



Families and Children's Newsletter

February & March 2023

Email: office@therangecc.org.au Phone: 03 9397 8244

Monday – Friday 7:00am – 6:00pm

Wominjeka

The Range Children's Centre would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families.

We would also like to thank our existing families for their continued support. Thank you for trusting us to educate and care for your children.

The children, families and educational teams have settled in well into the new year.

Acknowledgement to Country with the Children

Here is the land
Here is the sky
Here are my friends
Here am I

We thank the
Yalukit-willam people of the [Kulin nation](#).
On who's land we play

Children participate in the Acknowledgement to Country as a group every day.

Meet & Greet

The Range Children's Centre would like to invite families to meet and get to know the educators and other families at the service.

Sausage Sizzle provided.

Date: Friday the 17th of March

Time: 6.30pm until 7.45pm

Location: TRCC

TRCC Website

The Range Children's Centre website has a plethora of information about your children's time in childcare such as weekly menus, room reflections, calendar of events and newsletter.

Just click the link below and look under the 'Parents Lounge' tab for all your informational needs.

[Parents' Lounge \(therangecc.org.au\)](https://therangecc.org.au/parents-lounge)

Calendar of Events

Special Celebrations for February

World Read Aloud Day - 5th of February.

Waitangi Day - 6th of February.

World Pizza Day - 9th of February.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science - 11th of February.

Valentine's Day - 14th of February.

National Random Acts of Kindness Day - 17th of February.

International Mother Language Day & Pancake Tuesday - 21st of February.

Ash Wednesday - 22nd of February.

Tell a Fairy Tale Day - 26th of February.

Special Celebrations for March

World Compliment Day - 1st of March.

Dr Seuss Day - 2nd of March.

Hearing Awareness Week - 1st of March until 7th of March.

UN International Women's Day - 3rd of March.

World Wildlife Day - 3rd of March.

Clean Up Australia Day - 5th of March.

Holi (India) - 8th of March.

Harmony Week - 15th of March until 21st of March.

St Patrick's Day - 17th of March.

Global Recycling Day - 18th of March.

World Down Syndrome Day - 21st of March.

Ride2School Day - 23rd of March.

Epilepsy Awareness Day (Purple Day) - 26th of March.

Neighbour Day - 26th of March.

Family Communication Books

At The Range Children's Centre, we strive ourselves in working in partnerships with families. The Family Communication Books assist in continuing our positive communication between families and educators and to ensure that we give your child the best possible education and care.

During arrival periods, please feel free to write down any messages in the Family Communication Book, for example, how long you would like your child to sleep/ rest.

Educators will check the book every morning to read messages written by families and communicate these messages to the rest of the team.

Public Holiday

Labour Day: Monday the 13th of March.

Good Friday: Friday the 7th of April.

Easter Monday: Monday the 10th of April.

ANZAC Day: Tuesday the 25th of April.

Community Garden

Next to the kitchen window, there is a wooden bowl filled with fresh ingredients from our community garden. Please feel free to take and enjoy at home with your family.



Centre Leadership Team

consists of:

Director: Janice
Assistant Director: Nellie
Educational Leader: Lisa

Book Keeper:

Thao

Tuesday 8.30am – 5.00pm

Thursday 8.30am – 5.00pm

Friday 7.30am – 4.00pm

Congratulations

Nam welcomed a baby boy named Eamon on Wednesday the 1st of February. Mum and baby are doing well and we are looking forward to meeting baby Eamon.

Welcome to the Team

The Range Children's Service would like to give a warm welcome to Xiao who works 4 days in the Kookaburra Room alongside Harriet and Ashleigh. Xiao comes with many years of experience and significant knowledge in educating and caring for children.

We would also like to welcome our newest cook Svetlana (Lana). The children are loving her delicious meals and we all enjoy seeing her beautiful smile as we first arrive at the service.

Welcome back to Sam who has returned to the service after maternity leave. She will be working Thursdays and Fridays in the Koala Room.

Also, we would like to welcome back Donika who worked at the service 6 years ago.

Birthday Cakes

Birthday Cakes for the Children can be provided for Birthday Celebrations. Please see the following instructions to ensure the health and safety of the children.



