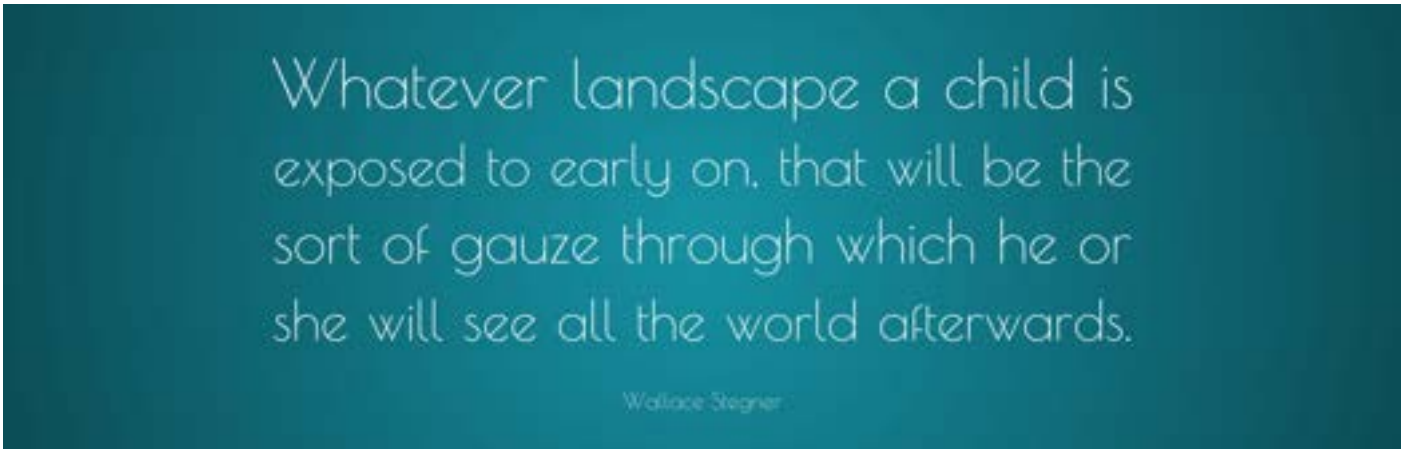
Volume 1 | Issue 3
April 2025

BYFORD CHILD CARE NEWSLETTER

In this Issue…

* Messages from the office
* Upcoming centre events
* Updates from our Educational Leader and the centre's Parent Working Group
* Updates from each of our rooms
* Messages from the kitchen- menus and recipe of the month
* Celebrating our amazing team- Staff acknowledgements
* Feature Article- Toilet Training: Readiness Signs and tips
* Business and Community Organisation Directory- Information on local businesses and community groups
* Community Events



Byford Child Care Centre
27 Clifton Street, Byford
(08) 9526 2526
admin@byfordchildcare.au

Volume 1 | Issue 3
APRIL 2025

Messages from Djilba (Office)……..

Welcome to Issue 3 of our 2025 Newsletter!

This month has been a busy in the office with finalising all the risk assessments for our upcoming school holiday program. This school holidays also contains quite a few public holidays, and we would just like to remind parents that the centre will be closed on the following days:

- Friday 18th (Good Friday)
- Monday 21st (Easter Monday)
- Friday 25th (ANZAC Day)

As a service we recently updated our Child protection training. This training is mandatory for all of our team and ensures that we have the knowledge to keep children safe by recognising, documenting and reporting possible signs of abuse.

We also have an upcoming workshop for families around child development, challenging behaviours and strategies for supporting young children. The workshop will be held at the centre on Monday April 7th at 6:30pm. We hope to see you all there.

Jodi (Centre Director) & Shannon (Assistant Director)

APRIL CENTRE EVENTS CALENDAR

NATURE PLAY MONTH: This month is all about engaging with natural materials in outdoor environments. These types of play invite open-ended exploration, discovery, and connection with the natural world.

