

May 2024

From the Director

Hello families,

Welcome to our May Newsletter.

Our Centre recently participated in the Assessment and Rating process, where 2 assessors from Quality Education and Care NT attended the service and assessed our performance against the quality areas in the National Quality Standard.

This was a partial assessment, as they were looking at the areas that the Centre was rated as “Working towards” in the previous Assessment:

QA 1: Educational Program and Practice

QA 2: Children’s Health and Safety

QA 4: Staffing Arrangements

QA 5: Relationships with Children

QA 7: Governance and Leadership

This was a very positive experience for us, and the results have reflected the hard work that all of our educators and Management Team have put into the Centre, with the draft report reflecting that we are now meeting the National Quality Standard in all areas.

I would like to make special mention to the huge effort that our Educational Leaders have put in to guide and mentor the educator in the implementation of the Educational Program, Milena and Lina have done an amazing job, we are very lucky to have them 😊

Please enjoy our latest Newsletter,

Happy reading

Julia

Inside this issue:

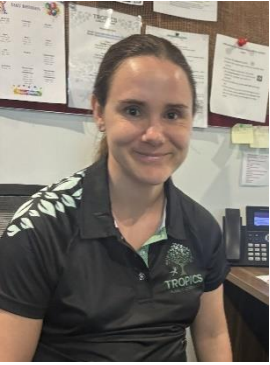
2. Our team – Staffing updates; Centre photos; Fee changes
3. Nothing in my bag today; May birthdays
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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Our task is to
HELP children
communicate
with the **WORLD**
using all their
potential, **STRENGTHS**
and *languages,*
and to overcome
any **OBSTACLE**
presented
by our *culture*”

Teris Malaguzzi

OUR TEAM – STAFFING UPDATES



We are excited to welcome Margie to our team. Margie joins us as our new admin assistant, she has several years' experience in administration roles, and we are very grateful to have her on our team.

Please stop in and say Hi 😊



CENTRE PHOTOS



Nakita attended the Centre on the 13th, 14th and 15th May, to take photos of all children in attendance. She did an amazing job, the photos are fantastic.

If you would like to view, and order your children photos, you can access them via the following link, or scan the QR code:

<https://nakitapollockphotography25.pixieset.com/guestlogin/tropicsearlylearningcentre/?return=%2Ftropicsearlylearningcentre%2F>



When you open the link, use your email, and the password:
Gallery Password: Tropics!24.

Instructions on how to order the photos you would like can be found in the portal once you have logged in.

Please contact Nakita via email if you have any questions:

nakita@nakitapollockphotography.com.au

FEE CHANGES

From the 1st July 2024 the will be a fee rise implemented and our fees will be:

Under 3's

- \$640 per week (full time)
- \$136 per day (part time)

Over 3's

- \$625 per week (full time)
- \$133 per day (part time)

Casual Bookings (any bookings made on top of your regular bookings)

- \$140 per day

To check how these changes will affect you, you can use the government's CCS calculator, using your estimated income, and CCS sessions of 10 hours per day, this calculator will give you an estimate of your out-of-pocket expenses once CCS is applied.

<https://www.startingblocks.gov.au/child-care-subsidy-calculator>

NOTHING IN MY BAG TODAY

Today I did math and science and I toasted bread, I counted, measured and I used my eyes, ears and my head. I added and subtracted and used magnets and blocks on the way I learned about a rainbow and I learned how to weigh. So please don't ask me, "Is there anything in your bag today?"

For you see, I'm learning all about sharing as I play. I learned to listen and speak clearly when I talk, To wait my turn, and when inside, I learned I have to walk. To put my thoughts into a phrase, To guide a crayon through a maze. To find my name and write it down, To do it with a smile and not a frown. To put my painting brush away. So please don't say, "Nothing in your bag today?"

I've learned about a snail and a worm. Remembering how to take my turn. I helped a friend when he was stuck, learned that water runs off a duck. I looked at words from left to right, Agreed to differ, not to fight. So please don't say, "Did you only play?"

