

DIRECTOR NEWS

CHILDREN | FAMILIES | EDUCATORS

Policies & Communication*

Policies currently being reviewed include:

- * Confidentiality of Records
- * Participation of volunteers and Students
- * Medical Conditions
- * Incident, Injury, Trauma & illness
- * Determining the Responsible Person
- * Privacy Collection Statement.

Policies currently out for review include:

- * Interactions with children
- * Enrolment and Orientation
- * Child safe environment
- * Child Safe Recruitment and Ongoing Employment Practices (NSW)

We value your input and encourage you to be involved in these important updates.



JUNE

A Wonderful Month of Learning, Connection and Community

As we come to the end of another exciting month, and term, we would like to thank all of our families for your continued support and involvement in our preschool community. June has been filled with rich learning experiences, meaningful community partnerships and opportunities for children to develop confidence, curiosity and a strong sense of belonging.



National Simultaneous Story time

Children across all groups came together to participate in **National Simultaneous Story time**, reading *Luna Roo: The Kangaroo Baller*. Through this wonderful story we explored important themes including:

- Teamwork
- Resilience
- Managing big feelings
- Believing in ourselves

Many children enjoyed sharing that their siblings and friends at school and daycare were reading the same story, helping them feel connected to a nationwide literacy event.



National Reconciliation Week

Throughout Reconciliation Week, children participated in a variety of meaningful experiences that celebrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories.

👴👵 Intergenerational Connections

Our visits with the Seniors from Inner West Neighbourhood Aid continue to be a highlight.

Together the children and seniors:

- Shared a Winter Wonderland Tea Party
- Sang songs and danced together
- Created beautiful recycled artworks
- Prepared artwork for the **Shining the Light Exhibition**

These experiences nurture empathy, communication skills and meaningful relationships across generations.

Artworks created were on display at the Shining The Light Exhibition

Australian Catholic College Strathfield



Concord West Rhodes Preschool

Children enjoyed:

- Reading *Somebody's Land* by Adam Goodes and *Say Yes* by Jennifer Castles
- Learning about truth-telling and First Nations perspectives- fairness & inclusion
- Participating in Yarn Time
- Exploring the Torres Strait Islander flag
- Learning the traditional song **Taba Naba**
- Celebrating **Floral Friday**, recognising a Torres Strait Islander tradition of family and community connection.

Thank you to everyone who supported our **Book Swap**. Together we raised funds for the **Indigenous Literacy Foundation**, \$55, helping provide books to children in remote communities

💚💛❤️ Care for Country & Beyond the gate

Our Walks Beyond the Gate program continues to provide wonderful opportunities for children to connect with nature and our local community.

Children have been:

- Observing seasonal changes
- Watching the Brush Turkeys build their nests
- Visiting the Five Senses Garden
- Discovering Tawny Frogmouths and local birdlife
- Learning about the Wattle flowering season and its connection to the echidna.



•Aunty B joined the Intergenerational Connections Monday 28th June and shared a weaving activity and taught the Wangle greeting, WARAMI- hello, where are you from?

These experiences continue to inspire curiosity, respect for Country and environmental responsibility.

What We've Been Learning

This month children have shown wonderful interest in:

- Dinosaurs
- Birds and wildlife
- Loose parts construction
- Drawing
- Block building
- Fine motor activities
- Board games
- Nature exploration

Our educators have intentionally extended these interests through play-based investigations and conversations.

Supporting Children's Wellbeing

Our learning continues to focus on developing children's confidence and emotional wellbeing through:

- Building friendships
- Using kind words
- Learning about body safety
- Identifying safe adults
- Relaxation activities
- Yoga
- Dance and movement

These experiences help children develop resilience, confidence and respectful relationships.

Dinosaur Adventure!

Children were thrilled when Just Dream Productions visited preschool with their dinosaur experience. Children enjoyed:

- Learning fascinating dinosaur facts
- Exploring fossils
- Completing a fossil dig
- Painting wooden dinosaurs
- Meeting life-like animatronic dinosaurs!