2nd WORLD AUTISM DAY: Wear blue to support the acceptance and inclusion of autistic people, and for the advocation of their rights.

17th EASTER HAT PARADE: Making our own hats and joining the traditional hat parade through the centre.

18th GOOD FRIDAY: Public Holiday CENTRE CLOSED

21st EASTER MONDAY: Public Holiday CENTRE CLOSED

25th ANZAC DAY: Public Holiday CENTRE CLOSED. Children will be attending the memorial at the SJ Shire Library to commemorate ANZAC Day prior to the public holiday.

29th INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY: Celebrating different forms of dance from all over the world

Volume 1 | Issue 3
APRIL 2025

Messages from Amiee (Educational Leader)……..

Thank you to the parents who responded to our devices in childcare survey.
We have kept the survey live for families who would still like to offer their input into this topic, which can be found at the link below (also included in the email this newsletter was attached to).

https://forms.gle/8hjBwiQrdwZqTrJc7

We have made some small changes to our practices around how we utilise technology in our rooms with the children and are currently monitoring the impacts of these changes.

PARENT WORKING GROUP UPDATE:

During March our new parent working group reviewed our centre philosophy. This document provides a description of the values and beliefs that underpin our practice here at Byford Child Care.
We would like to thank all our members who contributed to this review. There were some very helpful and insightful reflections which really got us thinking.
We are currently in the process of updating our philosophy using this feedback and will send it out to all families for further comment once it is updated.

Upcoming Items for the parent working group:

- This month we will be working with the parent working group around our behaviour guidance policy and related practices in the centre.
- We will also be reviewing Quality Area 6; Standard 6.1 Supportive relationships with families, in relation to the quality indicators set out by the governing body for early childhood education and care.

If you are a family member of one of our children who would like to be more actively involved in the centre's decision-making processes, we would love to have you as part of our parent working group. You can email Amiee at educationalleader@byfordchildcare.au to register your interest.

Amiee- Educational Leader ☺

From the Kambarang room (Nursery)…….

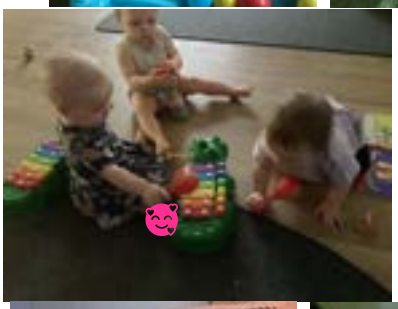
This month in the Kambarang room we engaged in lots of messy and water play. We used a drink dispenser for the children to access water independently for the purpose of water play. The children really enjoyed working this themselves to access water for their bowls and to make goop. Sensory play has lots of learning benefits for young children. Stimulating children's senses supports their brain and language development, gross motor skills, social interaction and problem-solving skills.

As part of our centre events calendar, this month we explored Holi, the festival of colours, and Harmony Day. We engaged in painting and gluing to create colourful pictures and explored a colourful rice tuff tray to engage our senses. We also started our Autism awareness day activities with our jigsaw contact sticking experience. Our older babies have been enjoying drawing using different mediums such as textas, crayons, colouring pencils and white board markers.

We have also been enjoying making LOTS of musical sounds with our many instruments including our large drum.

Outside we have been exploring the obstacle course in a variety of combinations in order to strengthen the children's gross motor skills, hand-eye coordination and confidence.

Kambarang Room Team- Zoe, Mandy, Sam, Hailey & Sammy



Volume 1 | Issue 3
APRIL 2025

From the Birak room (Toddlers)……

Hello to all our families!!
This month in the Birak room we have been having lots of fun exploring the world around us.
We created our very own mechanical workshop and set to work fixing and building. The children really loved putting on their safety gear and using the tools to fix things. Practicing real world actions through play is a crucial part of children learning to understand the world around them.
Extending on our mechanical workshop the children also ran their own car wash. The children had so much fun playing with the water and cleaning the toy vehicles in the outdoor environment.

