

From the DIRECTOR

Wow what a busy month we have had visiting the Botanical Gardens, picnics in the local parks, exploring the exercise equipment, now the children really enjoyed the climbing there.

We learnt how to make paint using local material and how to grind the dirt and rocks to change the colors. The children have done an amazing job at keeping their toys at home or leaving them in the office to collect at the end of the day.

Can we please ask to ensure all clothes are marked with names and that you check the lost and found at the front door for missing items.

Birthday Cakes, due to allergies and intolerances in the centre we ask that you not bring a cake to share, at the end of the month Miss Kaye our chef will bake a cake for us all to share and celebrate our birthdays.

This month we say good bye to Tahlia and Katina as they move interstate and we welcome Nashani and Fleur.

With us spending more time outside with the beautiful weather we ask that you encourage your child to put their hat on as soon as you arrive.

Till next month.

Tanya

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PLANNED FEE CHANGES

From the 6th July 2025 our fees will be as follows:

Under 3's

\$667.50 per week (full time)

\$141.50 per day (part time)

Over 3's

\$652.50 per week (full time)

\$138.50 per day (part time)

Casual Bookings (any bookings made on top of your regular bookings) \$145.50 per day



STAFFING UPDATES



We have sadly had to say goodbye to two of our valuable team members this month.

Tahlia and Katina are both relocating interstate to take on new adventures. We will miss them both and wish them all the best with everything they do



Julia's hours have been reduced to working Tuesday and Thursday, she remains with the service as the Business Manager but is also taking on new challenges as a Trainer and Assessor – teaching Early Childhood Education in both Certificate III and Diploma.

New team members:



Nushani

We have 2 new educators starting with our team – Nushani and Fleur.

Nushani has recently completed her Diploma in Early Childhood Education and will be a Lead Educator in the Kindy Room

Fleur has a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education, and will be an assistant in the Babies Room,

Welcome to the team ladies!



Room Changes:

With the changes in staffing – with educators leaving and new educators joining our team, the room configurations will be:

Room	Staffing	Room	Staffing
Babies	Senior Lead: Lina Assistants: Jo Zara Fleur	Toddlers	Senior Lead: Danu Lead Educator: Mel Assistant: Delane
Kindy	ECT: Jenn Lead Educator: Nushani Assistants: Tawhida Katie	Preschool	Senior Lead: Milena ECT: Kate
Support staff	Sylvia, Susan, Krim, Maddy, Monica, Neha, Giota, Sammy and Hezl		

FROM OUR KITCEHN TO YOURS

Lamb Casserole

(quantities in this recipe are suitable to 68 children, please adjust accordingly to your own household)

- 4kg lamb stir fry meat,
- 3kg potatoes
- 3 stalks celery
- 2 onions
- 3 carrots
- 1 each of swede, turnup, parsnip.
- Teaspoon of pepper ½ cup vegetable oil



Method:

- Stir fry lamb with vegetable oil and rosemary, pepper, when brown, add 1 kettle of boiling water, place lid on the pot and turn to 5.
- Cut up the root vegetables, celery and onions into chunks, add to cooked meat, stir add water to just cover. When vegetables are cooked turn hotplate down to 2.
- Thicken with a little cornflour and water if necessary. Stir till thick.

EDUCATIONAL LEADER NEWS

As part of our ongoing commitment to embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into our curriculum, the first week of June we continued exploring the story of the Rainbow Serpent through a beautiful extension led by Dale from Dingo Cockatoo Aboriginal Culture. This experience took place during Reconciliation Week, a meaningful time that invites us to reflect on our shared history and strengthen relationships through respect and understanding.



Building on the children's interest from previous experience, Dale revisited the Dreamtime story of the Rainbow Serpent and the children learned how to create natural paint using crushed rocks and charcoal. Using these handmade paints, the children created hand stencils and, with curiosity and care, scratched the rocks onto ceramic surfaces to uncover the colours hidden within.



