

DIRECTORS NEWS

CHILDREN / FAMILIES / STAFF

CONCORD WEST RHODES PRESCHOOL



Family & Community

Connections

We loved connecting with you through:

☕ Get to Know You Morning Teas

🎉 Welcome Gathering & Smoking Ceremony

👉 Ongoing conversations and partnerships

These experiences help create a strong, supportive community for both children and families.



We have had a wonderful and busy start to the year! It has been so exciting getting to know all of our children and families and begin building a strong sense of belonging within our preschool community.



WELCOME and BELONGING

Our focus this term has been on developing a Sense of Belonging through exploring **IDENTITY, ROUTINES** and **PLAY**, helping children feel safe, connected and confident as they transition into preschool.

Children have been:

- Learning routines and developing independence
- Building friendships and learning each other's names
- Exploring emotions and how to express their needs
- Engaging in play-based learning experiences that reflect their interests

We are so proud of how well the children have settled and the strong relationships forming each day. We hope too, that you can see small changes in their development occurring, as well as a strong connection to their preschool forming.

 **Special Events & Experiences**

This term has been filled with rich and meaningful experiences:

 **Cultural Celebrations**

- Harmony Day – celebrating kindness and inclusion
- Holi Colour Fun – exploring respect, consent and joy
- Lunar New Year & Ramadan learning experiences

 **Music, Movement & Wellbeing**

- African Beats program (music, dance & culture)
- Healthy Harold – learning about feelings and wellbeing

 **Community & Nature Connections**

- Seniors Week Intergenerational Visit
- World Water Day & Water Safety learning
- Gardening, worm farm and caring for our environment
- Learning about local wildlife and bush tucker

Our Learning Program

Children have been actively exploring:

- Sensory play (sand, water, mud, play-dough, bubbles, shoes and socks off!)
- Creative arts (diverse painting, drawing & construction experiences, printing collage and chalk drawing)
- Imaginative & small world play (home corner, cars, trains, dinosaurs, dolls)
- Music and movement (songs, rhymes, musical games, instruments, dance parties!)
- Outdoor play (learning how to be safe and have fun on the trampoline, exploring the fort system and variety of obstacle courses, not to mention strengthening bodies on the monkey bars & climbing equipment)
- Nature exploration (water parks on hot days, jumping in puddles & taking cover under umbrellas on rainy days AND noticing the wildlife that calls preschool home- cicadas, Eastern Skink lizards, butterflies, native bees in our hive, slaters, spiders, Noisy Miner birds (Harry Bird), Brush Turkeys, Ibis and compost worms in our worm farm).



Our curriculum is guided by children's interests and curiosities and focuses on: **Identity, Routines and Play** – supporting a strong sense of belonging.

 **Our Team**

We are excited to welcome Michelle, our new Early Childhood Teacher, to our very experienced and enthusiastic team this year! We congratulate her on achieving her first term at Concord West Rhodes Preschool. We hope it's a long working relationship!!

Our educators have been engaging in:

- Professional learning in child safety and wellbeing
- Goal setting and reflective Practice
- Ongoing mentoring and collaboration to support safe, high-quality care and education

And most importantly, the mammoth task of supporting each preschooler to have a strong sense of belonging and wellbeing in their preschool space, by getting to know them and their interests, supporting them to express their needs and wants safely and sharing their achievements and challenges with you, their families.



