

HAWTHORN ST.

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Newsletter – May 2026

Dear Families,

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our families for the wonderful turnout at our recent Park Play Date. It was so lovely to see everyone come together, enjoying the beautiful weather and spending quality time connecting with one another. Moments like these truly highlight the strong sense of community we have built together.

We also want to thank you for joining us at our Portfolio Night. It was such a pleasure sharing your children's learning journeys with you and celebrating their growth and achievements. Your ongoing support and engagement mean so much to us.

As we move into a new month, we look forward to another exciting period of teaching and learning. In early childhood, we are always reminded that learning is a shared journey—our educators learn just as much from the children as they learn from us. This reciprocal relationship is what makes each day so meaningful and enriching.

We feel incredibly grateful to be part of such a warm, supportive, and connected family community. Thank you for being such an important part of Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre.

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 July, Saturday 17th October.

Portfolio Nights: 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.

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 3: Did You Know Babies Love Being Together? What We've Learned Watching Them Grow, Play and Connect

As the owner of the centre and co-author of *Babies in Groups* with my good friends Ben Bradley, a retired Professor of Child Development, and Dr Jane Selby, a child psychologist, I wanted to share something we've come to deeply understand from working closely with babies every day. Babies don't just learn from adults, they learn from each other.

When babies are together, something quite amazing happens. They notice one another, make eye contact, move their bodies, reach out, vocalise, and slowly build little connections. What might look like simple play is actually the beginning of social relationships. Over time, these interactions form patterns, almost like a conversation, where babies take turns being the

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centre of attention, responding to each other in ways that are thoughtful and connected.

One of the most surprising things we've observed is just how aware babies are of the group around them. They're not only engaging with one child at a time, they're noticing multiple children, responding to different interactions, and even reacting when they feel left out or when others connect. These early experiences help babies build confidence, curiosity, and a sense of belonging.

We've also seen that babies bring their own little personalities and experiences into the group. Some try to make others laugh, some gently reach out to connect, and others watch carefully before joining in. All of this is part of how they learn to be with others.

What this tells us is that babies are naturally social, and being part of a group supports their development in ways we are only just beginning to fully understand. At our centre, we see every day how joyful, curious, and capable babies are when they are given the opportunity to be together. It's a wonderful reminder that learning starts from the very beginning and it starts with each other.

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



Learning & Curriculum – Term 2

Throughout Term 2, our learning experiences will focus on building children's knowledge, confidence, and curiosity across a range of meaningful areas.

We will be developing our storytelling and narrative skills, supporting children to express their ideas, share experiences, and build

confidence in communication through stories, songs, and imaginative play. Alongside this, we will be encouraging explaining skills, helping children to use reasoning and logic as they explore, question, and make sense of the world around them.

Our learning will also explore growth and change, as children begin to understand how people, plants, and living things develop over time. Through hands-on experiences, we will investigate music and sound, including opportunities for singing, movement, and dancing, allowing children to express themselves creatively.

We will continue to embed a strong focus on sustainability and the environment, encouraging children to care for their surroundings and develop an understanding of their role in protecting the world around them. Additionally, we will support children in building awareness of safety and risk management, helping them to recognise safe choices and develop confidence in managing everyday risks during play.



We look forward to another term of rich learning experiences, where children are supported to explore, discover, and grow in a safe and engaging environment.

