

Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Parent and Carer Newsletter

August 2024



Welcome and Goodbye!

Hello and welcome back to our children and families; we hope you have had a lovely summer break whatever you got up to, and a warm welcome to any of our new children and families who have joined us this month. We are delighted you have chosen Cairns ECC for your child to attend; we are sure they will flourish in the care of our dedicated staff team and we hope you will make many happy memories during their time here.

We have some new staff joining Team Cairns; welcome to Ashleigh, Sharelle and Regan, who have all joined us from Whattriggs ECC. Sharelle is currently on maternity leave and is due to return to work in the New Year. Regan will join us after she gets married; she starts with us on the 30th of September. Ashleigh works 2.5 days: Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday, and she will work alongside Nicola C as keyworker for the Tiger group in the Jungle room. We welcome Nicola B, Natasha and Samantha as our Support Assistants.

Sadly we said goodbye to some of our staff at the end of the summer break; a number of staff have moved on to new ECCs and we would like to wish them all the very best of luck: Angela, Cara, Jodie, Kristeen, Lauren C, Cheryl, Leah, and Mairi. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to Cairns ECC over the years.

Improvement plan 2024 – 2025

You will find our Improvement Plan for 2024 – 2025 in the main reception area. A full copy is available as well as an overview of our plans; you'll find this in the frame on the table underneath the staff board.

We consulted with our children, families, staff and partner agencies to gain feedback on what everyone felt was important to the ECC. For the children, the most important thing to them was some new toys! We recently purchased a number of new resources for every playroom and the children have been exploring these already! A favourite was the wooden hospital in the Jungle Room with one wee person declaring they were going to be a "paramedic!" The children in the Ocean have been exploring the new den area and loose part station, and the Farm children have been discovering lots of different ways to stack resources. Please see our Facebook page for some photos!

We have started a "you said, we did" board in our cloakroom. Most recently this was updated with feedback on Stay and Play sessions. Our families told us they have enjoyed Stay and Play sessions with a focus on the curriculum so we've planned more of these types of sessions in the next few months. Some parents/carers also told us they wanted to see

what the meals look like at lunch; we now have a pictorial menu so you can see what the children have for lunch each day. Remember you can ask a member of staff how much your child ate at lunch at pick-up time.

We were inspected on 2nd and 3rd July by the Care Inspectorate. You can find a paper copy of the report in our main reception area or you can read this online: [Find care \(careinspectorate.com\)](http://careinspectorate.com)

Whole Centre Approach to Nurture

“A nurturing approach has a key focus on the school environment and emphasises the balance between care and challenge which incorporates attunement, warmth and connection alongside structure, high expectations and a focus on achievement and attainment. It is based on the understanding of 6 Nurturing Principles...” (Education Scotland. 2017. p. 13)

Alongside our stakeholders, we developed our vision, values and aims which align with our commitment to delivering a Whole Centre Approach to Nurture. Cairns Early Childhood Centre sits in the top 5% SIMD 1 areas in Scotland and we serve a diverse demographic of children and families. Many of the key components of Getting it Right for Every Child can be found in a Whole Centre Approach to Nurture and provides us with a consistent approach to supporting our children and families.

In the ECC, we have a nurture policy. This policy is for our children, families, partner agencies and our staff team to ensure we are all aware of and clear on how we will support our children through a nurturing approach in the ECC. This policy has been created to support and inform our Whole Centre Approach to Nurture. It has been created in collaboration with our parents and carers, our staff team, our partner agencies and our children.

We have worked with our Educational Psychologist to further develop our knowledge on using the nurture principles in practice to ensure we provide a consistent and informed approach to supporting our children and families. This policy will provide clear expectations and strategies for how we will embed the nurture principles in practice, and how this informs our vision and aims of supporting our children through a Whole Centre Approach to Nurture. The nurture principles are as follows:

Children’s learning is understood developmentally (Nurture Principle 1)

The classroom (playroom) offers a safe base (Nurture Principle 2)

The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing (Nurture Principle 3)

Language is a vital means of communication (Nurture Principle 4)






All behaviour is communication (Nurture Principle 5)

The importance of transition in children's lives (Nurture Principle 6)

We will support our children and families to understand how this policy will support them through regular communication and role-modelling of the expectations and strategies. Communication will include newsletters, social media updates, our display boards, verbally and in-person, and through children's Learning Journals. We use Personal Plans to record children's individual needs to ensure these are considered, responded to and planned for with their families, and these are reviewed at a minimum of 6-monthly. We will signpost families to our partner agencies and Community Practitioners, who can provide specialist support both in and out of the ECC. This may be done informally through drop-ins or parent/carer progress meetings, or through a Team with the Family meeting.