-Author Unknown-



MAY BIRTHDAYS



We would like to say a very Happy Birthday to:

Babies: Ayva

Toddlers: Albert, Luca, Lenni

Kindy: Baya, Ruth

Preschool: Roy

Educators- Samantha, Kaye

EDUCATIONAL LEADER NEWS

In this month's educational program, we have been focusing on sustainability practices, encouraging educators and children to embed daily habits of reusing, recycling, and reducing items that have been collected in our sustainable station for children's play, creativity, and learning experiences. This practice aligns with our sustainability philosophy and National Quality Standard 3, which emphasizes the importance of a sustainable physical environment. If you have any items that could be useful, please drop them off at our sustainability station.

As part of NQS Area 1, Curriculum and Practice, our educators have been planning and documenting to support the holistic learning of the children. You will find several educational program documents either displayed in the room or posted through the Xplor app. Here is an explanation of each document:

Monthly and Weekly Educational Program:

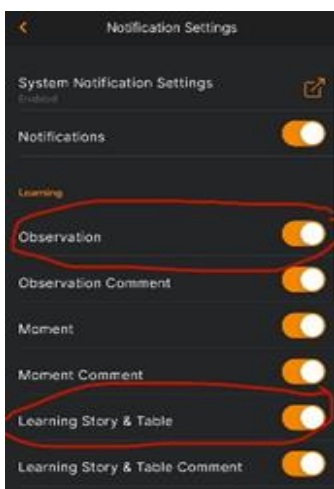
Each room has a planned monthly educational program designed to enhance the children's learning, interests, and needs. These programs are displayed in each room and contain five learning outcomes aligned with the EYLF-approved learning framework to cater to the children's holistic learning experience.

Individual Learning Observations:

These observations document each child's interests, needs, and learning progress to plan and implement appropriate educational experiences supporting their holistic development. Parents can find these posts through the Xplor app on your phone or laptop, with notifications to keep you updated.

Daily Posts:

The daily post informs parents about their child's daily learning experiences and activities. It provides a snapshot of what the children have been doing throughout the day, including the various activities they participated in, spontaneous play, skills they practiced, and any notable interactions. This post helps to keep parents engaged and informed about their child's development and daily routine. You can access the post through the Xplor app, or it is printed on display in the room.



Note: please activate the Xplor's notification as marked in this picture below if you would like to receive updated daily post and individual observations post:

We would love to hear your feedback; feel free to approach us or the educators in the room; A suggestion box is also available in the foyer.

Educational leaders - Lina and Milena

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE HOME

Tips for composting at home

Composting is the natural process of recycling organic matter into valuable fertiliser that can enrich plants and soil. Choosing to compost at home is one of the best decisions you can make for the environment. Composting reduces the need for pesticides and synthetic fertilisers and requires little energy and instead of using up land it helps to replenish soil in already challenged eco-systems.

Firstly, you can choose between a composting bin or a garden compost pile preferably with shade so it doesn't dry out.

What can go in my compost bin?

Yes!

- ✓ Fruit, vegetable and food scraps
- ✓ Breads, dairy
- ✓ Crushed egg shells
- ✓ Small amount of meat (without big bones)
- ✓ Coffee, tea
- ✓ Small amounts of cooking oil
- ✓ Cooked left overs
- ✓ Card board
- ✓ Dry leaves
- ✓ Straw
- ✓ Shredded (non-shiny) paper
- ✓ Manures

No

- × Plastics
- × Weedy plants
- × Diseased plants
- × Lots of wood ash
- × Citrus peel
- × Most tea bags
- × Large bones

Layering your compost will help with decomposition. One layer can be made of twigs, mulch or old potting mix.



CRAFT CORNER

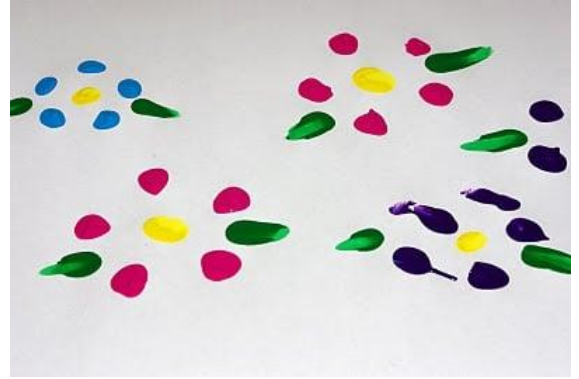
Drink bottle flower stamping

Equipment.

