

HAWTHORN ST.

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Newsletter – September 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our monthly Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre newsletter! We have a busy and exciting month ahead, filled with wonderful opportunities to connect and celebrate the growth of our children. This month, we're thrilled to host our Portfolio Night, where you'll get a glimpse into the amazing work and progress your child has made. Additionally, we have our fun park playdate planned, providing a perfect chance for families to relax and enjoy some outdoor time together. We can't wait to share these special moments with you!

Your Feedback is Essential: We greatly appreciate your feedback and suggestions, as they help us continually improve. We also love the family feedback and photos shared on our Facebook page, showcasing your weekend adventures. This input enhances our ability to enrich the learning experiences of our children.

Open Door Policy: Remember that our doors are always open for you. If you ever have questions, concerns, or simply want to chat, please don't hesitate to contact us, or drop by for a visit.

Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of caring for and nurturing your child. We look forward to a month filled with warmth, learning, and the joy of watching your children flourish.

Warm regards,

Claire Hayward
Nominated Supervisor
Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre



Upcoming Events and Reminders Save the Dates

Park play dates: Connect & Enjoy!
Saturday 21st September.

Portfolio nights: Discover Your Child's Progress
Tuesday 24th September

World Space Week Dates: 4th October – 10th October We'll be celebrating the wonders of space with special activities!

Preschool Library Excursion Dates: 17th October

Children's Week Dates: 19th October – 27th October This year's theme is based on Article 24 of the UNCRC: "Children have the right to a clean and safe environment." We have exciting activities planned all week long!

Day for Daniel Date: Friday, 25th October Wear red to support the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, promoting child safety education.

Grandparents Day Date: Monday, 28th October **Time:** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Grandparents are invited to join us for afternoon tea and activities with the children. A special day to celebrate our beloved grandparents!

Children's Christmas Party: Friday 29th November 2023, 6:15pm.

Preschool Graduation: Thursday 12th December

Preschool

Our preschoolers are exploring the concept of measurement through a variety of hands-on activities designed to enhance their understanding of size, length, volume, and weight. These activities allow children to investigate the world around them while building essential early math skills in a fun and interactive way.

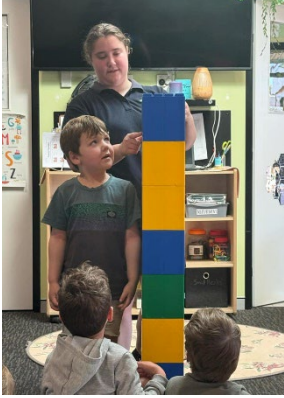
For example, children have been using blocks, measuring tapes, and everyday objects to compare lengths and heights.

This focus on measurement aligns with the National Quality Standard (NQS), **specifically Quality Area 1:**

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Educational Program and Practice. Our approach ensures that the learning experiences provided are both child-centred and responsive to their



developmental needs. By incorporating measurement activities, we support children's cognitive development and meet NQS standards by fostering curiosity, discovery, and early numeracy skills.

Additionally, these activities help promote the principles of

Quality Area 3:

Physical Environment,

as the children engage in both indoor and outdoor learning



spaces, making use of a variety of materials to explore measurement in diverse contexts. Through these experiences, they are developing not only foundational math skills but also a deeper connection with their environment, all while adhering to the expectations set out by the NQS.

Junior Preschool

This month, our Junior Preschool children at Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre have been diving into the fascinating world of animals! Through a variety of hands-on activities, the children are expanding their knowledge about different species, their habitats, and the ways animals contribute to our environment. This exploration supports their cognitive development, encourages empathy, and fosters a sense of connection with the natural world.

Activities We've Enjoyed:

Interactive Storytime: The children listened to stories about animals from various environments—farm, jungle, ocean, and desert—enhancing their understanding of how different creatures live.



Animal Sorting: Using toy animals, the children practiced sorting by different criteria, such as size, habitat, and diet. This activity helps develop problem-solving skills and categorisation techniques.

Animal Craft Projects: The children created animal

masks and paper plate animal faces, tapping into their creativity and fine motor skills.

Sing-Alongs and Movement: Through animal-themed songs and dances, the children practiced gross motor skills while pretending to be animals, hopping like kangaroos, crawling like turtles, and flying like birds.

