

"Let love always lead you to listen more deeply, understand more fully, connect more securely, forgive more freely." — L.R. Knost



HATCHLINGS
Early Learning Centre



ON *this*
MONTH

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

Flordeliz, Liz, Jerry,
Kaelyn, Koa, Levi,
Kohuvar, Yalini, Joey



Focus of the Month: Quality Area 7 – Governance and Leadership

The aim of Quality Area 7 under the National Quality Standard is to support effective leadership and management of the service that contributes to quality environments for children's learning and development. Well-documented policies and procedures, well-maintained records, shared values, clear direction and reflective practices enable the service to function as a learning community.

What this looks like throughout the service:

- We recognise that strong leadership is shared across the whole team and is reflected in the decisions we make, the relationships we build, and the culture we create.
- Our centre values of **Professionalism, Passion, Positivity and Love** are at the heart of this work. These values guide the way we lead, collaborate and make decisions, ensuring that children experience a safe, nurturing and inspiring environment where they can learn, grow and flourish.
- Families are an essential part of Quality Area 7. Your feedback, ideas and involvement help shape the decisions we make and support our journey of continuous improvement. Whether it's sharing your thoughts through surveys, chatting with educators, attending centre events or contributing to our Quality Improvement Plan, your voice is valued and appreciated.

This month's policies we are reviewing:

- Policy Development and Review
- Record Keeping
- Governance & Service Management
- Professional Development
- Performance Management
- Recruitment, Selection & Employment
- Students, Volunteers and Visitors

WHATS ON

AUGUST 2026



Dates to Save

- 4. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Childrens day
- 6. Jeans for genes + Funky Books show
- 8-16. **EKKA week (centre closed Monday 10th)**
- 18. Recycle Man visit 9:30
- 20. Daffodil day
- 21. Centres 3rd Birthday
- 22-28. Book Week - (26th)
- 27. Red Nose day



BOOK WEEK

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Childrens day

This years theme is 'Living our Truth' honouring the power of truth-telling, the sharing of knowledge across generations and the importance of telling our stories. Stories have been passed from generation to generation for thousands of years and remain a powerful way to share knowledge, values, traditions and identity.

How perfectly does this theme intertwine with our literacy focus this month. We cant wait to see how each room incorporates this theme into their daily program.



Whose excited for Book week!! Whether it's creating inviting reading spaces, dressing up as favourite characters, inviting guest readers, retelling stories through dramatic play, using loose parts to recreate narratives, or encouraging children to create and illustrate their own books, every literacy experience helps foster creativity and imagination.

Book week is from the 22nd to the 28th of August and the theme this year is Symphony of Stories. Let's ignite the magic and power of storytelling! As we all know, fostering a love for stories during early childhood is incredibly important and offers numerous benefits. Everyone is able to dress up each day during Book Week; however, we will also have a special main dress-up day on the 26th, might even be a prize for the best dressed group so get together and create a team/partnership! (doesnt have to be room teams)

HEALTH & SAFETY: Dental Health for the Whole Family

Dental Health Week is a helpful reminder that caring for teeth and gums is an important part of every family's health and wellbeing. Healthy dental habits begin early, and the routines children learn at home can support them for life.

Baby teeth may be small, but they play a big role. They help children eat, speak clearly, smile with confidence and hold space for adult teeth to come through later. Tooth decay can cause pain, affect sleep and eating, and may lead to time away from care, preschool or school.

Good oral health is a whole-family routine. Children learn by watching the adults around them, so brushing together, choosing water, limiting sugary snacks and drinks, and making dental visits a normal part of family life can all help children feel confident about caring for their teeth.

Parents should help and supervise their child's brushing until they are about 8 years old. Before this age, children generally lack the fine motor skills and wrist coordination needed to clean all the surfaces of their teeth and gums effectively.

As a general guide, families can support dental health by:

- Helping children brush twice a day, especially before bed
- Use age-appropriate fluoride toothpaste
- Encouraging children to spit out toothpaste, not swallow
- Offer water as the main drink throughout the day
- Limiting sugary foods, juices, cordial, soft drinks and sticky snacks
- Packing tooth-friendly lunchbox foods such as cheese, yoghurt, vegetables and whole fruit
- Replacing toothbrushes regularly, especially after illness or when bristles become worn
- Booking regular dental check-ups for children and adults

Frequent snacking can affect teeth, even when foods seem healthy. Teeth need breaks between meals and snacks so saliva

can help protect the mouth and repair early acid damage. Water after meals and snacks is a simple way to help rinse the mouth and support healthy teeth.

Dental visits can also be easier when they are introduced early and spoken about positively. A check-up can be a chance for children to count their teeth, ask questions and become familiar with the dentist before problems arise.

Families may also be able to access support with dental costs. The Child Dental Benefits Schedule helps eligible children access basic dental services. For children who do not qualify, free or heavily subsidised care may be available through state or territory public health clinics, though eligibility rules vary across Australia. If public care is not an option, some private clinics offer interest-free payment plans, while university dental schools and community health hubs may provide lower-cost treatment.

This Dental Health Week, families are encouraged to think about their own dental routines. Are toothbrushes ready to be replaced? Is everyone brushing before bed? Has it been a while since the family visited the dentist? Small daily habits can make a big difference. By working together, families can help children build confidence, prevent tooth decay and develop healthy smiles that last well beyond childhood.