- Purchase directly from the supermarket
- Packaging is clearly labelled with all ingredients
- NUT FREE
- As plain as possible with minimal icing or cream
- Provide a receipt with purchase

Updates from around the Service

New Members in the Committee of Management

President: Aislinn

Vice President: Lauren

Secretary: Rebecca

Treasurer: Matt

Kindergarten Consultative: Ana

Reconciliation Action Plan Representative: Jenna

Garden Representative: Nicole

General Members: Adrian, Daniel, Kirsten, Andrew and Bridget

If you would like to join the Committee of Management and find out what happens behind the scenes, please speak to Janice or Nellie. You can also send an email: committee@therangecc.org.au

[The next committee meeting is on 21st February at 7pm](#)

Educators for 2023

Joey Room	Possum Room	Koala Room			Kookaburra Room
Nanisi Team Leader	Antoinette Team Leader	Belinda Team Leader			Ashleigh Team Leader
Kat	Sara	Taryn			Harriet (Tues, Thurs) Teacher
	Laila	Aiden			Xiao
	Rachael	Mel			Elpis
		Sam			
Purple Group Kindergarten All weekdays	Red Group Kindergarten Monday & Wednesday	Green Group Kindergarten Tuesday & Thursday			Blue Group Kindergarten Friday
Nam Teacher	Nidhi Teacher	Jenny Teacher			Harriet Teacher
Ashni	Jennifer	Jennifer			Jade
Helena	Barb	Barb			
Lena					
Jade					
Kitchen Team					
Svetlana (Lana)- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday		Angie- Friday			
Breaks/ RDO/ Planning Cover					
Mini	Elpis	Lena	Jade	Dolly	Alicia
Sandy	Polly	Donika	Lulu		

Painting

The painting is now complete and educators are in the progress of putting information back on the walls.

Feedback

We welcome feedback! If you have something you would like to share, please feel free to speak to the leadership team. You can also email us on office@therangecc.org.au or you can give us a call 9397 8244. Please visit our website to find out more information about our service and to access online forms <https://www.therangecc.org.au/>

Message from the Educational Leader

Catharine Hydon (Early Childhood Consultant) has been working with the team to strengthen the curriculum by engaging in meetings with the educators and delivering professional development.

A new version of Belonging, Being and Becoming- The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia has been released. As a result, changes have been made to planning documentations such as the indoor and outdoor curriculum plan, cycle of planning, and all about my child form.

The educational team are also focusing on critical reflection in order to build a collaborative approach towards educating and caring for the children. The educators discuss areas for improvement and strategies to address challenges in consultation with children, families, other professionals, and the community.

Children learning and development will be demonstrated in an individual portfolio which consists of individual and group learning stories, reflections, art work and photos.

Please refer to the document attached to the newsletter explain what The Early Years Learning Framework is and what is a learning portfolio.

For more information on the new version of The Early Years Learning Framework please visit the website:

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-law-regulations/approved-learning-frameworks>

Child Safe Standards

On the 1st of July 2022, the new Child Safe Standards are put into effect across the state of Victoria. These new changes are being made to update the previous 7 standards established in 2016, which makes the Standards even stronger.

Additional information can also be found at the Commission for Children and Young People at: www.ccyp.vic.gov.au

Child Safe Standard 3: Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

Staff and volunteers at The Range Children's Centre will engage with children to help them to:

- understand their rights, including to safety, information and participation
- know how adults in the organisation should behave
- understand the organisation's complaints process and how to raise safety concerns for themselves, their friends or peers
- know about support services aimed at children. (3.1, 3.4).

IT Update

The service will be purchasing new computers and laptops for the educators in order to improve on completing planning and admin tasks.

Reminders

Buying and Selling Days

Just a reminder to all families that the centre allows for the buying and selling of days. If you want to buy or sell a day, please notify Nellie in the office by email. Nellie will then organise (on a first come, first serve basis) to sell available days for someone requesting it. Emails about buying and selling days can be sent to nellie@therangecc.org.au

Car Park Safety

Just a reminder to all families that the car park has a speed limit of **5 kms**.

Please be careful when entering and exiting the car park as children sometimes detach themselves from their parents/guardians and can run off. Also please keep an eye out for pedestrians on the foot path.

Immunisations

Families are required to provide a copy of current immunisations for your child that attends care/kinder. This information can be accessed via your MyGov account and can be emailed or brought to the service for us to make a copy. It is very important to keep our records up to date to stay inline with **No Jab No Play** regulations.

Celebrations

To ensure the service is acknowledging and celebrating cultural events which are important to the children, we invite families to share with us information about their celebrations such as what is the meaning of the event and how do you celebrate at home with family and friends?

Family Contribution

The service invites families to come in and share their talents and interests with the children and educators for example, playing a musical instrument, speaking another language, singing, gardening, cooking etc.

However, please ensure you have a current volunteer or employee working with children's card.

The Leukemia Foundation

Aidan (Educator in the Koala Room) will be shaving his hair to raise funds for the Leukemia Foundation. Please support this good cause by donating money. Please refer to information in the foyer on how to do so. Thank you.

Grant Approved

The service has received a \$10,000 grant to purchase inclusion resources.

Changes to Child Care Subsidy

Please refer to the document attached for information about changes to child care subsidy, for e.g., what you need to know, what you need to do from January to June 2023.

What is the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)?

