



St Catherine's

EARLY EDUCATION CENTRE



REFLECTING ON OUR TERM 1 JOURNEY BUILDING TRUST AND COMMUNITY

Dear St Catherine's Families,

Welcome to our Term 2 Newsletter! As we move through the year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the highlights of the past few months and share some important updates with you. It has been a busy and rewarding time at the centre, and we are excited to give you a glimpse into the work, learning, and community building that has been happening.

In this issue, you'll find:

- How we prioritise and uphold the safety and wellbeing of every child in our care
- A look back at some special events, including Harmony Week and our Kindergarten Information Night and more
- An update on our QIP (Quality Improvement Plan) goals and the progress we are making together in family engagement and sustainability
- Our new Community Library and a peek at what's to come during Book Fair Week

DID YOU KNOW?



We Have a Community Library!

It's a great way to support early literacy, reduce waste, and connect as a community. We'd love for you to get involved—happy reading!

Here's how it works:

- ✓ Take a book to enjoy at home with your child
- ✓ Leave a pre-loved children's book to share with others
- ✓ Return or pass on books when you're done

Coming Up...

11 May – Mother's Day

21 May – National Simultaneous Story time:
The Truck Cat written by Deborah Frenkel

19-23 May – Book Fair

23 May – Tea Gathering Book Fair

26 May – Beginning of National Reconciliation Week

June – Everything Australia!

This month, we are inviting children to explore and express their unique interpretations of Australian culture.

3 June – Mabo Day

honours the 1992 High Court decision recognising Indigenous land rights in Australia and pays tribute to Eddie Mabo's legacy.

6 Jun – Eid al-Adha

is an important Islamic holiday, celebrated with prayers, feasting, and charitable giving.

11 Jun – World Ocean Day

7 Jul – Beginning of NAIDOC Week

10 Jul – Teddy Bear Picnic

21 Jul – Beginning of Pyjama Week

 **JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE LATEST UPDATES!**



Ensuring the Safety of Children in Our Care Is Our Utmost Priority.

At St Catherine's, we want to reassure you by sharing the thoughtful and proactive steps we take every day to prioritise the safety, wellbeing, and development of your children.



What standards are we held to?

St Catherine's is proud to be **rated as Exceeding** the National Quality Standard by ACECQA. This reflects our ongoing commitment to high-quality practices across all areas of our service – from health and safety to relationships with children and leadership.



Who are the people caring for my child?

Our team includes educators and teachers with a range of qualifications, from Certificate III to Bachelor degrees, bringing a breadth of knowledge and experience. Most of our rooms are staffed with a mix of these qualifications to ensure both responsive care and strong educational programs. We also have a low staff turnover rate – over 50% of our educators have been with us for more than three years, and some for over a decade! We're also looking forward to welcoming Sabina back from maternity leave this coming June.



How do you ensure staff are actively engaged with children?

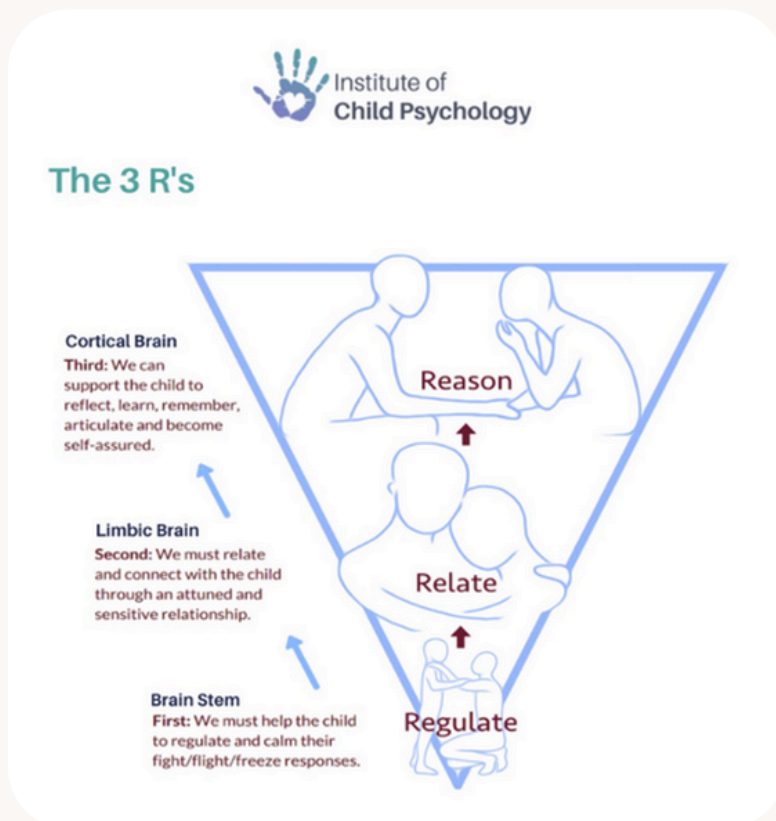
Authentic and uninterrupted interactions are at the heart of our daily work. You'll often see educators at the children's level – playing, listening, and engaging in meaningful conversation. We have a strict no personal phone policy in the classrooms, and all documentation and planning happen outside the rooms. This means when educators are with the children, they are fully present.