This learning experience connects with several elements of the NQS:

Quality Area 1 –

Educational Program and Practice:

The activities are designed based on the children's interests in animals, promoting play-based learning that supports exploration and inquiry (Element 1.1.2). **Quality Area 3 – Physical**

Environment: Our use of varied materials and animal habitats in both indoor and outdoor environments aligns with Element 3.2.1, ensuring children are actively engaged in learning about sustainability and respect for their surroundings. **Quality Area 5 –**

Relationships with Children: The interactions during animal-themed activities fostered a sense of belonging and collaboration, as the children shared their discoveries and worked together in group settings (Element 5.2.1).



Through these animal-related activities, we're nurturing curiosity, encouraging empathy, and laying the foundation for a lifelong love of learning about the world around them. We can't wait to see how these explorations evolve in the coming weeks!

Toddler 3: Growing Stronger Through Movement!



Our Toddler 3 group has been enthusiastically participating in a range of physical activities that

promote both fine and gross motor development. From **Alphabet Yoga** to **Ball Skills**, our toddlers are building confidence in their physical abilities while learning important foundational skills.

Alphabet Yoga: Each day, our toddlers engage in a fun and interactive yoga session where they move their bodies into poses that resemble different letters of the alphabet. This activity not only introduces them to letters in a playful, physical way, but it also improves their balance, flexibility, and body awareness. The children are loving the challenge of "being a letter" and finding creative ways to mimic different shapes with their bodies.



Ball Skills: Our toddlers are also practicing various ball skills, such as rolling, catching, and kicking. These activities are designed to strengthen hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness, and gross motor skills. Whether it's playing a simple game of catch with soft balls or aiming to roll a ball towards a specific target, the children are developing important coordination and muscle control while having fun.

These physical activities contribute to several key areas of the NQS: **Quality Area 1 – Educational Program and Practice:** The Alphabet Yoga and Ball Skills activities are thoughtfully planned to meet the developmental needs of our toddlers, promoting physical, cognitive, and social skills in a play-based environment (Element 1.1.1). We ensure the activities are responsive to their interests and abilities, fostering active learning. **Quality Area 2 – Children's Health and Safety:** By focusing on physical activities, we're supporting the children's physical health and well-being. The structured movement sessions contribute to the children's fine and gross motor development while encouraging active play and physical health (Element 2.1.3). **Quality Area 5 – Relationships with Children:** The collaborative nature of these physical activities encourages teamwork and shared learning experiences, fostering positive social interactions and helping to build respectful relationships with peers (Element 5.2.1).



Through these enjoyable and developmentally appropriate physical activities, our Toddler 3 children are gaining valuable skills that

support their physical development while laying a strong foundation for lifelong health and learning.

Toddler 2 Building Fine Motor Skills Through Creative Play!

Our Toddler 2 group at Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre has been busy enhancing their fine motor skills through a variety of engaging and creative activities. From painting and gluing to learning how to hold pencils properly, these experiences are helping our toddlers develop the small muscle movements needed for tasks such as writing, drawing, and self-care.

Our toddlers are spending lots of time painting with different tools, such as paintbrushes, sponges, and even their fingers! These activities are not only sparking their creativity but are also helping them to improve their hand-eye coordination and control over fine motor movements.

Whether it's creating abstract shapes or experimenting with different colours, the children are learning to control their strokes and movements.

As part of our fine motor development program, the children are being gently introduced to the concept of pencil grip. Through simple drawing exercises using chunky crayons and pencils, they are practicing holding writing tools correctly, which sets the foundation for future writing skills. The toddlers are proud of their early scribbles and drawings, all while building important pre-writing skills.



These fine motor skill activities are crucial in helping our Toddler 2 group build the foundations for more complex tasks, from writing and drawing to self-care routines like dressing and feeding themselves. We're excited to watch them continue to grow and refine their skills in the months ahead!

Toddler 1

Toddler 1 group has been eagerly engaging in a variety of matching activities. These activities focus on helping children recognise and pair objects by colours, animals, and other simple categories. Matching activities are a great way to develop early cognitive and problem-solving skills while supporting the children's sense of curiosity and discovery.



Quality Area 1 – Educational Program and Practice:



The focus on fine motor activities, like painting, gluing, and practicing pencil grip, promotes the children's individual learning and development (Element 1.1.1). These activities are specifically designed to nurture their growing independence and creativity while

encouraging them to explore new tools and materials.

Quality Area 3 – Physical Environment: Our well-planned art stations provide a stimulating environment where children can experiment with different materials in a safe and accessible way. The variety of materials and tools used (brushes, crayons, glue, etc.) supports fine motor development through sensory exploration (Element 3.2.1).