During this time, we have also been working on the children's summative assessments and supporting educators through reflective conversations, ensuring each child's learning journey is meaningfully documented.

We are also continuing to support and encourage rich, real-world learning through our excursions. Recently, our Preschool children visited the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens and Malak Oval. These experiences offer valuable opportunities for children to connect with their community, explore natural environments, and extend on their learning and interests beyond the centre gates.



Excursions like this help build a sense of belonging, foster curiosity, and strengthen children's understanding of the world around them.

We are proud of the thoughtful way our educators support children to engage in meaningful cultural learning, and we look forward to continuing these important conversations and community connections throughout the year.

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Milena and Lina
Educational Leaders

XPLOR HOME - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Accessing your financial information through the xplor home app.

Please note: Only primary carers will be able to see financial information through their Home App.

Features of the app:

1. Toggling between Centres

If you have more than one Centre linked to your account

2. Account balance

This section shows your amount due.

3. Pay now option

This gives you the option to make manual payments anytime

4. Account summary

This is a "live statement" of your account's transactions with respect to the current billing period.

5. Setup Direct Debit/Change Direct Debit

To set up or edit your banking details

6. Show Statement

This shows the current week, with the date range being able to be changed.

7. Child Care Subsidy

Click on **"View CWA Agreement"**. Once opened the Primary Carer can carefully review then click "I Agree" once confirming the information is correct. If any information here is incorrect, please let us know so that we can update it.

8. Call Tropics Early Learning

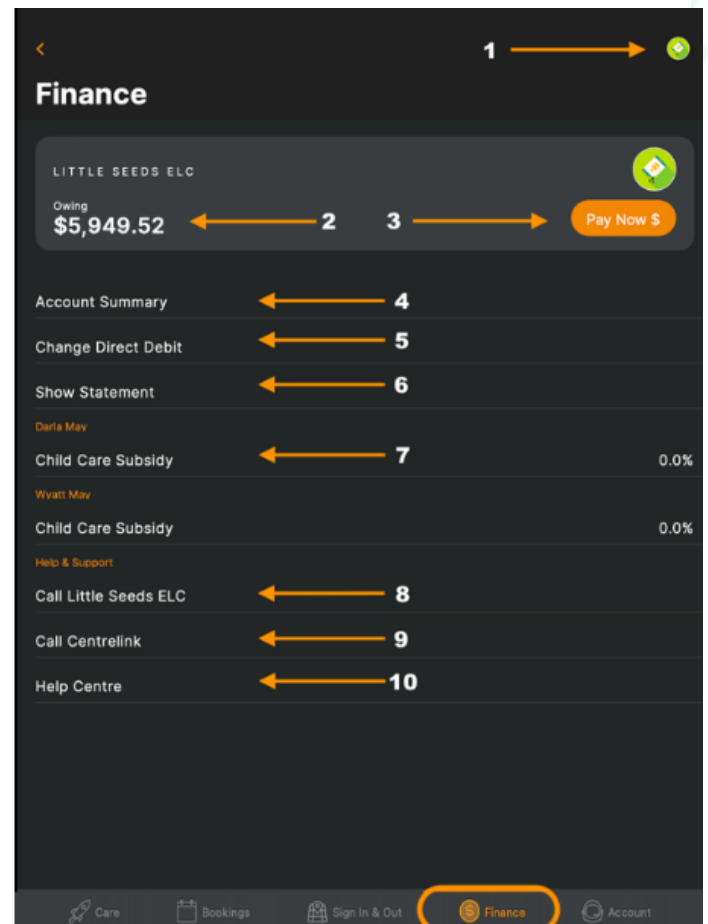
This will link you to the centre where they can email or call the centre

9. Call Centrelink

This will link you to Centrelink where you can troubleshoot any queries you might have

10. Help Centre

This will link the family to the Xplor Support page where they can view articles, videos or chat with the support team.



POLICY REVIEW

Thank you to those families who have read and provided feedback on the policies we are reviewing.