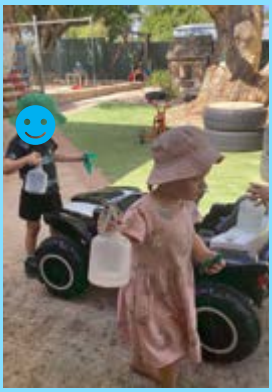
Currently we have a student in the room studying their Certificate 3 in Early Childhood Education and Care. The student set up a nature gluing for the children using items they had collected together from around the service. They also used the magnifying glasses to encourage the children to take a close look at the natural elements of our outdoor environment. The children always enjoy art and craft experiences and providing them with opportunities to interact with new and different people in a safe environment is a great way to build social confidence.

We also had lots of fun doing our own colour run in celebration of the Holi festival. This was a fantastic fun hands-on way for children to explore traditions and practices from other cultures.

As an extension from our recent icecream shop dramatic and creative play area, we embarked on an excursion to get our very own icecreams from the shops. We took a short walk to a local restaurant where the children got to have their very own soft serve icecream.

Lastly, we would like to say a heartfelt goodbye to Kelly. Kelly is leaving us to try her hand at something different and we wish her all the best with her new journey. Thank you so much Kelly for all the love and care you have shown the children and all the support and guidance you have shown the Birak team. We will miss you very much and can't wait for you to visit us in the future.

Birak Room Team- Tess, Rhiannon, Rai, Sammy and Singye



From the Bunuru room (Kindy)…….

This month in the Bunuru room we have been focusing on expanding our school readiness experiences for children. We have started using name tags in the morning for name recognition including tracing our names. Name recognition is an important step towards school readiness not necessarily from a literacy point of view but more from an independence point of view, as children need to be able to identify their belongings, where to place their items (in their tray or bag etc.) and become more responsible for themselves.

The children visited the Byford Rainforest Walk as part of our centre events calendar in recognition of clean up Australia day. The centre is also now beginning a partnership with Landcare to monitor and help with the ongoing rehabilitation and maintenance of this important wildlife and vegetation corridor in our community.

We celebrated harmony week this month by wearing orange and teaching the children the theme of Harmony week ‘Everyone Belongs’ through small group activities. Social experiences are great vehicle for encouraging children to listen to different people’s ideas and opinions and to teach the value of other’s voices.

Bunuru Room Team- Narelle, Fran, Paige and Nandraj

Volume 1 | Issue 3
APRIL 2025

From the Djeran room (Schoolies)…….

This month in the Djeran room we have been super busy having fun and learning.
We successfully completed our first car wash with the children wanting to continue this on throughout the year. This activity stemmed from one of the children's interests in water play and all the children have been super enthusiastic about taking part in this activity. It's a great idea for teaching them practical skills around taking care of belongings.

Our children are always super interested in science experiments. This month we've been exploring liquids and solids. The children conducted an experiment where they placed gummy bears in a variety of different liquids. They hypothesised what might happen to the gummy bears in each of the liquids and then we waited to see if their hypothesise were correct or not. They were quite surprised by some of the results.
We would also like to say congratulations to this month's recipients of our new "Star of the week" initiative:

Kenny

Elsie

Kenzie

Olivia

We have added a feedback poster on the room door to gain parent feedback and suggestions. We would love families to please write up ideas for experiences, skills you'd like to see the children working on, any other feedback for improving the room or the curriculum.
School holidays are approaching fast, so if you haven't yet booked your child in, please make sure you contact Jodi or Shannon as soon as possible as spaces are extremely limited.

Djeran Room Team- Sue, Steph & Chloe

ByfordChildCare

Volume 1 | Issue 3

APRIL 2025

From Makuru (Kitchen).....

Hello to all our Families,

In this month's Makuru messages you will find copies of April's menu as well as one of our most recent recipes which was very popular with the children.