Ensuring the Safety of Children in Our Care Is Our Utmost Priority.

How do you support children's behaviour and emotional needs?

At St Catherine's, we view behaviour through a relationship-based lens. As shared by the Institute of Child Psychology (2023), barriers to emotional regulation in children include a lack of play, connection, and simplicity, as well as overstimulation and caregiver stress.

We use the 3 Rs approach — Regulate, Relate, Reason — to guide children through emotional challenges, helping them build long-term self-regulation skills. Challenging behaviours are seen as learning opportunities rather than something to “fix.”



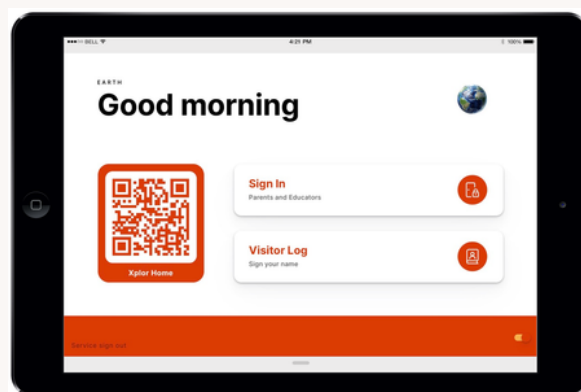
How do you create a safe and motivating learning environment?

Educators regularly reflect on and review our learning programs and physical environments to ensure they remain safe, inclusive, and engaging. We strive to provide spaces where children feel inspired, capable, and connected.



How can families support this?

One simple yet essential way families can help us keep children safe is by remembering to sign your child in and out each day. This ensures we have accurate records of who is on site and when, which is critical in an emergency.



For more details:

We invite you to view our **Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing statement** displayed on the foyer noticeboard, or simply scan the QR code.



REMINDER



Keeping Our Community Healthy This Winter

As the colder months approach, we kindly ask families to support us in keeping our centre a healthy and safe space for all children and staff. Please take note of the following health and safety reminders:

FEVER PROTOCOL

Children who register **a temperature of 38°C or above** will need to be collected promptly and **must stay home for at least 24 hours** after the last elevated temperature.

DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING

If your child experiences diarrhoea or vomiting, please **keep them at home for at least 48 hours after symptoms have completely ceased**. This helps reduce the risk of spreading infection, as symptoms can reappear after 24 hours.

COLDS AND FLU

Colds are very common in young children—especially in group settings—often occurring 6 to 10 times a year. Symptoms might include a cough, runny nose, and a mild fever. If your child displays cold or flu-like symptoms, our educators and management will assess whether they are well enough to remain at the centre or if they require rest and care at home.

IMMUNISATION UPDATES

If your child has received any recent immunisations, please update the office with the details.

Health Update: RSV Cases

We've had **two confirmed cases of RSV** (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) at the Centre. RSV is a common respiratory illness that can cause cold-like symptoms, such as cough, fever, and runny nose. While mild in most children, it can lead to more serious illness in babies and those with weaker immune systems.

To help keep everyone well, please keep your child at home if they are showing signs of illness—especially cough, fever, or difficulty breathing. Thank you for helping us maintain a healthy environment for all children and educators.



Fee Update from 1 June 2025

From 1st June 2025, our daily fee will **increase slightly from \$153.50 to \$156**. This small adjustment helps us continue offering high-quality care and education in a safe, nurturing environment, while managing the rising costs of food, wages, utilities, and maintenance. We appreciate your understanding and ongoing support as we work to keep our service sustainable and strong for the future.



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PAGE FOR THE LATEST
UPDATES!



Harmony Week Highlights

“WHEN WE LISTEN AND CELEBRATE WHAT IS BOTH COMMON AND DIFFERENT, WE BECOME A WISER, MORE INCLUSIVE, AND BETTER COMMUNITY.” – PAT WADORS



From 17–21 March, we celebrated Harmony Week across the Centre with a focus on inclusivity, diversity, and connection. All rooms engaged in rich, age-appropriate learning experiences that celebrated culture and community—ranging from expressive art, storytelling with puppets and books, to shared cooking experiences.



