, foam, finger painting, as well as pasta, rice and water play. The children have plans to create a bike/car wash to be used during sunny days.

We recently received a new basketball hoop, providing the children opportunities to strengthen their gross motor and hand eye coordination skills each day. We have continued extending on our room project with the children enjoying the chance to explore the gardens for praying mantis, worms and other insects.

Many children have enquired about the sun and moon, this has lead to group discussions about space and where we live. The children created their own stars with glitter paintings displayed on the deck area in our new 'space' environment.



**Big Room News...** As part of sensory month the children in the Big Room have been exploring a variety of natural resources. Extending from the children's increasing interest in the birds in our trees we have created some bird feeders using cylinders, honey and bird seed. As the children explored the honey with their fingers we discussed what it felt like with some children saying, "sticky." The children collected natural resources from our outdoor area, enjoying exploring them and later creating paintings and prints with them.





## Vacation Care & OSHC

Bookings for vacation care need to be returned ASAP to confirm a spot. This program has a variety of activities on offer from Lego day, target day, rope day, winter cooking, craft, moulding day and green day (planting herbs or vegetable seedlings ready for your vegetable garden).

**For bookings or enquiries please phone the Centre on 6425 3505**

Our OSHC services at East Ulverstone, Penguin and Forth have the majority of their families returned to care. Some days we have limited vacancies and we encourage parents that have casual booking patterns to book in advance to secure a spot.



### Dates to Remember

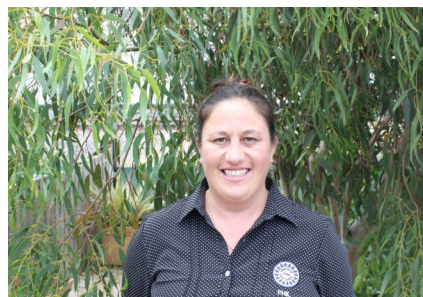
- Friday July 3rd, End of term 2
- Vacation Care July 6th to July 17th
- July 20th Pupil Free day
- Tuesday July 21st Term 3

### Our OSHC Services

- East Ulverstone Outside School Hours Care
- Forth Before and Outside School Hours Care
- Penguin Outside School Hours Care
- Ulverstone Child Care Centre Before School Hours Care

## Staff Profile

Hi I'm Phillippa Turner and most people call me Phil. I commenced work at the centre in January of this year. I have my diploma of Early Years Education and Care and have worked in the sector for the past 20 years. My daughter Alice is five and she is now at Kinder, and enjoys coming to the Young Endeavours one day a week.



In our spare time we like to visit Granny's farm and ride the 4 wheeler motorbikes, feed the chooks and the pet sheep. We also enjoy going to the beach with our dogs. I enjoy working with young children, being part of their growth and development through their younger years.

We will be monitoring restrictions on entry to the centre rooms as 3rd term progresses, In accordance with the Council's Pandemic Plan and advice from the Department of Health. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

***One person will be permitted to enter the centre with their child/children***

- ***Please use the hand sanitizer on entry and prior to touching the iPad or any surfaces***
- ***Proceed to your room gate/s, please wait here for an Educator to greet you, you will make your separation at this point.***

This is a precautionary measure to ensure that we reduce the potential spread

We congratulate Lois, who has recently received her certificate for 15 years service with the Central Coast Council. Well done Lois!



Andie & Staff

