

HAWTHORN ST.

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Newsletter – March 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome to our March newsletter at Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre. The year is now well underway, and it has been wonderful to see the children settling into their rooms, building strong relationships with educators and developing new friendships.

As routines become familiar, we are seeing children grow in confidence and independence. Each day the children are exploring new experiences, following their interests and engaging in meaningful learning through play.

We would also like to warmly welcome Romina as our new Assistant Director at Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre. Romina has recently moved to Dubbo with her husband and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in early childhood education.



Romina is passionate about inclusive practices and creating nurturing, engaging environments where all children feel supported and valued. She strongly believes in play-based learning and enjoys

helping children build confidence, independence and a sense of belonging. Romina is looking forward to getting to know our children and families and becoming part of the Hawthorn Street community.

We appreciate the ongoing support and communication from our families. Working in partnership helps us provide a safe, nurturing and positive environment where every child can feel a strong sense of belonging.

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 18th 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.

Good Friday: Friday 3rd April

Easter Monday: Monday 6th April

Anzac Day: Monday 27th 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 2: Babies in Threes: More Social Than We Ever Imagined

Did you know that babies can form real group dynamics before their first birthday?

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In Chapter 2 of *Babies in Groups*, researchers studied babies sitting in small groups of three. What they discovered challenges the old idea that babies can only relate one-to-one with a single adult.

Even at eight or nine months old, babies were not just watching each other — they were responding, imitating, including, excluding, negotiating, and sometimes even showing early signs of jealousy.

For example, when one baby began holding her foot after her mother left the room, another baby copied her. What started as a self-comforting movement became part of a shared game. The meaning of the action changed within the group. This shows us something powerful: babies create meaning together.

The research also found that babies communicate in many ways at once. They use:

- Peripheral vision (they don't have to stare directly to notice someone)
- Vocal sounds and rhythm
- Facial expressions
- Gestures and pointing
- Touch (like "playing footsie")
- Body orientation

Because babies can combine all these channels, they can interact with more than one peer at the same time.

Perhaps most fascinating is that strong emotions appeared in these trios. Some babies preferred one peer over another. Some tried to "join in" when feeling left out. One baby even protested when attention shifted away from her.

These findings tell us that babies are capable of rich, complex social life much earlier than previously thought. They are not just forming attachments to adults — they are learning about belonging, fairness, attraction, and inclusion within peer groups.

At our centre, when babies sit together, watch each other, copy movements, or vocalise in chorus, something remarkable is happening: they are practising being part of a group.

And that begins long before words.

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.