Quality Area 5 – Relationships with Children: During these creative sessions, the children often collaborate and share materials, fostering positive social interactions. Through guided activities, educators support the children's emotional and social development by encouraging turn-taking, sharing, and expressing their creativity together (Element 5.2.1).

Colour Matching: The children are learning to identify and match different colours using various materials such as coloured blocks, toys, and flashcards. This activity helps them recognise patterns and categorise objects based on their attributes. It also enhances their understanding of the concept of colour, which is essential for future learning in art and literacy.

Animal Matching: Our toddlers have been enjoying matching animal figures to pictures or habitats. They've been learning to associate animals with their corresponding sounds or environments, such as



matching a cow to a farm or a fish to the ocean. This not only builds cognitive skills but also fosters an early understanding of the natural world and how animals live. **Shape Matching:** The children are also working on matching simple shapes such as circles, squares, and triangles. This helps them begin to understand geometric concepts while developing their spatial awareness and fine motor control.



Quality Area 1 – Educational Program and Practice: The matching activities are designed to be engaging and appropriate

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for the developmental stage of the Toddler 1 group. These play-based learning experiences are focused on fostering inquiry and cognitive development through exploration and discovery (Element 1.1.2).

Quality Area 3 – Physical Environment: The carefully prepared learning environment supports exploration and learning through play. Our indoor spaces are equipped with materials that encourage the children to engage in matching activities, supporting cognitive and fine motor development in a safe, organised environment (Element 3.2.1). **Quality Area 5 – Relationships with Children:** Educators work closely with the children during matching activities, providing gentle guidance and encouragement as they explore different ways to categorise and match objects. This strengthens the child-educator bond and promotes a sense of belonging (Element 5.1.2), as children feel supported in their learning journey.

Nursery 3 Exploring Nature and Creativity!



Our Nursery 3 group have been taking full advantage of the beautiful weather, enjoying outdoor experiences that have sparked their curiosity and strengthened their friendships. Recently, the children went on a fun and exciting excursion to see a Rhino, where they observed

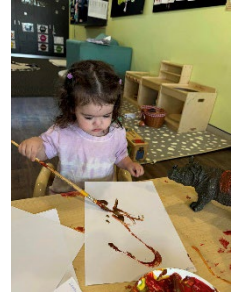
the animal up close. After returning, they expressed their excitement and creativity by painting their own rhino masterpieces!

Rhino Painting: Inspired by their excursion, the children brought the rhino back to life through painting. Using various brushes and colours, they created beautiful rhino artwork, allowing them to express their creativity and reinforce what they learned during the outing. This activity also supported their fine motor skills and sensory exploration. Throughout these experiences, the children have been building stronger social connections. Whether it was during the excitement of seeing the rhino or working together at



the painting table, the children have been sharing their experiences and growing closer as friends. This bonding is important for their social and emotional development, helping them learn cooperation, communication, and empathy.

Quality Area 1 – Educational Program and Practice: The excursion and follow-up painting activity were designed to extend the children's learning in a meaningful and engaging way (Element 1.1.1). The hands-on, real-world learning about the rhino and then expressing it through art supports holistic development. **Quality Area 3 – Physical Environment:** Both the outdoor excursion and the creative activity inside offer rich learning environments (Element 3.2.1). The natural world and the indoor art space are both important in helping children explore, discover, and create connections with the world and with each other. **Quality Area 5 – Relationships with Children:**

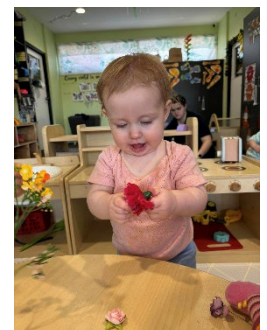


The shared experiences of the excursion and painting have fostered stronger friendships and social skills (Element 5.2.1). Through these group activities, children are developing a sense of belonging and learning to work collaboratively, deepening their connections with their peers.

Nursery 2

The children in Nursery 2 have been engaging in a wide range of physical activities while also exploring the natural world around them. From learning to tumble, balance, and jump to discovering colours and patterns in nature, the children are developing both physically and cognitively as they interact with their environment.

Tumbling, Balancing, and Jumping: The Nursery 2 children have been practicing important gross motor skills through a series of fun physical activities. Tumbling mats, balance beams, and obstacle courses



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have been set up to help them gain confidence in their ability to move, balance, and coordinate their bodies.