For additional dental resources follow the QR code.

See link via QR code
For more information go to teeth.org.au



SEEDS, SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

National Science Week is a great reminder that children are natural scientists. They learn by wondering, watching, testing and asking questions. One simple way to explore both science and sustainability at home is by planting seeds.

Planting seeds helps children see how living things grow and what they need to survive. As they water, observe and care for plants, children begin to understand the importance of soil, sunlight, water, insects and time.

Try these simple ideas at home:

- Plant easy-growing seeds such as beans, peas, sunflowers or herbs.
- Reuse yoghurt tubs, egg cartons or small containers as seedling pots.
- Talk about what plants need to grow: water, sunlight, soil and care.
- Encourage children to draw or



photograph changes as the seed grows.

- Use food scraps such as fruit peels or vegetable ends to start a small compost conversation.

These small experiences help children build early science skills while learning that caring for the environment begins with everyday actions. A tiny seed can lead to big conversations about nature, responsibility and sustainability.

What did our Focus of the Month Quality Area 4 look like last month?

During June and July, the focus was on our Staffing Arrangements.

Throughout the month we looked at the topics within Quality Area 4, focusing on professional collaboration, standards and expectations, beginning staff appraisals, professional goal setting, and educator well-being.

Our team are dedicated and committed to their ongoing learning. During our staff meeting in June, we talked about Conduct and Child safety and learnt about ways that we can support the children, families and each other while always upholding the dignity and rights of a child.

We reflected on our team culture and renewed our commitment as a team to our service vision as a team:

As a team we will meet the needs of the children, families, fellow team members and community with Professionalism, Passion, Positivity and Love.

The team reflected on “What makes us shine” (see the list beside) as a group and where we feel we could strengthen our practices as a team.

In July we engaged in a professional development session on the topic – “How to have difficult conversations” where we built on our ability to be able to break through any barriers we might have and how to always approach conversations with respect and professionalism.

Well-being:

We continued to build a culture where taking care of ourselves is seen as a professional responsibility—not only for our own well-being but for the strength and success of our entire team. As a centre we provided a new Educator Support Plan where the team can access 24 hour support for themselves and their families if they are going through anything and need additional support.

We are completing staff appraisals throughout August and if you would like to contribute and have your say about our team you can do so via the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QP3L3XB>

What makes us shine

- being there for each other
- open communication
- working together
- genuine friendships are built due to how comfortable we feel with our co-staff and management
- everyone is welcoming and supportive
- we show love and genuinely care for the children and it shines through daily.
- we look after each other
- good priority of celebrations and cultural days
- everyone cares about one another
- we are an awesome team, most are there for each other
- having a team and management that we can rely on and ask help from
- a very welcoming centre where you feel respected
- strong connection with the families
- engaging programs
- most people are supportive with each others strengths and weaknesses
- we are friendly and supportive of each other
- inclusive with one another and the families
- we compliment each other
- our enthusiasm and love for the children
- a really positive space, our job is hard and we manage to still have fun and work together well and this is visible to our families



Zucchini Fritters

TOTAL TIME 30 min | MAKES 25 fritters

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups (180 grams) spelt flour (or plain wholemeal flour)
 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
 1/2 teaspoon bicarb soda
 pinch of salt and pepper
 2 eggs
 1 cup (250 ml) milk
 1/2 cup (60 grams) tasty cheese, grated
 1/2 cup (75 grams) parmesan cheese, grated
 1/2 cup chopped fresh herbs (we used dill, mint and basil)
 3 cups (375 grams) corn kernels
 1 cup (150 grams) grated zucchini (approx. 2 zucchinis)

METHOD:

Place the flour, baking powder, bicarb soda, salt and pepper into a large bowl and whisk to combine creating a well in the centre. Add the eggs and milk and whisk to create a smooth batter. Add the tasty cheese, parmesan, herbs, corn and zucchini and whisk to combine.

Heat a large fry pan over low-medium heat and add a drizzle of olive oil to grease. Ladle 1/4 cup measurements of the batter onto the fry pan.



Cook for 2-3 minutes or until bubbles begin to appear on the surface of the fritter and the edges begin to set. Carefully flip the fritters and cook for another 2-3 minutes. Or until the fritters are golden and bounce back to touch.

Place the cooked fritters onto a plate lined with kitchen paper and continue frying until no batter remains. Serve the fritters warm or cold. Freezer friendly.

Enjoy x

Recipe and image from mylovelylittlelunchbox.com.

RHYME TIME BASKET

Collect a few familiar household items or toys and place them in a basket, such as a sock, cup, car, spoon or bear.

Choose one item at a time and help your child think of words that sound the same or similar. For example, "sock" might rhyme with "rock," "block" or "clock." The words can be real or silly — the goal is to help children listen to sounds in words and have fun with language. Rhyming helps children develop early phonological awareness, which is an important skill for learning to read.



Friday 14th August 2026

Wear a Flanno and raise money for farmers doing it tough.

DONATE NOW



Feedback
 is always welcome



Hatchlings Early Learning Centre Caboolture

director@hatchlingcaboolture.com.au