Hands-on learning like this encourages curiosity, investigation and scientific thinking through play.



Brush Turkey Visitor

We welcomed scientist and author **Dr Ann Goth**, who shared her beautiful story about friendship and acceptance while teaching us all about Brush Turkeys.

Children have loved observing our own Brush Turkey building its nest beside the preschool and continue to visit it during outdoor play and community walks.



Bikeathon Success!

A huge thank you to all our families who supported our annual **Bikeathon**.

The event focused on:

- Road safety
- Helmet safety
- Safe riding habits
- Recognising road signs
- Pedestrian awareness

Children continue practising these important life skills during our Walks Beyond the Gate program.

Boundaries help us learn...

At our preschool, we believe children feel safest and learn best when caring adults provide clear, consistent, and respectful boundaries. Boundaries are not about controlling children—they are about helping them understand expectations, make positive choices, and develop the skills they need to become confident, capable and caring members of our community.

Throughout the day, educators support children by explaining the reasons behind expectations, offering choices where appropriate, encouraging problem-solving, and helping children recognise and manage their emotions. We work alongside children to develop self-regulation, empathy, resilience, and respect for themselves, others, and the environment.

By creating predictable routines and nurturing relationships, children develop a sense of security and belonging. They learn that while they have the freedom to explore, play, and make decisions, they also have a responsibility to care for others, respect shared spaces, and contribute positively to our learning community.

They also have the freedom to express their feelings while learning these skills. It's OK to be frustrated or disappointed. We can help them to learn safe ways to express this, learning resilience and flexible growth mind set.

This approach supports children's growing independence and confidence while helping them understand that boundaries are an important part of feeling safe, respected, and included. Through everyday interactions, children build lifelong social and emotional skills that prepare them for learning, relationships, and active participation in their community. We intentionally focus on this to support our preschoolers in the development of their citizenship.

Our Team is Always Learning

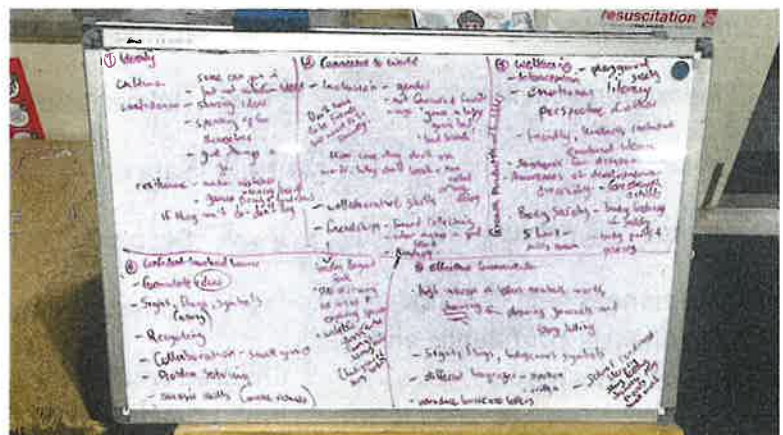
Providing high-quality education means our educators are continually learning too!

Throughout June, our team participated in a range of professional learning opportunities to strengthen our knowledge and support the wellbeing, safety and development of every child.

This month our professional development included:

- **Child Safety Training** – Educators and Committee members continue completing Gecko Child Safety training to strengthen our understanding of child-safe practices and our commitment to creating safe environments for children.
- **Body Safety and Protective Behaviours** – Trish (Teacher in 3 day group Red Room) attended professional learning focused on supporting children to understand body safety, protective behaviours and respectful relationships.
- **Supporting Big Behaviours** – Our team participated in neuroscience and trauma-informed professional development (Mind Bubbles), exploring practical strategies to support children's emotional regulation, wellbeing and positive relationships.
- **Continuous Reflection and Planning** – Educators have also been reflecting together on children's learning and development to plan our exciting new **Being and Becoming Curriculum** for Term 3, ensuring our program continues to respond to children's strengths, interests and emerging learning.