Concord West Rhodes Preschool
2026 Staff



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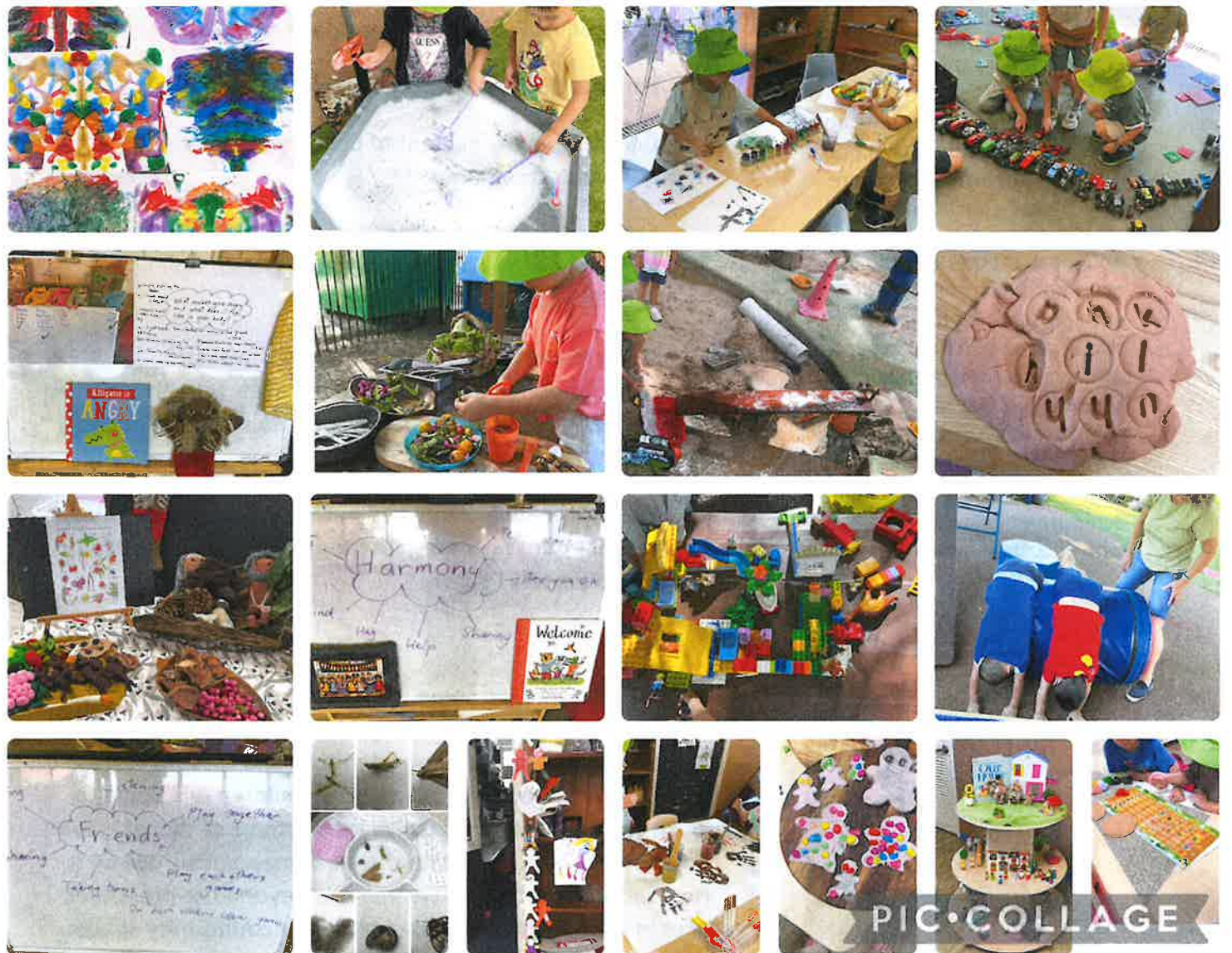


Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Perspectives

We are embedding First Nations perspectives through:

- Participating in a Welcome Smoking Ceremony
- Daily Acknowledgement of Country & sharing this with our wider community
- Learning about caring for Country- respecting and looking after our learning resources, each other, the wildlife and plants and water.
- Using resources that celebrate traditional and contemporary Indigenous perspectives- artwork, dramatic play foods, clothing and tools, music and story books.
- Exploring native plants and bush foods- especially Bunya nuts (at our Welcome gathering) and more recently our flowering Lilly Pilly

No matter where we come from in the world, this place at Preschool was originally Wangal Land. We recognise this, respect this and begin to connect with it and care for it-we call this Connecting to Place. Over time, children will begin to notice changes and sync in with the rhythms of Wangal land and both its built and natural environments. This will be a foundational practice as we venture beyond the preschool gates in term 2 and begin to explore our community spaces.