Kristi & Fiona

This month's menu:

31st March – 4th April

7th – 11th April

14th – 18th April

21st - 25th April

28th April – 2nd May

Recipe of the Month: Chicken Alfredo *Serves 4*

Ingredients

- 170g of spinach
- 1 ½ tsp minced garlic
- 500g peas
- 250g corn kernels
- 250g grated tasty cheese
- 250g grated pizza cheese
- 250ml milk
- 500g pasta
- 2 ½ tablespoons flour
- 1 kg diced chicken breast
- 250ml chicken stock
- 1 ½ olive oil
- salt & pepper to season

Method

1. Place pasta in pot of water to boil
2. Heat olive oil in pan then add diced chicken breast. Season with salt and pepper and cook through.
3. Remove cooked chicken from pan
4. Using the same pan saute garlic for 1 minute. Sprinkle flour over garlic then slowly add chicken stock continually stirring to prevent lumps forming (use a whisk). Mix until a smooth puree like consistency.
5. Add milk, stir and bring to the boil. Add grated cheeses continuing to stir till it has melted and combined with the sauce.
6. Add corn and peas to the sauce allowing to cook on low to medium heat for approximately 5 minutes.
7. Add chicken back into sauce and heat through.
8. Combine pasta and sauce and serve.

Volume 1 | Issue 3
APRIL 2025

Celebrating Our Amazing Team!!!!

Welcome to our staff acknowledgement and awards section. We have such a fantastic group of educators who are always doing things that make us proud and grateful to have them as part of our Byford Child Care team. We want to celebrate them as they deserve!

Years of Service…

We would like to acknowledge the incredible team members below for their ongoing commitment to our centre. The longevity of our team is integral to the quality care and education we provide for our families and children. We couldn't do what we do without these remarkable people.

This month's service anniversaries are:

HAILEY- 1 year!!!

HEATHER- 2 years!!!

SINGYE- 1 year!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR APRIL!

BERNIE

AVA

DAE-JHARN

SHANAYA

DANIELLE

ADELINE

ZARLIAH

JORDYN

SHAYDEN

MAX

CHELSEY

SAMMY

ByfordChildCare
Volume 1 | Issue 3
APRIL 2025

Feature Article

Toilet Training: Readiness signs and tips

It's a real milestone in your child's development when your child learns to use the toilet. When they are ready for this important step, they begin to recognise the feeling that they need to use the toilet, and they can 'hold on' until they are in the appropriate place. Developing this skill in a supportive and positive environment promotes positive self-esteem and is an important aspect of the development of your child's self-help skills.

Toilet training can be a challenging process as there are many things you need to consider before you begin the process of toilet training. All children are different and develop at their own pace. Generally, children aren't ready to be toilet trained until they are between 18 months and 3 years old.

Some indicators that your child may be ready for toilet training:

- Your toddler can stay dry for two or more hours. This shows that their bladder muscles are getting stronger.
- They dislike wearing a wet or soiled nappy.
- They are showing an interest in adults (or their siblings) going to the toilet. They may even try to imitate others' bathroom habits.
- They poo at fairly regular and predictable intervals.
- They don't wake up in the night to poo or wee and they wake up dry from a nap.

Note that the above are only indications that your child might be ready to be toilet trained. You also need to consider if they have mastered certain physical and communication skills prior to beginning toilet training.

Important skills for children to learn before beginning toilet training:

- They know how to pull their pants up or down.
- They can sit comfortably in one position for a long time.
- They can tell you using signs or verbally that they need to wee or poo.
- They can follow simple instructions.

Even if your child is taking more time, don't push them too much. Wait for them to learn at their own pace.