We are committed to continuous improvement and value professional learning as an important way to ensure we provide every child with safe, inclusive and engaging learning experiences.





Our Quality Improvement Journey

Our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) helps guide ways to make our preschool better! This ongoing work reflects our commitment to continually reviewing, reflecting and improving our practices. This month, our team has been focusing on:



Children's Learning

We have been reflecting on our curriculum and planning for an exciting new semester. Our educators have worked together to develop our new **Being and Becoming** learning focus, ensuring our program continues to build on children's interests, strengths and emerging skills.



Children's Safety and Wellbeing

Children's safety remains our highest priority. Following a review of our injury and incident records, we have introduced new strategies to support safe risk-taking during active outdoor play while continuing to encourage children to build confidence, resilience and physical skills.



Our Learning Environment

We continue to invest in our indoor and outdoor learning spaces by maintaining equipment and planning improvements to create engaging, safe and inviting environments that support children's play and exploration- an air-conditioning upgrade



Supporting Our Educators

Our team continues to participate in professional learning and mentoring opportunities strengthening knowledge in areas including child safety, behaviour support, wellbeing and inclusive practices.



Working Together with Families

Family partnerships remain an important part of our preschool community. We value the ideas, feedback and involvement of our families and continue to strengthen communication and opportunities to work together in supporting children's learning and wellbeing.

Continuous improvement is something we do every day. We are proud of the positive changes we continue to make and thank our families for partnering with us as we create the best possible preschool experience for every child.



Staff Updates

Our preschool team continues to work together to provide a high-quality learning environment for all children. Behind the scenes, we have been busy preparing for another exciting term while supporting one another and continuing to strengthen our practices.

Over the coming weeks, some educators and administration staff will be taking planned leave or personal leave. We have carefully organised staffing arrangements to ensure children continue to experience familiar faces, consistent routines and quality, safe and trusting learning experiences throughout this time.

- * Jo (2 day Red room) will continue with her medical leave during term 3. Current staff stay in place.
- * Cathy (3 day Blue room) will be taking her Long Service Leave during term 3. Teacher Michelle (2 day) will fill this role
- * Marnie (Director) will be taking 1 week Long Service 1st-7th September. Nok has been supporting Marnie on a Wednesday and will step into this role for the week.

We are also pleased to share that one of our Early Childhood Teachers, Michelle, will be stepping into a new Responsible Person role from Term 3. This is an exciting opportunity that supports leadership development within our team and helps build continuity across our service.

Our administration team, Office Guru Jenny, supported by Bookkeeper Amy, have also been preparing for term 3 by organising 2027 enrolments, fee increase information, upcoming compliance audit requirements and Early Childcare Census to ensure everything is ready for a smooth start to Term 3. Jenny too will be taking holiday leave for 9 weeks from week 5, so she is madly preparing all the things so we have everything at hand.

Congratulations to Jessie who is about to have her first year anniversary working as an educator at CWRPreschool July 21st! She is a valuable asset and much loved member of our preschool by children, families and her colleagues!

We remain committed to supporting our educators' wellbeing and professional growth. By investing in our team, we continue to provide children with a nurturing, consistent and engaging preschool experience.

Reminders

- **Term 3 Fee Invoices** (increase \$5 per day) will be emailed during the school holidays and will be due in **Week 3 of Term 3**.
- **Floral Friday** will continue to be celebrated on the last Tuesday and Friday of each month.
- Keep an eye out next term for information about our new **Being and Becoming Curriculum** and Group Learning Goals.
- With the cooler and wetter weather, **please ensure you provide appropriate clothing for your child and bring raincoats, umbrellas and gumboots when raining (when light rain, we take the opportunity to connect with the watery environment and puddles).** For a nature play preschool there is no bad weather, just bad clothing! Bunnings and K-Mart (and many online stores) often have waterproof coveralls for children. For those that like to play outside (nearly everyone) these are a great 3rd term preschool uniform! Come dressed in them!