- Different sized drink bottles with a “flower” bottom
- Different coloured paints
- Paper or plate to put the paint on
- Paint brush

Method

- Put coloured paint on a plate
- Stamp the bottom of the bottle on the paint and then place it onto the paper
- Add a middle of the flower with paint and a paint brush and green leaves as you wish.



<https://www.happinessishomemade.net/soda-bottle-flower-stamping/>

THE XPLOR APP

Signing in and Out

Please remember that it is the family’s responsibility to ensure that their child is signed in and out of the service **EVERYDAY**.

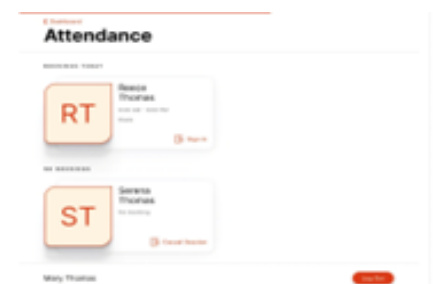
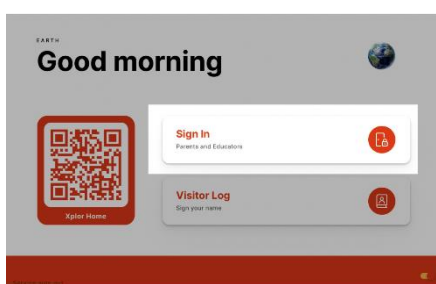
You must set up your account with Xplor, via the invitation that was emailed out to you. If you need this invitation resent, please let Julia know.

The hub to sign in is in the foyer of the service—when signing your child in:

Click ‘Sign In’

Enter your mobile number and PIN

Touch child’s name to sign them in



FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS

Greek Meatballs (Keftedes)

Ingredients.

- 3.25kg beef mince
- 715g brown onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 65g fresh parsley, washed and finely chopped
- 30g fresh mint, washed and finely chopped
- 15g ground cinnamon
- 13 eggs
- 1.04kg butternut pumpkin, peeled, seeds removed, grated and excess water squeezed out

Method.

1. Preheat oven to 180degrees C (fan forced) and line a baking tray with baking paper.
2. Place mince, onion, fresh herbs, eggs, pumpkin and cinnamon into a large bowl and mix well to combine.
3. Allow mixture to rest for 10-15 mins in the fridge
4. Take about a ¼ cup of the meat mixture and roll into small balls
5. Place on a baking tray and bake for 30-35 mins or until browned on top and cooked through
6. Remove from heat and allow to slightly cool
7. Serve with steamed vegetables and a dip on the side
Serving and storing leftovers:
Serve immediately, store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 4 days or freeze for up to 4 months.



CHILD HEALTH AND WELLBEING –Pedestrian safety

Children need active adult supervision near roads until around 11-12 years of age. Children who know all of the road safety rules won't necessarily always remember to follow them. Always holding your child's hand around cars is great to remember. Your child will learn by watching you so always remember to

- Always stop, look, listen and think before crossing a road, and use the pedestrian crossing wherever possible
- Always cross at the safest point, even if this means you have to walk further out of your way
- When crossing lights, always wait for the green signal
- Put away any phones and other devices when you are walking around roads and cars



While you are actively supervising your child, you can talk and explain safety rules to them to help them understand why they are important. This will make it more likely that the children will follow the rules even when you're not there to supervise. You can ask your child simple questions to get them thinking about road and pedestrian safety.

- Where is the safest place to cross this road?
- What do we need to do before we cross the road together?
- Why do we hold hands to cross the road together?
- When is it safe to cross the road?
- What sounds are we listening for when we cross the road?

You can start talking about road safety while your child is still in the stroller. For example, 'Uh oh, car coming. We'll wait until it's gone before we cross'. Keep talking about road safety as your child gets older.