The following policies have now been approved:

- Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisation
- Administration of Medication
- Child Protection
- Clothing and Comfort
- Code of Professional Conduct

We are now reviewing the following policies (attached), which have been circulated:

- Dangerous Products
- Delivery and Collection of Children
- Diversity and Equity

Please provide any feedback you may have by the 4th of July.



FAMILY ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENT OF FEES

- On Tuesday each week all families will receive a statement. This statement is sent via email, through the xplor platform. I urge families to check their junk folders regularly, as the statements are often sent there – the email address they are sent from is no-reply@myxplor.com.
- Statements are projected 2 weeks in advance, based on the current information provided by Centrelink about your CCS entitlements.
- Fees are debited on Fridays, please check your statements, or your xplor app, to ensure you have the funds available to cover the amount owing.
- It is your responsibility to ensure that the funds are available in your nominated bank account, otherwise a dishonour fee is payable to Debit Success.
- You are able to make extra payments using the “Pay Now” option on the Myxplor app.

Overdue Fees

In the event an account is not in credit (other than by prior arrangement) the following process will be implemented:

- A \$20 late payment fee will be charged each week that fees are not paid.
- Families will be notified that payment is required within one week to bring the account up to date (two weeks in advance).
- If payment is not made within the seven-day period, the child’s enrolment will be suspended for 14 days, pending payment being made.
- Failure to make payment throughout the suspension period will result in the child’s enrolment being cancelled
- Children will not be re-enrolled if the account is not paid up to date.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, a suitable payment plan may be arranged



SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Tips to save electricity at home:

- Use a full dishwasher and washing machine
- Steam or blanch your vegetables
- Reuse glasses and mugs
- Use fewer pots, pans and utensils
- Turn off lights and fans when not using them
- Turn your computer off if you're not using it for more than an hour
- Use solar energy



How to save water at home

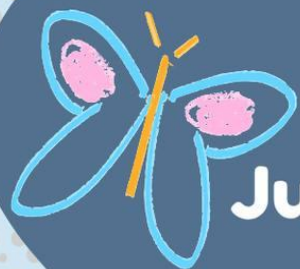
The average household uses about 280,000 litres of water per year and simple changes could save buckets!

- Use half flush. You can choose half flush and save around 4 buckets per person per day
- Do a full load. Wait until you have a full load of washing and dishes and look for a water efficient washing machine when purchasing your next machine.
- Cut your time in the shower and get installed a water efficient showerhead and you could save around 8 buckets per person per day
- Use a bucket when washing your car
- Use a timer on the sprinkler
- Consider getting a rain water tank
- Repair any leaks or drips
- Water the roots and not the leaves and use mulch to reduce evaporation



SOME FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- You are required to sign your child in and out of the service everyday – this is a legal requirement under the Family Assistance Law.
- Ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled.
- Please encourage your child to leave any personal toys at home, we have plenty of resources here for them to play with. Unfortunately, it takes our educators away from caring for the children when they are looking for children's personal belongings.
- Please let us know if somebody else will be collecting your child and ensure that they are on the Authorised Nominee list. If we don't know them, they are required to provide photo ID.
- If your child receives their immunisations, please provide us with a copy of their updated record.



Darrandirra
Child & Family
Centre

June/July School Holidays – Week 2

Monday 30th June

City of Darwin – Fun Bus 9:30 –
11:30 am

Tuesday 1st July

Movie and Craft, 10 – 12:30pm
(Lunch – Chicken, Chips & Fruit
Movie – Ferdinand)



Wednesday 2nd July

All of Us, Art, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Painting & Lunch (Chicken Curry)

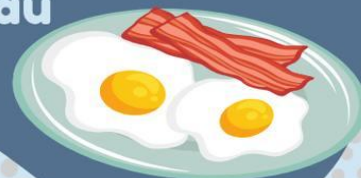
Thursday 3rd July

Breakfast and Play 9:30 – 11:30 am
(Bacon & Eggs)