Looking Ahead to Term 3

Our educators have been busy planning our exciting new **Being and Becoming Curriculum**.

Building on children's interests and strengths, Term 3 will continue to support children's growth across all areas of learning with a strong focus on:

- Curiosity and inquiry including skills development
- Independence, persistence & resilience
- Wellbeing- learning about interoception and where/how we feel our feelings
- Creativity and sharing IDEAS
- Relationships and how to be a safe friend
- Outdoor learning- how to be safe and build strong core muscles
- Community connections



Families will receive more information about our new Group Learning Goals at the beginning of next term.

Thank You

A BIG thank you to:

- All our Bikeathon volunteers- you were a great support!
- Families who donated to our fundraising efforts. Only half of our families have donated to the bikeathon. Please consider this if you haven't. We will tally received donations ready for term 3.
- Families who attended our community events
- Parents who continue to share such wonderful feedback about our preschool

Your support helps make our preschool such a warm, welcoming and inspiring place for children to learn and grow.

Thank you for another wonderful month. We wish all our families a safe school holiday break, hopefully with some family and friend connections and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term of learning together! Preschool returns Monday 20th July and Wednesday 22nd July

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Road Safety Starts With Us!

Continuing Our Bikeathon Learning...

Our recent **Bikeathon** was much more than a fun day riding bikes and scooters—it was an opportunity for children to develop important life skills that help keep them safe every day.

Through hands-on experiences, games and discussions, children explored how to be safe riders, careful pedestrians and thoughtful members of our community.

Learning About Road Signs

One of our favourite learning experiences was exploring the different **road signs, symbols and colours** that help keep everyone safe.

Children discovered that signs are a special type of communication. Even before they can read words, they can recognise symbols, shapes and colours to help them understand important messages.

Together we explored signs such as:

 **STOP** – Stop and look carefully before moving.

 **Children Crossing** – Slow down and watch for children.

 **Pedestrian Crossing** – Cross at the crossing and always hold an adult's hand.

 **No Bikes** – Some places are for walking only.

 **Bike Path** – A safe place for people riding bikes and scooters.

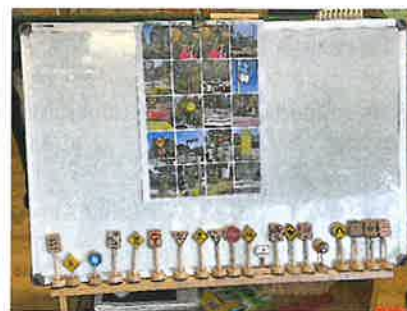
Traffic lights also became part of our learning:

 **Red** – Stop

 **Yellow** – Slow/Get ready stop

 **Green** – Go when it is safe.

Learning about signs helps children develop early literacy skills by understanding that symbols, pictures and colours all communicate meaning.



Safe Riding Habits

Children practised many important bike and scooter safety skills, including:

- Always wearing a properly fitted helmet.
- Wearing enclosed shoes while riding.
- Looking where they are going.
- Riding carefully around others.
- Slowing down near people.
- Parking bikes safely when finished.
- Riding in safe places with an adult nearby.

These experiences help children develop confidence while learning to make safe choices.

Pedestrian Safety

Our learning has continued beyond the Bikeathon through our **Walks Beyond the Gate** program.

Children have been practising how to:

- Hold an adult's hand near roads and car parks.
- Walk on the footpath away from the road.
- Stop, look, listen and think before crossing.
- Use pedestrian crossings whenever possible.
- Watch carefully for cars entering and leaving driveways.
- Follow traffic lights and crossing signals.
- Stay together with the group during community walks.

These everyday experiences help children become aware of their surroundings and build safe habits that will support them throughout life.

