



SEPTEMBER
2020

ON *this* MONTH

AT SERVICE NAME

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Indigenous Literacy Day -----	2
Father's Day -----	6
Child Protection Week -----	6-12

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Wattle Day -----	1
Save the Koala Month -----	1-30
National Flag Day -----	3
International Literacy Day -----	8
Sea Week -----	12 - 18
Talk like a Pirate Day -----	19
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Director

News

Over the past few weeks and in the coming weeks and months you will begin to see some changes as I begin to add my touches to the Centre. We have had trades working hard to create a new feel to the Centre and this will continue over coming months as we regenerate our space for the children. Please be sure to follow our Facebook page as I will be adding our changes as we go.

At GRELC our Educators have been working hard behind the scenes participating in professional development sessions. The Educators are upskilling in their knowledge to better document the children's learning and support their behaviours.

If you would like to make a time to speak to your child's Teacher regarding their learning please contact us and we will organise a time.

In the meantime, be sure to keep up to date with the Monthly newsletters form the rooms and My Family Lounge.

Happy Spring Everyone, Bec





EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS' DAY – SEPTEMBER 2

Early Childhood Educators' Day recognises and celebrates the work of Australia's educators in early learning services for their wonderful contribution to the wellbeing and healthy development of the young children in their care.

It's a chance to say thank you to Australia's early childhood educators on a very personal level by service operators, families and their children, as well as collectively at the national level.

Find our more here.

WORLD RIVERS DAY – SEPTEMBER 27

World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of our rivers, strives to increase public awareness, and encourages the improved stewardship of all rivers around the world. **Where is your local river? Find out more here.**

STRAWBERRY MUFFINS WITH CITRUS HONEY GLAZE



INGREDIENTS

Muffins

- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup (180 ml) lightly flavoured olive oil
- 1 cup Greek (or natural) yoghurt
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste (OR extract)
- 1 cup buckwheat flour (OR 1 cup plain wholemeal flour)
- 1 cup plain wholemeal flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- pinch of salt
- 1 cup (fresh or frozen) strawberries, PLUS extra strawberries sliced, to decorate
- zest and juice of 1 orange

Glaze

- 1 tablespoon honey
- Juice and zest 1 orange
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla bean paste (or extract)
- 1/2 cup icing sugar, sifted

METHOD: Muffins **Preheat oven** to 180 C, line a 12-hole muffin tin with papers. Set aside. **Place the eggs**, oil, yoghurt, sugar and vanilla into a large bowl and whisk to combine. **Add** the buckwheat flour, plain flour, baking powder and salt and using a wooden spoon gently stir to combine. Do not over mix. **Gently fold** through the strawberries and orange zest and juice. **Evenly divide** the mixture between the prepared tin. **Top** each muffin with a slice of strawberry. **Bake** for 10-12 minutes or until a skewer inserted removes cleanly. **Cool** for 5-10 minutes before placing on a wire rack to cool completely.

Glaze - Place the honey, orange juice, zest and vanilla into a small bowl and whisk to combine. **Add** the icing sugar and stir until smooth. **Drizzle** glaze over the cooled muffins. Serve immediately.

Recipe and Image from 'mylovelylittlelunchbox.com'

App reviews

A mixed bag of apps to keep pre-schoolers entertained and learning.



THE LORAX

Oceanhouse Media | AGE 4+ | \$9.99

If you care about the environment and want your child to care too, then the Lorax App is a no-brainer. The classic Dr. Seuss book comes to life with this app thanks to its interactive activities and exquisite animation. The app has won the Academic Choice "Smart Choice Media" award as well as the Parents' Choice Award Silver Honour award. The story is about how industrialisation destroys environments and this app teaches environmental awareness in a very approachable way.

