**Cairns Early Childhood Centre**

 **Parent/Carers Newsletter Spring 2022**



**Children’s Play, Learning and Development Journey**



This is the national guidance that we use with the children in developing quality practices. It explores the range of **interactions, experiences** and **spaces** we need to provide for babies and young children to help them learn and grow best from their earliest years.

If you would like to access this document, please follow the link below or if you would like any further information on children’s play, development or ideas to help your child learn and grow at home please ask a member of staff who will be happy to help.

[Realising the Ambition | Learning resources | National Improvement Hub (education.gov.scot)](https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/realising-the-ambition/)

**Realising The Ambition Being Me: Children’s experiences this month**

**Farm (0-2)**

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In the Farm we have been developing lots of skills and taking part in different experiences. Using playdough and cloud paint we developed our fine motor skills. We used our hands to mould the dough and to add different resources to it. With the cloud paint we used paint brushes and our hands to make beautiful pictures, exploring the texture throughout. On world book day Margo delivered a Book bug session to us, we enjoyed listening to a story, singing along to the songs from the song bag, and a cuddle from the book bug teddy. When we had snow days, we had lots of fun in the garden taking turns in the sledge sliding down the hill.

**Ocean (2-3)**

We have made some changes within the Ocean playroom based on the children's interests. The children have been playing with the small cars, ramps, garages, and ride on cars. Therefore, we have created a large road area for the children to enjoy the cars, with different sized cars and blocks to incorporate small world. On World book day Margo delivered a Book bug session to us, we enjoyed listening to a story, singing along to the songs from the song bag, and a cuddle from the book bug teddy. We have also been having so much fun outdoors in all weathers, we even had snack outdoors - during snack time we are becoming very independent, washing our hands, making choices pouring our own drink and clearing up. Indoors we have been engaged in sensory and loose parts play. One of our favourites is water play, we have been developing our hand eye co-ordination pouring and filling using different resources. With the loose parts we are using our creative imagination, using lids as "googly eyes", wooden blocks and stones as "hot chocolate and marshmallows" and many more.

 **Treetops and Waterfalls (3-5)**

Outdoors we have been enjoying expanding our resources with large loose parts such as pallets, tyres and planks. These resources have encouraged more children to go outdoors and access all areas of the garden and we have noticed children are spending a considerable amount of time outdoors compared to before. They have enjoyed building assault courses and working together to create them.

Towards the left hand side of the Waterfall the children and staff have been developing the smaller garden which will be used for planting vegetables and herbs. The children have been helping dig and remove different parts of the garden to make space for planters.

In the room we have been focusing on literacy with initial sounds, trying different foods for snack and working on our independence skills. Developing our home corner, and enjoying accessing creative resources to expand our creative skills.

Transitions with Hillhead Primary have been in full swing with visits from buddies and visits over to the school. Our other Primary schools have sent their teachers out to visit the children that will be attending school and we hope to hear about further transitions with them shortly.

**Staff Champion Roles**

As part of Cairns ECC Improvement Plan our staff team have been developing areas within the Centre linked to their own interests, skills and passions.

Here is an outline of developments this month that have taken place:

**Communication Champions** – We are developing an outdoors communication board to share information and updates with you. In the coming weeks we will introduce a lending library for children to choose books to take home which will be available at our entrances.

**Eco Champions** – The children have been looking at how we recycle our foodstuffs and the food cycle to understand the value in this for our green energy! Children have also been carrying out health and safety checks in their playrooms and around the Centre, risk assessing what is safe and what is not. We are working towards our ‘Property Pledge’ launch day in May.

**Gender Equality and Children’s Rights Champions** – This is a champion group that has been introduced and this team are working on developing a policy across the Centre from children, staff and families. A questionnaire will be sent shortly to gain your views within this area.

**Outdoor Champions –** We have been improving our sensory garden and the children have been developing our new vegetable patch! We have planted carrots, onions, tomatoes, leeks, parsnips and turnips. (Before and after pictures will be shared over the coming weeks) We have lots of ideas from the children and staff to extend the learning opportunities, grow our own food, prepare and cook our food and of course enjoy eating our fresh foods!

**Health and Wellbeing for ALL Champions –** At Cairns we support everyone’s wellbeing; nurturing practices, love, being caring and kind is at the heart of what we do each day. This Champion group have been exploring yoga and mindfulness with the children and many children have chosen to take part within these activities building their gross motor skills, confidence and allowing time to chill and relax in the moment.

**Easter Bonnet Parade **

All the children from Cairns ECC will take part in an Easter Bonnet Parade around the grounds of the Centre. We would love the children to explore their creativity skills at home in making their own individual bonnets. We will leave a box of materials for you at the entrance to help you put together a wonderful creation. This will be a lovely opportunity for the children to show off their bonnets. This will take place on Thursday 31st March 2022 at 10 a.m. and 1.30p.m. for all playrooms. Hillhead Primary as part of our transition for our pre-school children have welcomed us to visit P1 on the day.

If your child does not attend on that day and would like to take part in the event please contact us to make arrangements.

**Easter Term Time Holiday**

The term time children will finish for Easter Holidays on:

Friday 1st April 2022 and return to the Centre on Tuesday 19th April 2022.

Our Centre will be closed on: Friday 15th April 2022 and Monday 18th April 2022

We are open as normal for children who attend mornings or afternoons or 2 and a half days per week apart from the dates we are closed. Could you please let us know if your child will NOT be attending during these dates above as this will allow us to plan accordingly.

**May Holiday and In-Service**

Our Centre will be closed on Monday 2nd May 2022 for a bank holiday

and on Thursday 5th May 2022 for an In-Service Day.

**Communication**

An update on our methods of communication to all our families. We will be sending most of our communication now through our App, Facebook page and twitter. If anyone would like help in downloading the App please let us know and we will be happy to help.

**Health and Safety**

The road safety of our children is our priority therefore we have a 5mph speed limit within the grounds and outside our Centre.

Please do drive slowly as you enter our carpark as we are a busy Centre with babies, toddlers and young children arriving and leaving and crossing the road. It is the responsibility of us all in keeping every one safe!

Car Seat safety for children – Children until they are 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall whichever comes first, require to use a car seat.

Please can we ask that disabled parking is only used by blue badge holders.

Thank you for your co-operation.

 

**COVID Guidance and Update**

Thank you for your continued support in following Covid guidance.

**Children’s Scrap Books / Online Learning Journals**

We will be requesting after the Easter holidays permissions from any parents/carers who have still to complete this to enable us to deliver all of children’s individual learning through online learning journals.

Please note pre-school children will be an exemption as we feel it would be beneficial to you and your child to complete their individual scrapbook for the year.

**Change of Clothes**

Could we please ask that you bring with your child a bag with a change of clothes including underwear and socks. We thank parents/carers for their kind donations this month and welcome any donations of spare clothes.

**Parent/Carer Committee**

Our next meeting will be held within the Centre on Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 1.30p.m. Please do let us know if you would like to join us and be part of decisions that are made within the life of the Centre. All welcome!

**Easter Wishes**

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter with your families and the Easter bunny arrives!

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Warmest regards

**Lisa Rattray and Team Cairns**