



# Families and Children's Newsletter

August & September 2023

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Monday – Friday 7:00am – 6:00pm

## Upcoming Events for August 2023

4<sup>th</sup> of August: **National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day**

**Jeans for Genes Day**

7<sup>th</sup> until 13<sup>th</sup> of August: **Dental Health Week**

9<sup>th</sup> of August: **International Day of the World's Indigenous People**

12<sup>th</sup> until 20<sup>th</sup> of August: **National Science Week**

16<sup>th</sup> until 22<sup>nd</sup> of August: **Keep Australia Beautiful Week**

19<sup>th</sup> until 25<sup>th</sup> of August: **Book Week**

Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of August: **Mister Ants Incursion (Blue Group)**

Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of September: **Mister Ants Incursion (Green Group)**, and Kookaburra Room

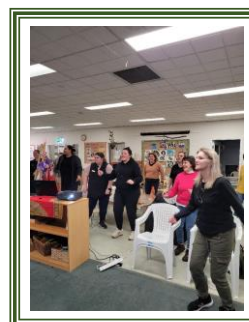
Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September: **Mister Ants Incursion (Red Group)** and **(Purple Group)**

Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of September: **AFL Grand Finale Public Holiday**



## Professional Development Training

The educators regularly engage in professional development to strengthen their skills and knowledge in educating and caring for children. On **Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July**, the educators engaged in training entitled Movers, which emphasised the importance of fostering children's physical development within the curriculum (experiences planned, daily routine and interactions initiated). On **Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of August**, the educators will participate in the second session of Pebble Time which focuses on music and movement.



## Change of Fees

On **Monday the 31<sup>st</sup> of July**, the fees for long day care were increased from \$128 to \$136. All families were informed about the increase in the fees via email or were given a soft copy letter.

The service is introducing **direct debit** as a method for families to pay their child's fees. By **January 2024**, the service will make a full transition to direct debit payments.

## Donations Needed

**Green Group** Kindergarten would really appreciate if families would donate old cameras and devices to assist the children to implement their project which focuses on photographer and the concept of past and present.



## Emergency Evacuation Drills

Once a month, the children practise an emergency evacuation drill to prepare them for a real scenario if it was to occur such as a fire.

On **Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of August**, the children practised an emergency evacuation drill where they left the service and met in the carpark.

Next month, the leadership team will plan another emergency evacuation drill where the children will walk down to the funeral home as this is the service's assembly point.



## Welcome to the Team

The Range Children's Service would like to welcome our newest cook, Sam who started on **Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of August**.



## Child Safe Standards

On the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.cryp.vic.gov.au](http://www.cryp.vic.gov.au)

**Standard 6:** People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

- The child safety and wellbeing requirements of each role are assessed before recruitment of new staff and volunteers. These include:
  - qualifications, experience and attributes required
  - duties and responsibilities with children
  - measures required to manage any child abuse or harm risks including screening, training and supervision requirements. (6.1)
- Information and guidance are provided to recruiting staff on how to prioritise child safety in the recruitment process, including how to identify and manage any child safety concerns raised through the application, interview and screening process. (6.1)
  - Recruitment processes include:
    - a range of values-based interview questions to establish suitability to work with children
    - pre-employment screening practices including referee checks, Working with Children Check and other registration or background checking
    - verification that required qualifications, registrations and Working with Children Check are valid and up-to-date
    - keeping records of the recruitment process. (6.1)
- Supervision and people management includes regular reviews to check whether staff are following Codes of Conduct and other child safe policies. (6.4)
- Guidance is provided for people managers on steps to take when managing staff or volunteers whose behaviour raises child safety concerns. (6.4)
- Qualifications, Working with Children Check and other registration or ongoing screening checks are regularly reviewed for changes and that they are still valid. Action is taken to manage the risks to children when a person's qualifications, Working with Children Check or other registration or ongoing screening check are no longer valid. (6.2)
- Staff and volunteers receive an induction adjusted to each role's requirements, duties, risks and responsibilities in relation to child safety and wellbeing. The induction covers the organisation's child safety practices and complaints process as well as reporting, record keeping and information sharing obligations. (6.3)



## Summative Assessments

The week beginning **Monday the 31<sup>st</sup> of July**, the educators began giving out the summative assessments for each child. The summative assessments provide a summary on children's development and learning, focusing on the Five Learning Outcomes within the Early Years Learning Framework.