These activities are vital for developing core strength, coordination, and body awareness.

During outdoor play, the children have been encouraged to look for different colours and patterns in nature. Whether it's the vibrant green leaves, the delicate petals of flowers, or the patterns on tree bark and stones, these activities are helping children



develop their observation skills, an early form of scientific inquiry. By exploring nature, they are also beginning to understand the beauty and diversity of their surroundings.

Quality Area 1 – Educational Program and Practice: The combination of physical play

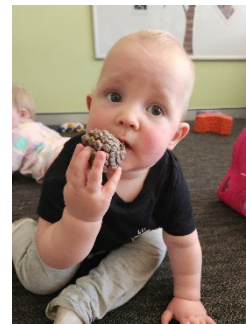
and nature exploration provides a well-rounded, play-based learning experience (Element 1.1.1). The activities are designed to be both developmentally appropriate and responsive to the children's natural curiosity and growing physical abilities. **Quality Area 2 – Children's Health and Safety:** Encouraging children to engage in physical activity not only supports their motor development but also promotes overall health and well-being. Through tumbling, balancing, and jumping, they are improving their fitness and learning how to

Nursery 1

The babies in Nursery 1 have been engaging in sensory-rich activities that allow them to connect with nature. By playing with leaves, pine cones, and bottles filled with bark chips, the babies are exploring textures, sounds, and materials from the natural environment, stimulating their senses and encouraging curiosity. The babies have loved the tactile experience of crumpling, rubbing, and even throwing leaves. This simple activity helps them explore different textures, from soft and crunchy to smooth and rough, while also introducing them to the sensory joys of nature. We've also introduced pine cones and bottles filled with bark chips into their play, allowing the babies to explore objects with various

shapes, weights, and textures. Shaking the bottles filled with bark creates sounds that stimulate their auditory senses, adding another layer to their sensory exploration.

We have set up nature-themed sensory bins where the babies can dig, touch, and feel a variety of natural materials. These sensory activities provide a rich opportunity for the babies to explore the world around them using their hands, mouths, and eyes, all key components of early cognitive and sensory development.



Quality Area 1 – Educational Program and Practice:

The use of natural materials in sensory play is intentionally planned to provide the babies with opportunities to explore and engage in a play-based learning environment (Element 1.1.1). This tactile exploration helps develop early cognitive and sensory processing skills. **Quality Area 2 – Children's Health and Safety:** All sensory play activities are conducted in a safe and supervised environment, ensuring the materials used are appropriate and that the children are safe as they explore (Element 2.1.2). The sensory experience also supports their health by allowing them to interact with the natural world, which is beneficial for their well-being. **Quality Area 3 – Physical Environment:** Our play spaces are designed to incorporate natural elements, encouraging children to engage with their surroundings in a meaningful way (Element 3.2.1). By bringing nature into their everyday play, we are fostering a sense of wonder and



connection to the natural environment. **Quality Area 5 – Relationships with Children:**

Educators actively support the babies during sensory play by encouraging exploration and gently guiding them through the experience. This nurturing approach helps build trust and strengthens the bond between the children and educators (Element 5.1.1).

Through these sensory experiences with natural materials, our Nursery 1 babies are developing important sensory and cognitive skills while enjoying the beauty and wonder of nature!

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Join Our Team!

Are you passionate about early childhood education? Do you have a positive attitude and a great work ethic? Join our dedicated team and make a difference in the lives of young children!

Position: + Early Years Educators
+ Room Leader

What We Offer:

- **Paid First Aid Training:** Ensure you are prepared for any situation with comprehensive first aid training, fully funded by us.
- **Monthly Social Events:** Participate in social events that promote wellness and wellbeing, fostering a supportive and enjoyable work environment.
- **Professional Development:** We prioritise your growth by providing opportunities for continued education and career advancement.

What You Need to Succeed:

- **Positive Attitude:** Bring enthusiasm and a can-do spirit to inspire and engage young children.
- **Great Work Ethic:** Demonstrate dedication, responsibility, and a commitment to excellence in all your tasks.
- **Team Player:** Collaborate effectively with colleagues, parents, and children, fostering a harmonious and productive environment.

If you are dedicated, reliable, and ready to be a part of a dynamic team that values professional growth and wellbeing, we want to hear from you!

Apply now and embark on a rewarding career in early years education. Together, we can create a nurturing and stimulating environment for the next generation.

Email: director@hawthornstreetelc.com.au