Learning Through Play

Road safety learning supports many areas of children's development, including:

- ✨ Early literacy by recognising signs, symbols and colours.
- ✨ Numeracy by noticing numbers on speed signs and counting crossings.
- ✨ Problem-solving by thinking about the safest choices.
- ✨ Confidence and independence when making safe decisions.
- ✨ Community awareness by learning how everyone works together to stay safe.

Road Safety at Home

Families can help reinforce these important messages by involving children in everyday conversations.

While out together you might ask:

- "Can you spot a STOP sign?"
- "What colour is the traffic light?"
- "Where is the safest place to cross?"
- "Why do we wear our helmet?"
- "What do you notice about this road sign?"

Talking about road safety during walks, bike rides or car trips helps children apply what they have learnt at preschool to real-life situations.

Working Together

Developing safe road habits takes practice, consistency and teamwork between preschool and home. By sharing the same messages, we help children build the confidence and knowledge they need to become safe pedestrians and riders both now and into the future.

Learning to follow rules that keep ourselves and our community members safe is part of growing our 'citizenship' skills

Thank you for supporting your child's learning and helping keep our community safe!



Kids and Traffic Key Road Safety Messages for adults to share with young children

These Kids and Traffic Key Road Safety Messages are designed for adults to use with young children as they travel together as passengers and pedestrians and at play.

Early childhood educators are ideally placed to share these messages with children during everyday experiences - dramatic play, music and stories, arrivals and departures, transition times and discussions. They are also ideally placed to share these messages with families for them to use when out and about with their children.

Adults are responsible for the safety of the young children in their lives but by using these Kids and Traffic Key Road Safety Messages, they can engage children in learning about how to be safe in and around vehicles without making them responsible for their own safety.

Pedestrian messages

- Always hold a grown-up's hand.
- When a grown-up's hand is not available, hold a pram, bag or clothes.
- Always cross the road with a grown-up.



Passenger messages

- Always buckle up safely.
- Always stay buckled up - awake or asleep.
- Always get in and out of the 'Safety Door'.



Safe play messages

- Always ask a grown-up where it is safe for you to play.
- Always wear your helmet when riding your bike or wheeled toy.



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Kids and Traffic Key Road Safety Messages for all the adults in a child's life

When children are walking near roads, footpaths, driveways and car parks,

- hold their hands until they are at least 8 years old
- ensure they hold onto a pram, stroller, bag, trolley or your clothing if you cannot hold their hand
- closely supervise them up to at least the age of 10 years.



BEFORE driving with children

Visit an authorised restraint fitter to make sure each child's restraint is

- certified to meet the Australian/New Zealand Standard
- correctly installed and checked
- correct for the child's age and size according to the law.

For children –

Younger than 6 months –
rearward facing child restraints

Between 6 months and 4 years –
either rear or forward facing child restraints

Between 4 and 7 years –
either forward facing child restraints or booster seats.

From 7 years –
Forward facing child restraints or booster seats (fastened with a lap/sash seatbelt) or, if they no longer physically fit in a child restraint or booster, adult seatbelts.

For more details visit [Child Car Seats](#)



To be optimally protected in the event of a crash, children should stay in the specified restraint type for as long as physically possible.

WHILE driving with children

- always buckle them up in their child restraint or booster seat and make sure they stay buckled up, awake or asleep, no matter how short the journey
- enter and exit the car through the 'Safety Door' – usually the left-hand rear kerbside door
- ensure more mobile children **enter first** and **exit last** to help keep them safe
- ensure they sit in the back seat. In a vehicle with two or more rows of seats, children under 4 years must not sit in the front seat. Children between 4 and 7 years can only sit in the front seat in a booster seat if all the back seats are taken up by children under 7 years of age.
- never leave them unattended in a parked vehicle - it is dangerous and illegal.

When children are playing or cycling

- make sure the area is safe and away from vehicles and water
- actively supervise them while they are playing
- check they are wearing a correctly fitted helmet, suitable clothing and enclosed shoes when riding wheeled toys and bikes.



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