Families, please take your time to read the assessment, and complete the survey which asks for feedback about the overall education and care the service delivers. The survey also asks families to identify two individual learning intentions (Goals) for their child for a 6-month period (July until December). Families were also given a feedback form which asks for their opinion about the summative assessments (strengths and areas of improvement).

**Please return the survey and feedback form to the educators as soon as possible.**



## eSafety for Children and Families

### Screen time

**Signs that your child's online activity may be having a negative impact on them or on your family include:**

- less interest in social activities like meeting friends or playing sport
  - not doing so well at school
- tiredness, sleep disturbance, headaches, eye strain
  - changes in eating patterns
  - reduced personal hygiene
- obsession with particular websites or games
- extreme anger when being asked to take a break from online activity
- appearing anxious or irritable when away from the computer
- becoming withdrawn from friends and family.



## Street Library

A big thank you to Jarrod (Raphael's Dad) for building the service a new and improved street library. We really appreciate all the time and effort you spend to complete the project.

## Road Safety Education and Car Park Safety

### Child Restraints

#### Children under 6 months

Children aged under 6 months must use a rear facing child restraint.

#### Children aged 6 months to 4 years

Children aged 6 months to under 4 years must use either:

- a rear facing child restraint, or
- a forward-facing child restraint with an inbuilt harness.



Children of this age grow at different rates. Therefore, you need to choose the type of restraint that is best for your child's size. Even if your child is 6 months old, they may not be ready to travel in a forward-facing child restraint. We recommend you keep your child in their rear facing restraint until they are too big for it.

#### Front or back seat?

Children under the age of 4 years must only travel in the back seat of a vehicle.

If your vehicle does not have a back seat (e.g., a ute) they can travel in the front seat if they are in a child restraint. However, rear facing child restraints can't be used in the front seat if it has an airbag.

#### Booster seats

Children aged 4 years to less than 7 years must use either:

- a forward-facing child restraint with an inbuilt harness, or
- a booster seats.

Children grow at different rates and there can be big differences in their heights and weights. Therefore, you can choose the type of restraint that is best for your child's size.

Even if your child is 4 years old, they may not be ready to travel in a booster seat. We recommend you keep your child in their forward-facing restraint with an inbuilt harness until they are too big for it and then move to a booster seat.

#### Front or back seat?

Children aged 4 years old to under 7 years old can only sit in the front seat if all of the back seats are taken by other passengers under 7 years old.

If your vehicle does not have a back seat (e.g., a ute) they can travel in the front seat if they are in a child restraint.

### Never Leave Children in Cars

#### Risk of heatstroke and dehydration

- a child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adults'
- even on a mild day, the temperature inside a parked car can be 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the temperature outside
  - when it's 30 degrees outside, a child could be suffering in up to 60-degree heat
  - leaving the windows down has little effect on the inside temperature of the car
    - large cars heat up as quickly as smaller cars.

#### Cost to families

In Victoria, it is against the law to leave a child unattended in a car. Penalties include:

- fines, or
- up to six months' jail.

However, the cost to families can be far higher. Children can die in hot cars and the risk is highest in summer.

#### Fatal distraction

Fatal distraction occurs when parents or carers unknowingly leave their child in a car. It is a condition that impacts short-term memory capacity and can lead to serious injury or, in extreme cases, the death of a child.

Short-term memory is used for temporary information, like reminding ourselves to pick up milk on the way home. When people become tired and stressed, short-term memory failure can cause habitual memory to take over.

For example, an exhausted parent may drive straight to work along their normal route rather than stopping to drop a child off at childcare, inadvertently leaving the child in the car when they arrive.

Fatal distraction can happen to anyone. The consequences can be devastating for parents and carers.

In recent times, there have been several incidents in Australia and around the world where parents or carers, believing a child to be elsewhere and safe, have unknowingly left a child in a car with tragic outcomes.

#### Prevent fatal distraction

There are some steps that people can work into daily routines to help lower the risk of inadvertently leaving a child in a hot car:

- open the back door of the car every time you park, even if there is no one in the back seat
  - place a child's bag or cuddly toy in the front seat as a reminder
  - leave a bag, phone or wallet in the back seat of the car
    - use a mirror for rear facing car seats
- create a mental list of things to check each time you leave the car, for example, 'baby, keys, wallet and phone'
  - install electronic controls that create an audio reminder.



NAIDOC Week- Theme- *“For our Elders”* - 2<sup>nd</sup> until 9<sup>th</sup> of July





# *Rhythm and Shake Incursion: Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> of July & Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of July.*







*National Pyjama Day: Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of July*