BANDIMAL

YATATOY | AGE 3 to Adult | \$5.99

BANDIMAL is a fun and intuitive music composer that lets kids discover the creative world of making music. Set up a drum loop, swipe through animals to change instruments, compose melodies, change loop speeds and add a quirky effect on top. Amusing animals animate in hilarious ways as you perfect your song.

WORLD OF PEPPA PIG

Entertainment One | AGE 3 – 5 | FREE

The World of Peppa Pig app offers your family a safe and ad-free environment, filled with lots of learning and fun!

Tailored towards the development of pre-schoolers, there are plenty of games, videos and activities for your little ones to enjoy and grow with.



FOCUS: This year isn't ideal, but let's make the best of it!

My father has helped me around many twists in life's road with his saying, "What's real isn't always what's ideal, and what's ideal is rarely real." I've never felt it more applicable or helpful than while parenting and educating during COVID-19. Things are not ideal in many, fundamental ways, and yet here we are. Though hopefully not forever, this is our reality, and probably will be for a while.

This begs big questions for parents and educators alike—do we anchor on what is ideal or on what is real as we support our kids during such a wild time? Do we hold kids precious and protect them from this reality, or do we help them to navigate within and adapt to it? Which will help them to thrive more in the long term?

My vote: Let go of 'ideal' and parent for real.

In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or to step back into safety. —Abraham Maslow

Kids will roll with it if you let them.

Humans—especially wee ones—are naturally quite resilient, adaptable and hopeful. Kids don't rage against reality like we adults often do—they tend to roll with things, especially if we give them the okay and support to do so.

Kids don't suffer the loss of the ideal

Many of us are torn between the ideal and real—between taking and foregoing chances to help kids adjust to this moment. It's a hard balance to strike. Many people are leaning into this new normal and bringing their children along, showing them how to learn new ways of doing things and make this new reality work. On the other hand, I have heard equally caring adults grow fiercely attached to an ideal view of life for kids.

For example, I've heard people say that it would be psychologically damaging to ask a child to keep social distance from a friend or loved one. For sure, it feels neither natural nor easy for kids to hold back from being close and even embracing one another or their elders. Again, as an early childhood educator, I would certainly not advise it under normal circumstances. That desire to touch is a sweet feature of our early days on the planet. It is also understandable that educators and parents alike find it easier *not* to ask kids to even try, especially if you live in a place where you may be judged when your child needs reminders or practice.



But is it really damaging to ask kids to learn to keep close to family while keeping a 6-foot bubble from others? Really? The alternative to asking kids to learn to keep social distance can mean isolation from friends and family, lost chances to be among other people and feel part of a community. For many families, that would also mean not seeing grandparents who are at risk. Is that a better option? And what lesson does avoiding these social encounters teach our kids?

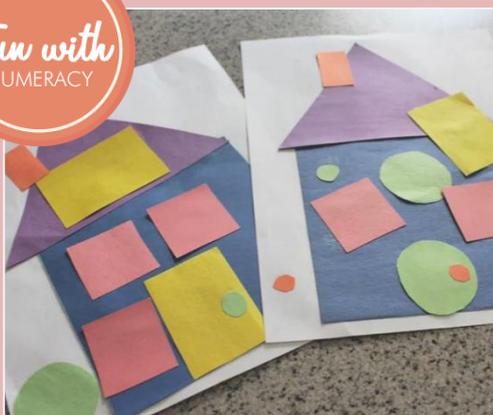
Let's put ideal in our back pocket and parent for real

"Challenges are gifts that force us to search for a new centre of gravity. Don't fight them. Just find a new way to stand." —Oprah Winfrey

So much of how our kids adapt to new challenges is how we present and respond to those challenges. That has never been more true than it is now.

Let's never lose sight of what is ideal. Let's agree to look forward to days when it's easier, more natural and more free to let our kids be and play like kids have long been able to do. But, let's not let the ideal be the enemy of all of the good lessons and good chances to be together that are real in this moment.