Please RSVP attendance via phone 08 8947 4007 or
email darrandirra@caaps.org.au



NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT



EXCLUSION OF SICK CHILDREN

Please remember that your child's health is your responsibility. Your child **MUST** be kept away from the service if they display any signs of:



- Fever
- Persistent cough
- Eye/body discharge (e.g. sore, boils, conjunctivitis)
- Distress in feeling unwell, unusually upset or fatigued
- Vomiting/diarrhoea (child must be excluded for at least 24 hours after last motion)

Any signs/symptoms of the diseases/conditions noted in the NHMRC Recommended Exclusion periods – 2024 (see below)

If children are displaying any of the symptoms above we will contact a parent/guardian or authorised nominee to collect the child from the service asap. This procedure is designed to protect all children, educators, families, and other visitors to the service.

Some common infectious diseases include:

Fever (Temp higher than 38°C): Exclude until the temperature remains normal, unless the fever has a known non-infectious cause. If the child wakes in the morning with a fever, they should stay home until their temperature remains normal.

Conjunctivitis: Exclude until discharge from the eyes has stopped, unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis

Diarrhoea: Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours

Fungal infections of the skin or nails (e.g. ringworm, tinea): Exclude until the day after starting appropriate antifungal treatment

Hand, foot and mouth disease: Exclude until all blisters have dried

Head lice (pediculosis): Not excluded if effective treatment begins before the next day at the education and care service. The child does not need to be sent home immediately if head lice are detected

Impetigo: Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has started. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing

Influenza and influenza-like illnesses: Exclude until person is well

Rotavirus infection: Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours

Varicella (chickenpox): Exclude until all blisters have dried—this is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in non-immunised children, and less in immunised children

COVID-19: Exclude them if they have severe symptoms, several respiratory symptoms at the same time, or they have developed new symptoms while at the service.

ALLOWABLE ABSENCES



Australian Government
Services Australia

The Australian government allocates 42 allowable absences per child, each financial year these include the days the child is absent from the service when they are booked in (including public holidays).

When the 42 days allowable absences have been used, Child Care Subsidy will not be paid for future absences for the remainder of the financial year, unless it is an 'additional absence'.

Additional Absences:

These are days that a child is absent for specified reasons, and can only be claimed when the initial 42 absence days have been used. Supporting documentation must be provided for additional absences to be claimed. Specified reasons are:

- illness (with a medical certificate), or another absence due to sickness of the child, a carer, carer's partner or sibling, supported by medical certificates,
- temporary closure of a school or pupil-free days,
- up to 28 days following a period of local emergency where the service is closed or the child is unable to travel to the service due to the emergency,
- shared care arrangements due to a court order, parenting plan or parenting order, where a copy has been provided to the approved child care service,
- the child is not immunised, the absence occurs during immunisation grace period and a medical practitioner certifies exposure to the infectious disease would pose a health risk to the child

For more information on Allowable Absences, please visit the Services Australia website:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy/how-manage-your-payment/if-your-child-absent-from-child-care>



PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled, we have up to 70 children in attendance at the Centre on any one day, if your child's belongings are not labelled, they may be misplaced.

We also ask that you encourage your child to leave any personal toys at home, we have plenty of resources here for them to play with.

Our educators are employed to care for and educate your children, which they do an amazing job with – we would rather they focus on this than look for lost items.



NEWS FROM THE ROOMS

Babies

What a wonderful month we've had in the baby room this May! The children have been engaged in a variety of activities that have encouraged exploration, creativity, sensory play, and connection with nature. We started the month with a week full of outdoor and creative experiences. Highlights from the month included an art gallery for National Recognition week, sandpit adventures, sensory play, and a special Mother's Day celebration.



Throughout week 1 and 2, we focused on fine motor skills and sensory exploration with natural materials, including scooping leaves, creating leaf collages, playing with sensory bottles, and dancing with scarves brought lots of smiles and learning opportunities. The children painted with natural materials and went on little nature walks to observe the world around them.

