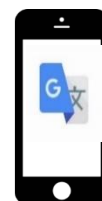




# Cairns Early Childhood Centre

## Family Newsletter



August 2025

### 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 are joining 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 Jodie, Kirsty, Llanesa and Lara.

Jodie – Keyworker to the Lions (temp)

Kirsty – Keyworker to the Turtles (temp)

Llanesa – Keyworker to the Rhinos (temp)

Lara – Permanent Support Assistant

We said goodbye and good luck to Aimee (support assistant), Courtney M (keyworker Tigers), Chloe (keyworker Piglets) and Jenna (keyworker Rhinos). We wish you all the best in your future roles.

We also have Zamara joining us on supply at the end of the week to support the Tiger group whilst we undergo recruitment, and we are awaiting final checks being completed for our Hippo keyworker. Taylor will be looking after the Hippo group for the time being.

### Improvement plan 2025 - 2026

You will find our Improvement Plan for 2025 - 2026 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. It is also available on our ECC blog.

We consulted with our children, families, staff and partner agencies to gain feedback on what everyone felt was important to the ECC, which included the physical environment and important qualities in staff. This information not only informed our Improvement Priorities, but it is also helping us to develop our "Excellent Experience" which will be used during playroom observations to ensure we are providing an excellent experience in every aspect of your child's play, learning and care.

For the children, the most important thing to them was some new toys! We recently purchased several new resources for every playroom, and we will share photos on our

Facebook page and children's Learning Journals of them exploring and playing with these new resources.

From our families, you were keen to see more opportunities to be involved in the ECC through Stay and Plays. We have used this information to begin to plan our Family Learning Programme, and this will be shared shortly. We also looked at your feedback from Stay and Play sessions, alongside our own evaluations. This highlighted several positives as well as some areas for consideration, one of which was around children becoming unsettled during these events and the ability to focus in on activities. This has been a key driver for changing up how we will deliver family learning this session.

### **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. We also have a Respectful Relationships policy, which can be found in our handbook folder. 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](#)

### **Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA)**

We are in the process of submitting our evidence to achieve RRSA bronze and we will be working towards RRSA silver. The United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child came into law in Scotland in July 2024. This is an important journey for us to embark upon and shows our commitment to upholding and protecting children's rights. You will find updates on our Rights display, social media, Learning Journals, and we are keen to have parents/carers join our bi-monthly meetings to help with some of the work in our action plan. Our first parent/carer coffee morning will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 9:15am, and some of our ECO/Rights Leaders will join the coffee morning to share more information.

We will be working on introducing our children's charter this session.

## **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 a member of the Leadership Team 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, scanning the QR code in our cloakroom areas, or by clicking the link: [Cairns Early Childhood Centre | East Ayrshire site \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](https://www.glowscotland.org.uk/CairnsEarlyChildhoodCentre)

## **Learning Journals**

We use Learning Journals to share our children's successes and achievements in relation to their learning and development. 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. Please note, this email comes directly from Learning Journals so you may need to check your junk mail folder.

The Farm and The Ocean will have a weekly photo update and a monthly observation, discussing your child's learning and development. The monthly observation will be posted on the last Friday of the month.

The Jungle will have between 4 and 8 observations in a month.

Please note, the number of observations will decrease around holiday periods, for example, in December you may only have between 2 and 4 observations for the Jungle Room, and a shorter observation for the Ocean and the Farm Rooms.

Any posts will always be set to publish on a Friday afternoon.

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.

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

We use Facebook to upload a weekly overview of the learning across all playrooms. We also post important updates on here as well as on our Safer Schools App. You can get login details for the App from the office.

You should start to see posts on your child's Learning Journal by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Celebrating achievements**

Our children's achievements are so important to us. We have achievement boards in our playrooms, and we would love for you to add any photos, certificates and/or comments to this board. Alternatively, you can upload these to your child's Learning Journal, and we will print them off and put them up for you. We have also introduced "Star of the Week" in our Jungle Room. Throughout the week, children receive golden tickets from staff for demonstrating our Golden Rules alongside making safe choices and being a helpful, kind friend. Children can post their tickets into their keyworker group box and at the end of the week, a child from each group will be awarded a "Star of the Week" certificate to bring home with them.