Quality Improvement

We are currently assessing our 7 Quality Areas (QA) and using feedback from 2025 families, children and staff to identify our strengths and areas of focus for 2026. We welcome your ideas and feedback in any of the following areas:

- QA1. Educational program and practice**
- QA 2. Children's health and safety**
- QA 3. Physical environment**
- QA 4. Staffing Arrangements**
- QA5. Relationships with children**
- QA 6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities**
- QA 7. Governance and Leadership**

You can let us know via a conversation, email or WhatsApp group.

There has been a long term focus on upgrade and refurbishment, with our latest improvement being the replacement of old tables, chairs and cupboards for the learning spaces. These are a great improvement both in functionality and aesthetics.

Additional outdoor sunshades were purchased to ensure safety for all and continuation of our concurrent indoor outdoor program in the hotter months. Some outdoor cushions too, to provide comfort and opportunities for quiet, restful spaces.



Health, Safety & Wellbeing

We continue to prioritise children's safety through:

- **Emergency drills and safety practices-** each group having taken part in an emergency evacuation and lockdown drill. Their ideas and opinions strong in the routine identifying what the dangers could be, who to seek help from and how to be safe.
- **Above ratio staffing, active supervision and frequent head counts.**
- **Clean and well-maintained environments-** our centre gets professionally cleaned each evening, learning spaces are 'safety' audited daily & set up with dynamic and diverse experiences, both teacher and child created.
- **Developmental risk taking and supporting their agency and autonomy in risk management, using a problem solving/ solutions based approach.** Equipment and resources are age appropriate, open ended and plentiful. This allows for choices and inclusive access- being able to do it the way you can do it, at your own level and skill. Children are encouraged to do it themselves, rather than adults doing it for them- so they can risk manage, have a sense of what is needed in their own body and build their own capacity and mastery. Children are encouraged to give things a go. To try. To fail. To Try again. To do things over and revisit. In this process, they are learning strong foundations.
- **Supporting them to express their emotions and when in doing this, to do so in a safe and connected way.** They are learning to put labels to a wide range of emotions, not just happy, sad and angry. They are learning to feel where that emotion is expressed in their body and ways that they can keep their body calm and connected.
- **Learning to think about what caused the feeling/ emotion and resulting behaviours? What could be done differently? To have ideas!** And then to test out their ideas and theories!
- **Having calm, consistent, knowledgeable** (our practice is informed by research, theory, years of early childhood experience and lots of collaborative critical reflection and networking support), **ethical and safe educators and teachers.**

We also kindly remind families to:

- * Keep children home if unwell as this helps to minimise the spread of illness to both children and staff.
- * Check communications sent regarding illnesses (e.g. head lice, impetigo) and follow the recommendations.
- * Ensure their child washes their hands with soap upon arriving and leaving the preschool



Communication & Reminders

- Please complete your **“All About Me”** forms if you haven’t already- this really does help us form a strong image of your child and your families focus & goals.
- **Term 2 fee invoices** will be sent during the school holidays with payment due **week 3** term 2. This notice will come **via email**, do not pay any attention to the Xplor App- its not correct!
- **2026 enrolment offers will be requested** soon. Now is the time to think about enrolling for primary school for 2027 or keeping an enrolment at preschool with your choice of 2 day or 3 day group. Once we have completed these in-house offers, we will then seek enrolments from the waitlist and wider community.
- **Term 2, Educator Jo will be taking long service leave** from the 2 day group. Unfortunately she has received a not so good medical diagnosis and will be undergoing treatment during this time. We wish her well in her recovery. Children will be informed this next week, sharing that she’s just having a bit of a holiday and will pop in and say hi occasionally to keep connected.
- **Term 2 Agenda** is currently being updated and will be sent in the term break.

Thank You

We would like to sincerely thank our families for your ongoing support, communication and involvement. Your partnership helps us create a nurturing and engaging environment for every child.

We are incredibly proud of our preschoolers and the way they are growing in confidence, friendships and independence. While we still have a way to go, term 2 is packed with more fun, visitors, social and fundraising events.

Our Beyond the gate program too will get underway, where each class will venture out to the 5 Senses garden and local neighbourhood walkways.

If you have any questions or would like to share anything with us, please feel free to speak with our team anytime.

Kind regards,

Marnie and the Preschool Team 