A special highlight was our “A Taste of Harmony” afternoon teas, where families and educators came together in the upstairs cafeteria to connect over an incredible variety of food from around the world. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed, attended, and helped build a stronger sense of belonging for our children and families.



Building Connections, Together

We know that many of our families are navigating early parenting without the support of extended family nearby. For this reason, we are **committed to nurturing a supportive community** where families can connect, arrange playdates, and support one another.

To help us improve how we build connections within our community, our Educational Leader, Iris, will soon be checking in with families for a quick chat during pick-up times. This will be an opportunity to share your feedback on our current communication methods and offer any ideas you may have for strengthening family engagement. We'd love to hear your thoughts!



FREE



PARENTING WEBINAR 19 MAY 7:30PM:

SUPPORTING RESILIENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Presented by the Maribyrnong City Council in partnership with FKA Children's Services, this online session is suitable for parents and carers with children aged from birth to 5 years. The online session will explore developmentally appropriate behaviours, and promoting confidence through positive communication.

Kindergarten Information Night:

SHOWCASING LEARNING, VISION, AND SCHOOL READINESS



Our recent Kindergarten Program Information Night was a wonderful opportunity for families to gain deeper insight into our Wattle Room's 4-year-old program. The evening featured a beautiful gallery display of the children's learning projects, thoughtfully curated by our educators to highlight the rich, inquiry-based experiences that have taken place in Term 1.



The Wattle teaching team, Indya, Sam and Nazret, also delivered an informative presentation about our kindergarten curriculum, including our teaching vision, philosophies, and the key components that shape our daily program. Families were guided through current projects the children have been exploring, and the session included an important discussion around what school readiness looks like—beyond just academic skills.



WATCH THE
RECORDING
SESSION HERE!



We highly encourage you to watch the recorded session, as it offers valuable insights into our kindergarten program and how we support your child in building the skills and confidence needed for a smooth and successful transition to school.

FREE

TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

LOOSE PARTS PLAY SESSION

Yarraville pop-up space, Ballarat St, Yarraville, 3013

Presented by the Maribyrnong City Council, this play session offers young children a chance to explore, create, and play, while families can connect with Council's Early Years Team to learn about local services including maternal and child health, kindergarten registration, immunisations, and playgroups.



Easter Celebration and Parade



Our Easter celebration this year was a lovely afternoon spent with the whole centre coming together. All the children gathered in our Grass Area, proudly wearing their creatively crafted Easter bonnets. It was great to see everyone's unique designs and share in the fun of the day.

We enjoyed a relaxed afternoon with a few activities, including an Easter egg hunt, some dancing, and games like "Hop Little Bunnies" and "Scarves Up and Down and Around." It was a wonderful chance to enjoy some afternoon tea and spend time together.

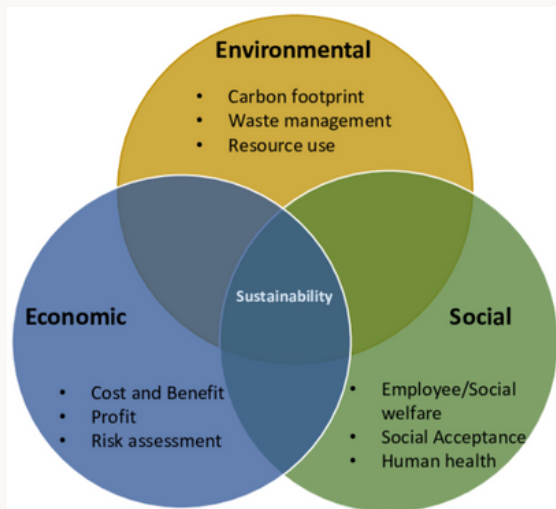


WE HAVE A WINNER!

Our educators also got involved in the bonnet fun with a creative competition. Thanks to everyone who participated in the vote – we're excited to announce that **Sam** was the winner of the Best Bonnet! Thanks again to educators who joined in and made it such an enjoyable event.

Working Towards Sustainability

As part of our ongoing commitment to continuous quality improvement, this term we're placing a centre-wide focus on advocating for better sustainable practices.



According to the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), sustainability is **not just about caring for the environment—it also involves social and economic dimensions**. With these three aspects in mind, we are working on several meaningful initiatives to embed sustainable practices into our daily program, decision-making, and learning experiences.

Here are a few highlights of what we're working on this term.