Driveway safety

Young children are particularly at risk in driveways and yards. Toddlers and preschoolers might not yet realise that cars are dangerous. Some driveway and car park safety guidelines include:

- Before moving a vehicle in a driveway, check that no child is behind, in front of, or around the vehicle. Always do a visual check around the vehicle and don't rely on car cameras and sensors.
- Never leave young children alone to play near parked or moving vehicles in driveways.



- Separate your child's play areas from driveways. For example, you could fence off the driveway or garage so your child can't run towards it.
- Get into the habit of waving goodbye to people from inside your home or another safe spot- for example, on the front porch.
- Always hold your child's hand near cars, even if you're just near your driveway or walking to the letter box.

Safety getting in and out of the car

If possible, use the kerbside, rear passenger door when getting your child into and out of the car seat. This way, your child will get used to always getting in and out of the car through the safest door- the one furthest away from traffic.

If you have a baby and a toddler, keep your toddler safe inside the car while you're getting your baby out. Once you're all out of the car, hold hands with your child and together work out where cars could come from before you walk away from the car. When you go back to your car, help your toddler first, because your baby is less likely to move out of sight.

Pedestrian safety: walking and crossing roads

You can help children develop pedestrian safety skills and road safety skills by giving them practice around real roads and while they are learning you can

- Hold your child's hand when crossing roads together and wherever there's traffic or cars. Take special care where there's heavy traffic, high speed traffic, narrow or non-existent footpaths, or things that block the view, like parked cars and trucks, trees hill crests or crowded footpaths.
- Always cross at pedestrian crossing or corners, wait for lights, and look in every direction to check there are no cars coming.

- Stop at driveways and check there are no cars reversing or entering.

Knowing when your child is ready to go alone

Your child's readiness to cope safely in traffic on their own depends on their development and how much practice they've had. As a general guide, your child is ready to navigate roads safely on their own when your child:

- Knows, understands and can confidently follow the safety rules
- Understands that traffic conditions can change suddenly and drivers can do unexpected things
- Can pay attention to vehicles on the road and work out how far they are and how fast they're approaching
- Can choose safe places to cross roads

You can still help by:

- Reminding your child to always cross roads at pedestrian crossings or lights
- Planning a route that keeps your child off roads as much as possible
- Checking your child stops, looks, listens and thinks before crossing the road
- Talking about road rules in simple terms
- Walking and talking together with your child around the streets
- Making sure your child wears colours that are bright and easy to see

Information sourced from

[Pedestrian safety & road safety for kids | Raising Children Network](#)

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Karama Community Garden started in 2020 and with great community support they have established a thriving banana circle, citrus grove, mulberry hedge, passion fruit wall, basil galore and a chicken coop.

They are working on creating garden beds for individual and communal use.

Get involved - they are open every Saturday from 08:00-12:00 and have a fabulous plant sale on the last Saturday of every month.

MALAK COMMUNITY MARKETS

SATURDAYS 4-9PM

DARWIN DRY SEASON FROM JUNE
MALAK SHOPPING CENTRE CARPARK,
CHAMBERS CRESCENT, MALAK.

Food, Goods, Arts & Crafts, and Community
Email malakmarkets@gmail.com for more info.

SPONSORED BY



NEWS FROM THE ROOMS

Babies

Dear Families,

This month of April, the children have been exploring various learning experiences to enhance their learning, interests, and development.



Throughout the month, the children engaged in sensory play activities such as mixing goop, playing with chia seed cloud dough, water play, and playing with playdough. They also enjoyed various story times throughout the day. Storytime has become one of the children's favorite quiet activities during the day. They enjoy discovering the pictures in their favorite books, including "Where is Spot?", "Australian Animals", and "Elephant, What Do You See?"

Our babies love exploring both indoor and outdoor environments, and we set up an obstacle course tailored to their age level to encourage physical development.



The children also made sensory bottles and developed their cognitive skills with simple games like balls-in-the-box. It has been a wonderful month for the babies, filled with fun and enriching learning experiences designed to support their interests.

In the coming months, we have many exciting activities planned, such as a Mother's Day celebration, Reconciliation Week events, and a variety of new sensory play activities.