(This article was edited to fit into the constraints of this newsletter. To read the article in full follow the link below. Fitzgerald, Meghan. (2020). *Motherly: To families starting school: This year isn't ideal, but let's make the best of it.* Retrieved from <https://www.mother.ly/child/how-to-model-resilience-during-pandemic>



SHAPE HOUSES

Children begin to recognise and name shapes around 2 years old. Simply naming shapes you see around your home or out and about is a great way to build their understanding. These houses are a really easy and low-prep shape activity. You can easily put them together with supplies that you most likely already have at home. Simply cut out a range of shapes from different coloured paper. Include a big rectangle or square for the main part of the house, and a large triangle for the roof. (Of course, like with all art activities there is no right or wrong way to do it, a triangle house is just as perfect as a square one.) As your child/ren create their homes ask them which shape they have decided to use for a roof, the windows. Make real world connections by asking them 'What shape are our windows in this house?' Use glue to stick the shape house together. **Find more early literacy activities here**



HEALTH & SAFETY: Immune Health

Immune health and the technical terms that go along with it, are being spoken about and referred to now more than ever. But what do they exactly mean and why is it so important?

What Is the Immune System? The immune system is the body's defence against infections. The immune (ih-MYOOON) system attacks germs and helps keep us healthy.

What Are the Parts of the Immune System? Many cells and organs work together to protect the body. White blood cells, also called **leukocytes** (LOO-kuh-sytes), play an important role in the immune system. Some types of white blood cells, called **phagocytes** (FAH-guh-sytes), chew up invading organisms. Others, called **lymphocytes** (LIM-fuh-sytes), help the body remember the invaders and destroy them. One type of phagocyte is the **neutrophil** (NOO-truh-fil), which fights bacteria. When someone might have bacterial infection, doctors can order a blood test to see if it caused the body to have lots of neutrophils. Other types of phagocytes do their own jobs to make sure that the body responds to invaders. The two kinds of lymphocytes are **B lymphocytes** and **T lymphocytes**.

Lymphocytes start out in the bone marrow and either stay there and mature into B cells, or go to the thymus gland to mature into T cells. B lymphocytes are like the body's military intelligence system — they find their targets and send defences to lock onto them. T cells are like the soldiers — they destroy the invaders that the intelligence system finds.

How Does the Immune System Work? When the body senses foreign substances (called antigens), the immune system works to recognise the antigens and get rid of them. B lymphocytes are triggered to make **antibodies** (also called **immunoglobulins**). These proteins lock onto specific antigens. After they're made, antibodies usually stay in our bodies in case we have to fight the same germ again. That's why someone who gets sick with a disease, like chickenpox, usually won't get sick from it again.

This is also how immunisations (vaccines) prevent some diseases. An immunisation introduces the body to an antigen in a way that doesn't make someone sick. But it does let the body make antibodies that will protect the person from future attack by the germ.

Although antibodies can recognize an antigen and lock onto it, they can't destroy it without help. That's the job of the T cells. They destroy antigens tagged by antibodies or cells that are infected or somehow changed. (Some T cells are actually called



"killer cells.") T cells also help signal other cells (like phagocytes) to do their jobs.

Antibodies also can: **Neutralise toxins** (poisonous or damaging substances) produced by different organisms. **Activate a group of proteins** called complement that are part of the immune system. Complement helps kill bacteria, viruses, or infected cells.

These specialised cells and parts of the immune system offer the body protection against disease. This protection is called immunity. Humans have three types of immunity — **innate, adaptive, and passive:**

Innate immunity: Everyone is born with innate (or natural) immunity, a type of general protection. For example, the skin acts as a barrier to block germs from entering the body. And the immune system recognizes when certain invaders are foreign and could be dangerous.

Adaptive immunity: Adaptive (or active) immunity develops throughout our lives. We develop adaptive immunity when we're exposed to diseases or when we're immunised against them with vaccines.