Tips for toilet training

- Potty or the toilet? It's really up to the individual family. Using a potty may be easier for your child to go and sit on when they want to wee or poo: Sometimes when they are in a hurry getting onto the toilet seat might take time. There are of course a variety of devices available to make standard toilets accessible to children so that they can be stable on the toilet and have their feet placed on a firm surface while utilising the toilet. As consistency is important it might be a good idea to consider what your child will have access to in all environments during this process eg child care services, the family home, any other places you visit frequently.
- Introduce them to a potty or toilet – let them sit on it with their clothes on so they become familiar with it. Sometimes it can be helpful for them to see that others can comfortably use the toilet, of course under appropriate circumstances.
- Observe any patterns, noting the times at which your child usually wees or poos. When you know that your child is expected to wee or poo, sit them on the potty or toilet. They might not do anything initially, but eventually they'll make the connection. (Don't make them sit on it for too long a time – you don't want them to feel like they are being punished.
- Praise them when they're successful in weeing or pooing in the potty/toilet as a way of encouraging them. Also praise them when they have had a really good go, even if they are not successful.

- Have them drink a lot of water before they are expected to poo – it softens the poo so it's easy to pass.
- At regular intervals, ask your child if they need to wee or poo. They might be busy playing so that by the time they realise, it's too late.
- Dress them in clothes that can easily be removed if they want to use the toilet themselves.
- Ask them if they need to wee just before going to bed. If necessary, wake up your little one once or twice at night for them to wee so they don't wet their bed.
- Also, remember that accidents happen. Don't tell your child off after an accident – it may discourage them from trying again.

Teaching them hygiene

In addition to assisting them with using the toilet or potty, you can teach them how to wipe themselves and clean and wash their hands afterwards.

- Teach your child to wipe their bottoms thoroughly. You can use pre-moistened wipes for your little one to wipe their bottom effectively (remember not to flush unless they are flushable).
- Teach them to flush the toilet and wipe the toilet seat or their potty.
- Demonstrate to them how to wash their hands – first wet them, then apply soap, then scrub for at least 25 seconds to cover their whole hands, then rinse and dry.
- Teach your child to clean themselves properly even after weeing.

Maintaining consistency between home and early childhood education and care

While toilet training is always more successful if started at home by the child's family first, it is important for your child to have similar experiences and routines at their early childhood education and care service to ensure consistent messages around toileting.

Prior to starting toileting at home, it's helpful to talk with your child's educators about toilet training. You can discuss the following things:

- what readiness signs your child is showing
- the skills they may need to work on prior to starting toilet training
- expectations you might have around toilet training as well as any possible barriers or limitations within the childcare and home environments that may impact on the process of toilet training.
- Strategies which can be used in both environments to support your child.

Ongoing communication between all people caring for your child is extremely important throughout the toilet training process. This ensures a consistent approach for your child and increases the possibility of success in your child's toilet training journey.

Patience is the most important tool for adults to remember while children are learning to use the toilet. Educators at your early childhood education and care should encourage your child in all their efforts, even if they have a setback or are not entirely successful. For example, a child who has not quite made it in time to use the toilet may be reassured by a comment such as "It's great that you knew you needed to use the toilet. Maybe next time you can let me know straight away so that I can help you get to the toilet a bit more quickly."

Learning to use the toilet is like learning any new skill – it takes time. Each child learns at their own pace and while some children will learn to use the toilet within a short time, for many others the process will be a much longer one. You child will eventually learn to use the toilet in their own time. By working in partnership with the educators at your early childhood education and care service, the process of learning to use the toilet can be a positive and gratifying experience for all concerned.

Volume 1 | Issue 3
APRIL 2025

Family Business/Community Directory

If you would like your business or community group/organisation to be featured in our newsletter, please send the details through to us at admin@byfordchildcare.au.

EVERSHARP FINANCIAL SERVICES

We're a dedicated team of finance managers and brokers servicing the Perth metropolitan area. We specialise in sourcing the right home loans, car loans and commercial loans, sourcing from our wide network of lenders and our meticulous research on the products available and current market trends. Call us now if you want the best product and best service for your next loan.

Family owned and operated business, backed by 120 years and four generations of butchering experience.