Our Golden Rules

To support our children to understand the rules of keeping ourselves and each other safe, we follow our Golden Rules. We use our book of Golden Rules to talk about them as well as verbally and visually reinforcing these with the children. Our Golden Rules are:

-  Kind hands
-  Walking feet
-  Listening ears
-  Sharing our toys (and remembering to look after them too)
-  Being kind to our friends

PANTS

In the ECC, we use the NSPCC Let's Talk PANTS with Pantosaurus to help children understand that they have the right to say no, and to privacy and dignity. You can find out more about Pantosaurus on the NSPCC website, which is linked here: [Let's talk PANTS with Pantosaurus! | NSPCC](#)

Newsletter Information

We issue a monthly newsletter to our families, usually towards the end of each month. Within this newsletter, we will provide you with important news as well as key date information and ways in which you can get involved in the ECC. We will provide updates on our Improvement Plan and collate your feedback throughout the year on different areas of the ECC.

The newsletter will be uploaded on to your child's Learning Journal and some paper copies will be made available to take home if you wish.

If there is anything you feel you would like to see in our newsletter, please let Laura or one of the seniors know.

We will update the Facebook page weekly with an overview of what the children have been learning in the ECC. We also have a Glow blog which you can view by searching for Cairns ECC

Glow blog or by clicking the link: [Cairns Early Childhood Centre | East Ayrshire site \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](http://Cairns_Early_Childhood_Centre_|_East_Ayrshire_site_(glowscotland.org.uk))

Bookbug

We are very fortunate to have a number of trained Bookbug Leaders in our ECC. This allows us to offer regular Bookbug sessions and we do love it when families can come along with their children.

We have a monthly Bookbug in our Cairns Bairns session which takes place on the first Wednesday of the month from 9:30am to 10:15am. Lauren leads this and it is open for any children aged 0-3 to attend. Booking is not required at this time however may be introduced if it gets busy.

For our 2-5 children, we will offer a bi-monthly Bookbug session. For the Ocean room (2-3) this will be on the last Monday of the month between 9:30am to 10:15am with Margo. For the Jungle (3-5), this will be on the last Thursday of the month between 1:45pm – 2:30pm. We will remind you of the dates via Facebook, the APP and in person at drop-off/pick-up. In September, these will take place on Thursday 26th September for the Jungle room and Monday 30th September for the Ocean room. If these prove popular, we will look at increasing these.

We will also be looking at offering the Jungle keyworker group Bookbug sessions which will be specifically focusing on supporting children's attention and listening skills and providing you with information on the best ways to support your child's early literacy and language skills through stories, rhymes and songs. These will be with Lauren and the children will arrange to invite their families along when it is their groups turn to attend.

Learning Journals

We use Learning Journals to share our children's successes and achievements in the ECC. Each child will have their own Learning Journal which parents and carers can access by downloading the Learning Journal app.

If your child is new to the ECC, we will set up their Learning Journal account and you will be sent an email with login details to the email you provided when completing the consent form at enrolment.

0-2 room (The Farm) and 2-3 room (The Ocean) will have a weekly photo update and a monthly observation, discussing your child's learning and development.

3-5 room (The Jungle) will have between 4 and 8 observations in a month.

Weekly photo updates will be posted on a Friday and observations will be published on the last Friday of the month (0-2 and 2-3). 3-5 observations will be posted on a Friday.

We would love to see what you've been doing at home so please upload to the Parent Contribution section as often as you can. We also have our achievement boards in the playrooms and we would love for you to add any notes or certificates to share your child's achievements.

If you require your login details, please speak with the office staff and they can arrange to send these to you.