### **Personal Plan appointments**

Your child's Personal Plan is an important part of their learning and care at Cairns ECC. Every child has their own Personal Plan, and we complete these alongside families so we can ensure we are providing the right care and learning opportunities for your child. These are a legislative requirement as part of the Health and Social Care Standards as well as through our regulatory body, the Care Inspectorate. These must be completed within 28 days of your child's start date in any of our playrooms and they must be reviewed at least every 6 months. We have arranged appointment times for staff to complete these with families; the Jungle Room appointments will take place in week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> of September, and the Ocean Room appointments will take place in week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> of September. Staff will arrange these appointments with you and have been allocated up to 45 minutes for each appointment. Staff will also catch parents/carers to review our returning children's Personal Plans to see if there are any changes over the summer break.

### **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 Safer Schools 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 5 fully trained First Aiders in our ECC – Laura, Leigh, Martin, 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 – we finish at 3:15pm on a Friday
- We restrict how often we open our playroom doors as, from our experience, this can disrupt the flow of learning and engagement levels. We have set opening times for our playrooms: 12:45pm for anyone who wishes to collect their child after lunch and 2:15pm for anyone who wishes to collect their child before going to another ECC, setting or school – for Hillhead Primary School, please come to the ECC at 2:40pm and then head over to the Primary School as their doors open later than ours
- We would appreciate if you avoided 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
- We ask for all children who can to bring in a water bottle for use in the playrooms, labelled with their name – we will add their photo and fill with water on arrival
- 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 2025**

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**

28<sup>th</sup> - Makaton International Awareness Day

### **September**

8<sup>th</sup> – International literacy day

17<sup>th</sup> – Parent/Carer coffee morning at 9:15am

18<sup>th</sup> – Drop in for a chat with Laura between 2pm and 2:30pm

29<sup>th</sup> – World Heart Day – we will be hosting a special coffee morning on this day at 9:15am

*Our Family Learning events will begin following the September weekend (more info below)*

### **October**

4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> – World Space week

5<sup>th</sup> – Grandparents Day

10<sup>th</sup> - World Mental Health Day

18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – Diwali

31<sup>st</sup> – Halloween celebrations – more info to follow

### **November**

5<sup>th</sup> – Bonfire night

9<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Day

10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> – World Nursery Rhyme Week

WB 10<sup>th</sup> – Parent/Carer progress meetings – look out for sign-up sheets

12<sup>th</sup> – Tempest Photographer

13<sup>th</sup> – World Kindness Day

14<sup>th</sup> – Children in Need

15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – Book Week Scotland

17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Road Safety Week

Road safety walks (Ocean and Jungle Room) – look out for sign-up sheets

Mon – PM – 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Tues – AM – 9:30am – 10:30am

Thurs – PM - 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Fri – AM – 9:30am – 10:30am

26<sup>th</sup> – Enrolment visit for new children joining the Jungle Room in January – 3:15pm

28<sup>th</sup> – Celebrating St Andrews Day in the ECC

### **December**

10<sup>th</sup> – Human Rights Day

10<sup>th</sup> – The Jungle Room presents – A Roaring Christmas Carol Concert – 9:45am (info closer to the time)

11<sup>th</sup> – Christmas jumper day – wear a Christmas jumper to the ECC

16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> – Ocean Room Christmas stay and play AM – 9:15 – 10:15

17<sup>th</sup> – Farm Room Christmas come and play

18<sup>th</sup> – Jungle Room Christmas celebration

We will share key dates for 2026 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 2025 - 2026**

Cairns ECC is 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 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **October**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup>

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – In-service Day

### **December**

We close on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm and don't return until Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **February**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Local holiday

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – In-service Day

### **April**

We close on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 3pm for the children and don't return until Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**May**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – May bank holiday

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> – In-service

**June**

We close on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm and children do not return until Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>  
August 2026