We also had a beautiful Mother's Day Celebration, where the children made special crafts to show their love and appreciation. Thank you to all the families who were able to join us and make the morning extra meaningful.



During the third and fourth week, it was filled with cultural experiences as we introduced Aboriginal music, dot painting, and boomerang art. We also enjoyed water and messy play, toy rescue, and musical exploration. This month, we were delighted to welcome three new friends to our room: Lani, Lucas, Levi, and Audrey!. The children

have warmly embraced their new peers, and we're excited to see their friendships grow.





Thank you all for your continued support and for being such an important part of our baby room community. We look forward to more exciting and meaningful experiences in the coming month



The Babies' Team

Lina, Jenn, Katina and Joanna

Toddlers

Hello to all of our wonderful families!

It has been another busy and exciting month in the toddler room! We were delighted to welcome some new friends into our group, while also farewelling a few of our older children as they transitioned to new rooms. Transitions are always a time of growth and change, and we're thrilled to begin building secure and trusting relationships with our newest toddlers.

With the arrival of the dry season, we've been enjoying the beautiful weather—cooler mornings have allowed us to spend more time outdoors, exploring our yard and making the most of the fresh air. Indoors, we made some changes to the room setup to create a new and engaging environment. These adjustments, along with the introduction of new resources, helped keep the children interested and excited to explore.



While sensory and messy play are always favourites, we noticed a growing interest this month in stories, songs, and group mat time. We gently introduced a more structured routine to support this shift, while still remaining responsive to each child's interests. This balance has helped us create a calm and engaging

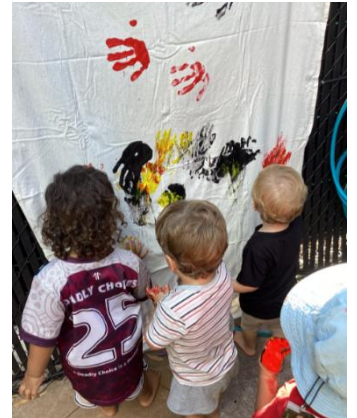


environment where children can thrive without becoming overstimulated or bored.



We also celebrated Mother's Day this month with a range of thoughtful and creative activities. The children enjoyed participating in special craft projects to make meaningful gifts for their mums. We hosted a lovely morning tea where families were invited to join us in the room, share some delicious treats, and spend quality time playing and connecting with their children. It was a heartwarming and joy-filled occasion, and the children truly embraced the experience. Moments like these help strengthen our sense of community and provide the children with valuable opportunities to share their learning environment with their loved ones.

To finish off the month, we acknowledged and participated in Reconciliation Week. This was a meaningful opportunity to begin teaching the children about diversity, inclusion, and the importance of respecting different cultures. Throughout the week, we engaged in a variety of craft and art activities inspired by Aboriginal culture, using traditional colours and symbols. We introduced songs and began incorporating a 'Welcome to Country' during our mat time, helping the children understand and appreciate the land we gather on.



We explored Australian animals and the unique sounds they make, sparking curiosity and connection. We also extended our learning into the outdoor environment by encouraging respect for nature and caring for the world around us.

As a special highlight during Reconciliation Week, we welcomed some very exciting visitors for a yarning circle. Dale joined us to share stories and knowledge, including the story of the Rainbow Serpent, and brought along some fascinating animals for the children to see. The children were thrilled to have the opportunity to touch and hold the animals, making this a memorable and meaningful experience that deepened their connection to culture and the natural world.

Mel, Tahlia, Delane and Neha.



Kindy

Dear Families,

What a magical and meaningful month of May it has been in the Kindy Room! Our little ones have been immersed in creativity, culture, and connection — all while having heaps of fun!