Thank you for your continued support.
Warm regards,
Babies' educators
Lina, Melissa, Joanna, Samantha

Toddlers

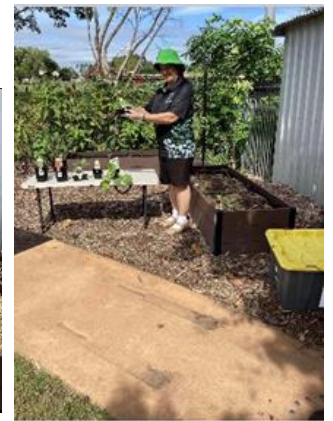


In the month of April, our Toddlers celebrated ANZAC Day by making ANZAC cookies, painting poppy flowers using bottle caps, and creating red play dough with rosemary.



We have also had a strong focus on the natural environment, and connecting with nature... the toddlers eagerly participated in gardening with educator Giota. They

planted pumpkins, eggplants, cucumbers, tomatoes, and basil, displaying confidence as they wore garden gloves and used small shovels and rakes.



The children also went on nature walks, which offer numerous benefits for toddlers, fostering their physical, cognitive, and emotional development. Physically, walking in natural environments helps toddlers improve their coordination, balance, and overall fitness. It also encourages sensory exploration as they encounter different textures, sounds, and sights. Cognitively, nature walks stimulate curiosity and observational skills as they learn about various plants and animals, such as bugs, butterflies, and birds. Emotionally, spending time in nature can reduce stress and promote a sense of calm and well-being. Furthermore, these walks provide opportunities for social interaction, language development, and



the strengthening of bonds between educators and children, making them a holistic activity for our young learners.

Danu, Giota, Tahlia and Delané

Kindy

This month in kindy room, we focused on investigating nature. That include rocks, worms and bugs we see in our surrounding. Children love to find them and feel them. We extended their learning by making it fun, through shared discussions and watching educational videos.



We looked at the bugs and found few under the soil. Using magnifying lens were helpful to make it more fun and provoking in our learning process.

We have also been focussing on learning about composting, sorting our scraps at meal times and putting the compostable scraps into the compost bin... this will then be used to help fertilise the vegetable gardens when it is ready.

Hygiene and personal care:

We have hands on experience using toothbrush to care for our tooth. The poster to encourage and model and videos were facilitated to make it fun and memorable. Children also took home the toothbrushes we supplied from donation box. They loved it.



Kindy room educators

Terry, Raji, Jenn, Erin and Iam

Preschool

Welcome to our May newsletter! This month has been filled with exciting activities and learning experiences for our preschoolers.

Every morning during mat time, the children show respect to the traditional owners of the land by acknowledging the country. This daily practice helps instil a sense of respect and connection to our heritage. In honour of ANZAC Day, the children created beautiful poppy flowers on canvas. This activity was a meaningful way for them to learn about and commemorate this important day in Australian history.

Children have been enhancing their literacy and numeracy skills in fun and engaging ways. They enjoyed tracing their names using pegs and cotton balls, and playing Rana games which helped them develop these essential skills. Our young explorers ventured into the yard to learn about Australian native trees. This activity was not only educational but also helped foster a respect for the natural resources around us. Using recycled boxes, the children built an indigenous shelter, sparking their creativity and imagination. This activity also highlighted the importance of recycling and sustainability.



In the preschool room, we discussed the importance of caring for our environment. The children started learning about the planets, with a special focus on Earth. Their eagerness to water the plants and participate in planting potatoes showed their growing care for the environment. They also engaged in sustainability practices by sorting recycled materials.



The children enhanced their fine and gross motor skills through various activities such as manipulating playdough, threading with natural resources, and mixing colours to create secondary colours. They also learned

about patterns using natural resources from our yard.

For the older preschoolers who will soon be heading to school, we practiced road crossing safety and watched a video on keeping our private parts safe. These activities are crucial for their safety and well-being.



This month has been a wonderful journey of learning, creativity, and growth for our preschoolers. We look forward to more exciting activities in the coming months!

Kate and Milena