Important information

- Please contact our office on 01563 533177 if your child is going to be absent from the ECC – we will call you if your child is absent from the ECC without prior notice
- You can also notify us of absence via the school app
- If your child has an episode of sickness and/or diarrhoea, there is a 48-hour exclusion period from the last episode – please do not send your child in if they have been sick and/or had diarrhoea in the last 48 hours to ensure we avoid spreading any illness – if our staff become ill due to this, they too are required to be off and this can impact our service delivery
- We have 3 fully trained First Aiders in our ECC – Laura, Gillian O and John; we also have a number of Emergency First Aiders
- If your child requires medication during their session, we will require a prescription label before anything can be administered to your child, and we require to complete a consent form with you therefore it may be useful to call ahead to let us know or set time aside when dropping your child off with medication
- Please arrive on time for your child’s session and please collect on time at the end of your child’s session – we know sometimes things come up and you can be running late so please contact our office if you are delayed however the doors open at 8:40am and close at 9am / open at 2:40pm and close at 3pm to allow staff to clean and prepare for the next day
- Please do not come for your child before their collection time unless this is for an appointment or pre-agreed – we are very busy playing and learning right up until the end of our sessions
- We would appreciate if you avoid putting any food or drink items in your child’s bag – some of our friends in the ECC have allergies which can make them very ill
- If your child prefers to drink water or milk from a specific style cup, please let us know so we can support them with this whilst also offering them the opportunity to try using our cups too
- Please provide your child with a change of clothes (a few sets if they are learning to use the toilet or are recently using the toilet independently) and include a few pairs

of socks and underwear

- Please label your child's belongings with their name – we're a big ECC and things can easily get mixed up so this will help items to be returned to their owner
- Please provide wipes, nappies or pull-ups, sun cream and a sunhat, and a puddle suit and wellies for your child if you can – we do have our own which the children can use
- We always appreciate donations of wipes, tissues and nappies – thank you 😊

Key dates for 2024

We understand how useful it can be to have a note of any key dates for special events in the ECC to allow you to be able to attend.

August

28th - Makaton International Awareness Day – see Facebook for updates on this

September

8th – International literacy day – celebrate on Friday 6th

18th – National Fitness day

24th - Parent/Carer drop-in 2pm – 2:45pm chat with Head of Centre

25th – 1st Oct – Maths week

25th – Parent/Carer coffee morning – 9:15am – 10:45am (drop-in)

29th – World Heart Day – an important event to a few of our wee people

October

4th – 10th – World Space week

7th – 10th – Stay and Play sessions (2-3 and 3-5) – look out for sign-up sheets

Mon – PM – 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Tues – AM – 9:30am – 10:30am

Wed – AM - 9:30am – 10:30am

Thurs – PM - 1:30pm – 2:30pm

10th - World Mental Health day

23rd – Cairns Bairns Halloween Party

25th – 2-3 and 3-5 Halloween Parties

November

1st – Diwali – festival of lights

5th – Bonfire night

11th – Remembrance Day

11th – 15th – World Nursery Rhyme Week

11th – 15th – Parent/Carer progress meetings – look out for sign-up sheets

15th – Children in Need – wear jammies or something Pudsey related

17th – 23rd – Road Safety Week

Road safety walks (2-3 and 3-5) – look out for sign-up sheets

Mon – PM – 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Tues – AM – 9:30am – 10:30am

Wed – AM - 9:30am – 10:30am

Thurs – PM - 1:30pm – 2:30pm

December

10th – Human Rights Day

12th – Christmas jumper day – wear a Christmas jumper to the ECC

12th – The Jungle Room presents – A Roaring Christmas Carol Concert – 9:45am (info closer to the time)

2-3 Christmas Stay and Play – 17th in the AM & 19th in the PM (more info to follow)

0-2 Christmas Stay and Play – 18th

3-5 Christmas party – 20th (more info to follow)

We will share key dates for 2025 in our November newsletter. We will also share on our Facebook page and via your child’s Learning Journal, any celebration days each month.

Holiday dates and ECC closures 2023 – 2024

Cairns ECC is now a term-time service which means we are closed during all school holidays, public holidays and local holidays. We also have a further 3 in-service days this academic session where the ECC is closed for children to allow for staff training to take place.

September

Friday 20th and Monday 23rd

October

Monday 14th – Friday 18th

Monday 21st – in-service day

December

We close on Friday 20th at 3pm for the children and don't return until Monday 6th January 2025

February

Monday 10th

Tuesday 11th – in-service day

April

We close on Friday 4th April at 3pm for the children and don't return until Tuesday 22nd April

May

Monday 5th

Tuesday 6th – in-service

June

We close on Friday 27th June at 3pm for our children and children do not return until Wednesday 20th August