WEEKLY NATURE EXCURSIONS

Both our 3 and 4-year-old kinder programs have begun running weekly nature excursions. For children growing up in an inner-city environment, this offers valuable opportunities to explore and connect with the natural world. **We believe that building a relationship with nature is a key first step in developing sustainability awareness.**

Thanks to our Bush Kinder grant, we've been able to support this initiative by investing in outdoor gears for the children and professional development for our educators to ensure the program runs safely and effectively.



CARING FOR STICK INSECTS

Our kinder rooms have welcomed new classroom companions—stick insects! Kindly offered by another centre, these insects are helping children learn about life cycles, respectful care of living creatures, and the importance of gentle, responsible interactions with the world around them.

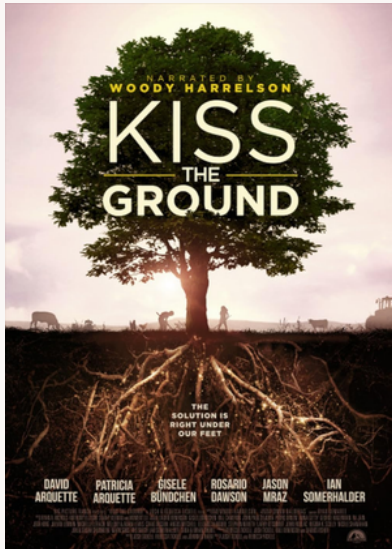
REVIVING OUR GREEN SPACES

In our under-3 yard, we are in the process of replanting and refreshing our garden spaces with common household herbs and native plants. These additions allow younger children to engage their senses—smelling, touching, observing—and begin to understand how plants grow and change over time.



COMPOST AND WORM FARM RELAUNCH

With International Compost Awareness Week taking place in May, we're relaunching our compost bin in the under-3 yard and our worm farms in the over-3's yard. These hands-on experiences help children understand the food cycle, reduce food waste, and see how composting contributes to healthy soil—through simple, everyday actions.



MOVIE RECOMMENDATION: KISS THE GROUND

This documentary, narrated by Woody Harrelson, reveals how regenerating the world's soils has the potential to stabilise the Earth's climate, restore ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. It shares hopeful, science-backed solutions that are accessible to everyone, and reminds us of the deep connection between soil health, climate, and sustainability.



WE ARE SEEKING DONATIONS OF SEEDS AND PLANTS FOR OUR GARDENS!

We are growing our little garden and would love any spare seeds or plants to help create a green and inviting space for our youngest learners. Gardening encourages children to connect with nature, develop responsibility, and explore sensory experiences through hands-on care of plants. Your help would be much appreciated!



DIRECT EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR EACH ROOM:

Bottlebrush Room: bottlebrush@sceec.com.au

Eucalyptus Room: eucalyptus@sceec.com.au

Sheoak Room: sheoak@sceec.com.au

Mulberry Room: mulberry@sceec.com.au

Wattle Room: wattle@sceec.com.au

Books, Bites & Brews

FAMILY AFTERNOON TEA

Friday 23 May 3:30 - 5 PM

Join us for a relaxed afternoon to celebrate a love of books and connect with other families. Light refreshments and hot beverages will be provided. Children are welcome under parental supervision.



- Browse and purchase children's books to support literacy at home.
- Got books you no longer need? Bring them along to donate to our centre's community library!
- Our Book Fair will run in the foyer all week from 19-23 May.

SPREAD THE
WORD



St Catherine's
EARLY EDUCATION CENTRE

If you love our centre, please spread the word! We still have spots available for new families and would love to welcome more children into our community. Thank you for your continued support!

To help us reach
out to more Families



(03) 9320 2555



www.sceec.com.au



We love welcoming new families to our community, and who better to spread the word than our wonderful parents? Join our Parent Referral Program and enjoy a special reward for every family you refer!

How It Works:

1. Refer a friend to our centre. Tell them to mention your name when they enquire or enrol.
2. Your friend enrolls their child for a minimum of 3 months.

You receive a reward as a thank-you for helping our community grow!

Your Reward Options:

- ★ \$100 credit towards your childcare fees
- ★ \$50 gift card to a local café

Why Refer a Friend?

- ✓ Strengthen our wonderful Early Childhood Education community
- ✓ Help other families find quality early learning
- ✓ Enjoy a special thank-you from us!

How to Get Started:

Tell your friends about our centre! When they enquire, they should mention your name in their enrolment paperwork. Once they have attended for 3 months, we'll send you your reward.

Have questions? Contact our admin team at **9320 2555** or email **info@sceec.com.au**

Thank you for being part of our amazing community!