The Early Years Learning Framework, or EYLF, is a set of standards, practices and principles to guide early childhood educators with the education and development of children between the ages of 0-5 years old.

The framework was established by the Council of Australia Governments, in conjunction with the early childhood sector.

It is based on evidence indicating that the first years of a child's life are crucial with their ongoing learning and development. The EYLF makes up a key component of the National Quality Framework (NQF) governing childcare centres in Australia.

It is important to understand that the EYLF is not a curriculum. Instead, it is a combination of strategies and learning objectives that provide early childhood educators the ability to create their own educational programmes and experiences.

The Three Fundamental Concepts of the EYLF:

There are three overarching concepts characterising the lives of a child's development: belonging, being and becoming. From before a child is born, they are already creating connections with their family, community and culture. It is through these relationships, that children will experience their first opportunities to learn, and begin forming their own identities.

Belonging

Having a sense of belonging is critical for human existence, and even more so for young children. It is important that a child feels like they belong to their families, communities and within general society. It is through these relationships, that a child will start to form their own identity and establish the foundation of who they will eventually become.

Being

The act of being, essentially means letting children be children. Childhood is a time to explore the world and discover the ups and downs of life. It entails overcoming the general challenges of day-to-day life, and learning about themselves, as well as the world around them.

Becoming

The first years of a child's life involves an enormous amount of change. It will be the first time for everything, and as such play an integral part in shaping who they will become. This concept simply outlines the importance of growth in a child's development, and to accept that children are constantly changing.

Core Elements of the EYLF:

The EYLF consists of three interrelated elements: Principles, Practices, and Learning Outcomes that are essential for establishing education strategies and their curriculum. The curriculum includes all the actions and events the children experience, whether planned or spontaneous, that occur in an environment designed to foster their development and learning.

Principles

There are eight EYLF Principles to help guide educators. Established through a combination of research and contemporary theories, the principles focus on assisting individual children with their progress towards the Learning Outcomes.

1. Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships
2. Partnerships
3. Respect for diversity
4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives

5. Equity, inclusion and high expectations
6. Sustainability
7. Critical reflection and ongoing professional learning
8. Collaborative leadership and teamwork

Practices

This relates to how educators put their Principles into action. This could be through their time spent with the children, their families or the wider community. The EYLF promotes children's learning by drawing on a rich variety of pedagogical practices by:

1. Holistic, integrated and interconnected approaches
2. Responsiveness to children
3. Play-based learning and intentionality
4. Learning environments
5. Cultural responsiveness
6. Continuity of learning and transitions
7. Assessment and evaluation for learning, development and wellbeing

Learning Outcomes

The Learning Outcomes provide milestones for educators to identify achievements in a child's learning progress. The outcomes observable, and recognise that children learn in different ways, with varying capabilities. Over time children start to engage with more complex situations, which may be transferable to other environments. Educators should respond and guide each child differently in the pursuit of these outcomes.

1. Children have a strong sense of identity
2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world
3. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
4. Children are confident and involved learners
5. Children are effective communicators

What is a Child's Learning Portfolio?

A portfolio is a record of the child's process of learning: what they have learnt and how, through a collection of various assessments and documentation, that reflects a child's progress of development and learning.

Portfolios are a journey of a child's learning and development in a visual way.

Portfolios are considered the most common form of documentation to show families their child's progress throughout the year and then given to families to take home at the end of the year.

What are the Benefits of a Portfolio?

- Portfolios provide assessment information, gathered over time, allowing educators to monitor, support and reflect on a child's development, interests and to consider pathways for learning.
- Portfolios provide opportunities for families to engage with their child's learning journey and contribute their own observations and suggestions.
- Opportunities for children to revisit items in their portfolios invite learning conversations. It also allows recognition of their learning process, taking into account the whole child, including their interests, skills and their family's culture and activities.
- Portfolios capture valuable evidence of experiences of the child.

What will be included in a Portfolio?

Portfolios can include photos, learning stories, conversations, reflections, descriptions, developmental checklists, art work samples, child writing samples and family feedback forms.

The educators will aim to record one individual learning story and one group learning story for each child per term. The educators will also aim to collect one art work sample or one photo of a child's creation for each child per term.

The portfolio will also include a fortnightly curriculum reflection.

What is a Learning Story?

A learning story is the process of documenting a child's progress in a storytelling format. Essentially the learning story recognises and describes the child's learning processes through play. The narrative may include many details and describe how events unfold and how a child interacts with others during that process.

One of the key differences of a learning story compared to observational assessments is that the focus is on what the child can do rather than what they cannot do. The story focuses on exactly what the child does. This assessment tool can then be used to target future activities that will enhance the child's core strengths and assist further development.

The Range Children's Centre is continually striving to create a portfolio that reflects each child's learning and development. The educators would greatly appreciate feedback from families on the children's learning intentions, learning stories, and reflections shared.