

HAWTHORN ST.

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Newsletter – January 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new year at Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre. We are looking forward to another term of learning, growth and connection with your children and families.

As children move into new rooms, we are taking a slow and child-led transition approach. This means we work at your child's pace to ensure they feel safe, settled and comfortable with their new environment and educators. For some children this may take a day, for others it may take several weeks or even a month. There is no rush. What matters most is that your child feels secure and confident in their new room.

We will be saying a sad goodbye to our 2025 Preschool children as they head off to school. At the same time, it is exciting to welcome our Junior Preschool children as they step up into Preschool. Our toddler rooms will now be split into two groups, with children of similar ages learning together, allowing us to better support their developmental stage.

This year our curriculum continues to align with school-style Key Learning Areas including English, Mathematics, Science, Creative Arts, HSIE and PDHPE. We plan learning using Bloom's Taxonomy, which simply means we help children move from exploring and remembering ideas, to understanding, using, and eventually thinking more deeply about what they are learning. We look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Your Feedback Matters: We value your feedback and suggestions—they help us improve and enrich children's learning. We also love seeing the family photos and weekend adventures you share on our Facebook page.

Kind regards,
Claire Hayward
Nominated Supervisor
Hawthorn Street Early
Learning Centre



Save the Dates

Park Playdates: Saturday 25th April, Saturday 25th July, Saturday 17th October.

Portfolio Nights: Tuesday 21st April, Tuesday 21st July, Tuesday 13th October

Children's Christmas Party: Friday 27th November

Preschool Graduation: Thursday 9th December

Public Holiday Reminder!

Just a friendly reminder that at Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre, we are only closed on Public Holidays.

Australia Day: Monday 26th January 2026

Good Friday: Friday 3rd April

Easter Monday: Monday 6th April

Kings Birthday: Monday 8th June

Labour Day: Monday 5th October

Christmas Day: Friday 25th December

Boxing Day holiday: Monday 28th December.

Our Book "Babies in Groups"

Chapter 1: Changing the Story About Babies

Chapter 1 of *Babies in Groups* invites us to rethink what we believe about babies and how they grow. For a long time, babies have been seen as small, helpless individuals who mainly learn through one-to-one relationships with adults. This chapter gently challenges that idea.

Instead, it shows that babies are **born ready for group life**. From the very beginning, humans evolved to live in families, clans and communities. Babies notice others, respond to them, and are deeply aware of what is happening around them — not just with one adult, but with many people at once.

Research from around the world shows that children have always grown best when care is shared. Grandparents, siblings, extended family and community members have long played an important role in raising babies. Being surrounded by familiar

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people helps babies feel safe, curious and socially confident.

Chapter 1 also explains why group experiences matter. Living and learning together helps babies develop communication, emotional understanding and a sense of belonging. Babies are not waiting to be “taught” how to be social — they already are.

This chapter sets the foundation for understanding why early learning environments that value relationships, community and shared experiences are so important for children’s wellbeing and development.

If you’d like to read more, you can find the book “Babies in Groups” [Babies in Groups: Expanding Imaginations](#) | [Oxford Academic](#)



VACANCIES

We currently have a small number of **vacancies available across a few of our rooms** at Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre. If you have friends or family looking for quality early education and care, we’d love for you to spread the word. Whether it's for a baby, toddler, or preschool-aged child, we welcome new families to come and see the warm, nurturing, and engaging environment our centre offers. Please feel free to contact us for more information or to arrange a tour, contact us on 02 6884 3583 or email: info@hawthornstreetelc.com.au



We offer playdates for all children beginning at Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre. These visits provide an opportunity for you and your child to meet the educators in their room, begin building trusting relationships, and share any important information that will support a smooth transition into care.