Wholesale meat direct to the public

Unit 2/2043 Albany Hwy, Maddington WA

Open Hours

Monday	7:00am to 5:30pm
Tuesday	7:00am to 5:30pm
Wednesday	7:00am to 5:30pm
Thursday	7:00am to 5:30pm
Friday	7:00am to 5:30pm
Saturday.	7.00am to 4:30pm

Closed Sundays and Public Holidays

COMMUNITY EVENTS IN MARCH

EVENTS @ SJ LIBRARY (858 South Western Hwy, Byford)**:**

- **Storytime** 10:00-11:00am Wednesday 2nd, 9th & 30th
- **Rhyme time** 10:00am Thursday 3rd & 10th
- **Science Program- Pesky Pests:** Environmental sciences based interactive activities for 6-10 year olds. 1:00-3:00pm Monday 14th April. *Please book online through the shire website.*
- **Movies @ the Library:** Free screening of Trolls Band Together (G) and popcorn. 1:30pm Thursday 17th *Please book online through the shire website.*
- **Jitterbug Music Session:** Fun music session for children and parents. 19th April, Session 1- 10:00am (6months-5years), Session 2- 11:00am (5-8years old). *Please book online through the shire website.*
- **Critters Up Close- Building Aquatic Ecosystems:** Your chance to experience Fresh water and sea water life up close. Suitable age 5-12years. Wednesday 23rd, Session 1- 9:00-10:30am, Session 2- 11:00am-12:30pm. *Please book online through the shire website.*
- **SJ Bunting Library Sew-In Day:** a community initiative in which sewing enthusiasts of all skill levels come together, have a cuppa, and create bunting from repurposed materials/fabric for shire residents to borrow free for their special events. 1:00pm Wednesday 23rd
- **Cupcake Decorating for Kids:** Each child will have the opportunity to decorate four cupcakes using a variety of fun and colourful techniques. Take home your sweet creations and show off your skills! Ages 7-12 2:00pm Thursday 24th. *Please book online through the shire website.*
- **Puzzle Day:** Drop in anytime to the Library to tackle our assortment of puzzles. It's the perfect way to chill out and exercise your mind. All ages. All day event. Saturday 26th
- **Plant a Native Verge Garden- Why/How?:** This workshop's topics will include the benefits of verge planting with native species, how to get started, council regulations and assistance to plant verges. 10:00am Saturday 5th *Please book online through the shire website.*
- **Colour & Coffee (Adults):** Take a break and unwind at the library with a selection of colouring pages. Enjoy a chat with others while sipping on coffee and light refreshments. 9:30am Monday 14th April *Please book online through the shire website.*
- **SJ Family Fun Day:** Families are invited to a day of fun, discovery, and creativity as the SJ Family Fun Day returns to Byford Library. 10:00am-1:00pm Wednesday 16th

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS:

* **BARK IN THE PARK:** Peruse the pet-themed stalls, icecream, coffee and sausage sizzle. 10:00am Saturday 12th April
* **SJ COMPOSTING SESSION:** Join us for this informative and hands-on composting workshop where you'll learn the basics of turning kitchen scraps and yard waste into nutrient-rich compost for your garden! Briggs Park Pavilion, 38 Mead Street, Byford 10:00am Wednesday 16th
* **THE WOMEN'S WALK:** Sarah of The Sarah Ford Foundation, in partnership with the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, invites you to a FREE, weekly, ladies-only walking group designed to boost your mood and foster community connections. EVERY Thursday 9:15am @ Dome Café Byford
* **FREE COMMUNITY BBQ:** Whitby Adventure Playground 4:00pm Tuesday 8th
* **BYFORD FOOD TRUCK FORTNIGHTS:** Bill Hicks Reserve 4:30pm 10th & 24th
* **ENGINEER YOUR GARBAGE RECYCLED CREATIONS:** Primary aged children engage in a series of engineering challenges using clean refuse items. 10:30am-11:30am Tuesday 22nd Venue: Clem Kentish Hall 24 Wellard St, Serpentine *Please book online through the shire website.*