Passive immunity: Passive immunity is "borrowed" from another source and it lasts for a short time. For example, antibodies in a mother's breast milk give a baby temporary immunity to diseases the mother has been exposed to.

For more information on immune health see:

<https://drwillcole.com/functional-medicine/8-ways-to-naturally-boost-your-childs-immune-system>

<https://www.superhealthykids.com/recipes/top-10-immune-system-boosting-foods-kids-ideas-recipes/>

Hirsch, Larissa (2019). Kidshealth.com, Immune System, retrieved from <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/immune.html>



THE SEA | Did you know September 12 – 18 is 'Sea Week'? It is Australia's major national public awareness campaign to focus community awareness, provide information and encourage an appreciation of the sea. Here are a few activities you can do with your children to build their appreciation of the sea!

Do you live near the ocean? Visiting the sea provides endless opportunities for discovery. Next time you are at the beach take time to actually talk about: What lives in the ocean, what the animals in the ocean eat, whether the water is salty (taste it). Look in rock pools and talk about what you can see and what might live there.

Look closely at shells, who and what might use shells? Take a bag and collect rubbish safely. When you find old fishing line or plastic, explain to your children what these items can do to sea life.

Even if you don't live near the ocean you can still talk about all these points. You may have another waterway near you, you can visit. Or use YouTube to help children visualise the topics you're talking about.

There are some brilliant activities you can try [here](#)





SNAILS TAKE THE LONGEST NAPS!

They can sleep for up to 3 years!

RANDOM FACTS THAT YOU WON'T BELIEVE ARE TRUE.

Do you have a child who absolutely loves random facts? These are some of the facts that our kids have thought were hilarious. They didn't believe they were true!

1. Kangaroos cannot walk backwards.
2. Sea Lions have rhythm. They are the only animal known to be able to clap in beat.
3. While you sleep you can't smell anything, even really, really bad or potent smells.
4. Your brain uses 10 watts of energy to think, and does not feel pain.
5. Glass balls can bounce higher than rubber ones.
6. The smallest country in the world takes up .2 square miles, it is the Vatican City.
7. Hippopotamus milk is pink.
8. Your fingernails grow faster when you are cold.
9. Applesauce was the first food eaten in space by astronauts.
10. The average person spends two weeks of their life waiting at traffic lights.
11. Don't like mosquitos? Get a bat. They eat 3,000 insects a night.
12. A typical cough is 60 mph, a sneeze is often faster than 100 mph.
13. There are 31,556,926 seconds in a year.
14. Cans of diet soft drink will float in water; regular soft drink cans will sink.
15. On Venus, the planet, it rains metal.
16. Baby koalas are fed poo by their parents after they are born, this helps them digest Eucalyptus leaves later in life.
17. Cows can walk upstairs, but not down them.

Source: kidsactivitiesblog.com/76701/50-random-facts/

Staff Update

You may have seen some new faces around when you have been dropping off or collecting your children, we would like to introduce Shannon and Andrea.

Andrea has a wealth of knowledge after being with her previous centre for several years in a Team Leader position. Andrea as well has travelled to Reggio Emilia and has worked closely with her previous Centre implementing many of the things that she discovered in Reggio for her Centre and into her everyday practices.

Shannon has joined our team and is studying her Diploma in Early Childhood Education. Shannon has already demonstrated the benefits of her experience and we look forward to her settling into the team in the coming months.

Early Educators Day 2020

On the 2nd of September we celebrated Early Childhood Educators Day, this is a day where we celebrate all the dedication and work that our educators do around the clock to support the children's learning and development. Please make the effort to share your appreciation with the team via Facebook or as you see them in coming days.



Get Up & Move Dice Game

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

Make two giant dice out of boxes. On one, write action words like "jump, climb, run." On the other, write direction words like "in a circle, like a monkey, forward." Throw the dice and do what they instruct. ("Jump like a monkey.") This will get you moving too!

For full instructions, **visit Growing a Jeweled Rose.**