Painting & Creative Expression



This month, our Kindy artists explored the beauty of colour mixing and artistic expression through painting on porcelain, salt painting, spray painting, and even leaf painting for our Art Gallery! Ella shared, “My mum loves purple daisies! I mixed purple and yellow... now it’s brown!” while Matilda beamed with joy, saying, “I like blue paint like Elsa!” The children also enjoyed creating vibrant dot paintings, rainbow canvases, and beautiful Mother’s Day cards that truly came from the heart.

Sweet Surprises for Mother’s Day



To celebrate Mother’s Day, the children took part in a joyful cookie decorating activity filled with laughter, love, and creativity. Each child decorated their own special cookie to give to their mummy (or daddy!). Kayleigh said proudly, “I am painting for mummy,” while Hailey exclaimed, “For my mummy, all done!”

Handmade Love & Treats

The children also made pink icy poles and pasta bracelets as sweet treats and keepsakes for their families. Their excitement was contagious as they carefully threaded each bead and poured the icy pole mix into colourful moulds.



Reconciliation Week & Gardening Adventures



As part of Reconciliation Week, we celebrated our connection to Country by planting native Australian plants in our garden — getting our hands dirty in the best way possible! Zara helped lead the way as we nurtured new life in our outdoor space. We also composted and gardened throughout the month, learning how to care for the Earth together.





Exploring Aboriginal Culture

We spent time in our Yarning Circle learning about Dreamtime stories and the importance of respect, community, and caring for Country. The children were captivated by tales of snakes and stars, showing great curiosity and engagement.

Golden Rules & Social Learning

We focused on intentional teaching around our golden rules — including good listening, walking feet indoors, soft hands, and sharing. Through games, stories, and group discussions, the children are growing in confidence and understanding of positive behaviors.

Creative Play & Hands-On Fun

From playdough making with shape cutters to collage-making using natural materials, the children explored textures, shapes, and storytelling through open-ended play. Their imaginations blossomed as they built, squished, and created with joy.



A Heartfelt Thank You

Thank you to our wonderful educators and families for continuing to support our learning journey. Your encouragement and involvement make our Kindy room such a warm and inspiring place.

As we move into June, we're excited to explore themes like dinosaurs, recycling, weather, and more cultural art experiences. There's always something new to discover, create, and learn together!

Warm regards,

The Kindy Team

Preschool

This month has been filled with exciting and engaging activities for our preschool children. With the beautiful weather on our side, the children-initiated discussions about camping, which led to a wonderful transformation in our room. Educators Milena and Sylvia supported the children's interests by rearranging the learning space—



replacing the kitchen area with a camping setup. The children have absolutely loved exploring this new area through imaginative play.



Another highlight was our sensory shaving cream activity, which quickly became a favourite. The children enjoyed exploring textures and spent extended periods fully engaged in this calming and stimulating sensory experience.



In celebration of Reconciliation Week, the children participated in a range of meaningful activities. They created symbolic bridges to represent connection between past and future generations and learned about Aboriginal culture through storytelling and art. We were honoured to host a special incursion by an Indigenous representative who shared stories, including the Rainbow Serpent. The children expressed their learning by creating hand stencils using colour sprays and explored traditional Indigenous painting techniques and colours.



Our focus on cognitive development continued through fun and educational experiences. The children experimented with colour mixing by blowing bubbles, explored shapes using recycled materials, and practiced letter recognition through alphabet bingo.



Water play remained a favourite activity, encouraging gross motor development and teamwork as the children splashed, poured, and laughed alongside their peers.

We also ventured beyond the classroom for our year-round local excursions, visiting places like Malak Oval, the local shops, and Greenbelt Ninja Park. As part of our Reconciliation Week celebration, we visited Skaliwagz and the Botanical Gardens, where the children had opportunities to explore nature and connect with their community.



To extend our learning environment, we transformed our animal area into an insect exploration zone, encouraging curiosity about insects and discussions on how to care for living creatures and the environment around us.

June has been a wonderful month of creativity, culture, exploration, and fun!



Warm regards,
Kate, Milena and Sylvia