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**Welcome**

2015 has been a busy year for CTAS, we have grown adding two new trainers to our staff, and one new admin person, a first grandchild has been born, one baby has been born, and another is due 9 November and we have had one wedding. The time has flown by. This is the final newsletter for this year, so please be aware that we will be closed over the Christmas and New Year period, from Monday 21 December, returning to work Monday 4 January 2016.

**OSHC Qualifications**

The current OSHC specific qualifications are a CHC40113 Certificate IV in School Age Education and Care, or a CHC50213 Diploma of School Age Education and Care.

If you are working in an OSHC service, and have a current CHC50113 Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care, you may be able to have a lot of your units RPL’d (using the Recognition for Prior Learning pathway) or credited across. Also if you have the current CHC40413 Certificate IV in Youth Work or CHC40213 Certificate IV in Education Support you may be able to have some units credited across and some units RPL’d.

Or if you are new to study and would like to do a traineeship in a OSHC service, CTAS can assist you with traineeships, fees for service, RPLing or crediting units. Contact Mikayla on 9350 9222 for more information on studying with CTAS.

For specific information on the qualifications that will meet regulations, please check with the Education and Care Regulatory Unit on (08) 6551 8333 or free call 1800 199 383.

**Ideas when you don’t think you have enough toys**

- Go outside with the children and collect natural resources (leaves, sticks, gumnuts, rocks etc.)
- Make your own books; write a story with the children and then photograph them acting it out
- Be a resource yourself; involve yourself in the children’s play to extend and enrich the language
- Play a game; What’s the time Mr Wolf, ball games, Duck duck goose, I Spy (using colours rather than letters)
- Ask families to bring in recyclable resources
- Do a large group painting/gluing experience
- Use masking tape to make a car track around the room
- Add laminated photos of the children to the blocks to play with
- Create a textural floor walk with bubble wrap, al-foil etc.
- Look at Pinterest (CTAS has their own page)

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**Excursion Idea**

If you are looking for a great excursion for your centre:

The Museum of WA have an exhibition 7 Nov 2015—10 Jan 2016 called Warakurna: All the Stories Got into our Minds and Eyes. It is an exhibition of contemporary works that document a new art movement emerging from the Western Desert community of Warakurna.

These paintings combine familiar Western Desert symbols and dots with a more figurative style to re-create scenes of everyday life and to tell historical and contemporary stories.

The Warakurna paintings are more than simply art – they remember the people and recount the events that have influenced the artists’ lives, ranging from the impact of mining and weapons testing, to community participation in the 2000 Olympics and a visit by the rock band Midnight Oil. (museum.wa.gov.au)

Learn more about the exhibition from The Museum of WA’s website: http://museum.wa.gov.au
Professional Development has been so busy this year, with Child Protection and Supporting Children’s Behaviour two of our most popular sessions. Our PD Facilitators have been travelling around Perth and its surrounding areas for in-services, and even presenting workshops in Kalgoorlie. We have not forgotten those in rural areas with our webinars, these have also suited those who prefer to take part in PD from the comfort of their own homes, perhaps in their pyjamas!

We only have a few sessions left for the year, so if you had been thinking about staff training or staying up-to-date with best practice, you better be fast! Jan Spence, one of our guest presenters, will be facilitating her last session before she leaves to concentrate on her celebrant duties, so if you have enjoyed her workshops or you have never been lucky enough to attend her innovative and creative training, now is your last opportunity.

### What’s Coming Up?

#### Family Involvement
Wed 11 Nov @6.30pm
One of the principles of the EYLF is Partnerships with Families. How are you encouraging families to be involved with your centre? We look at respecting and valuing a family’s knowledge of their children and how to work alongside families.

#### Using recycled resources in creative art and play
Wed 18 Nov @6.30pm
**Guest presenter: Jan Spence**
This practical workshop will explore ways of using recycled resources to enhance creative expression. Come and share ideas, make some fun items and see how one man’s trash can be your treasure.

#### Team Building
Wed 25 Nov @7pm
**Webinar**
This session explores team collaboration and how to recognise each other’s roles and communicate effectively. It delves into opportunities for team building and strategies for creating a supportive team. It will cover a brief overview of conflict resolution.

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### Christmas Celebrations
All families have a culture that they bring with them into the childcare setting, it is important to understand and be aware that what may be important to one family, may not be as important to another family. This includes celebrating Christmas. This holiday may have different meanings to different people, just ask each of your friends or work colleagues if and how they celebrate it and you will see!

We need to think about how to celebrate this time in a respectful and sensitive way. You could consider using this time to explore differences and similarities with the children. Find out from children and families how they like to celebrate.

Ensure that you include ‘open-ended’ celebration activities, so for Christmas you might make salt dough ornaments (see page 4) or children could choose to use the same resources to make an everyday ornament.

Have a program which is flexible and allows children the choice of what experiences they participate in. Think about the end of year product you give families, ensure that you balance it with their values and ideas of gift-giving, e.g. you might present the family with a CD of photos from the year rather than a Rudolph hand print art piece.

Just be mindful of the values and beliefs of the families in your service and consult them when planning celebrations.

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The UV Index and Ratings

What is the UV Index?
The UV (Ultraviolet) Index is a simple and informative way of describing the daily danger of solar UV radiation intensity.

What is the UV Alert?
The UV Alert is issued when the UV Index forecast is 3 or above, a level that can damage your skin and lead to skin cancer. The higher the Index value, the greater the potential for damage to your skin. A rating of 3-5 represents a moderate risk of skin damage due to UV exposure, 6-7 is a high risk, 8-10 is a very high, and a rating of 11 or above means the risk of damage is extreme. The UV Alert shows the time of day people need to be SunSmart (Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek & Slide), the Alerts can be found on the Bureau of Meteorology website each day, under the day’s forecast.

Sun cream and the sun
Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. Two out of three Australians will get a skin cancer before the age of 70. You can’t see and you can’t feel ultraviolet (UV) radiation - heat or high temperatures are not an indication of UV radiation, UV radiation may be high even on cloudy days.

Sun cream is one of the ways that we can protect children’s skin from UV radiation, clothing, hats, shade and sunglasses are the others.

There is no evidence that using sun cream on babies is harmful, although some babies may develop minor skin irritations, perhaps try sensitive sun creams for these babies. However, it is best to plan minimal activities outside during the middle hours of the day in summer when the UV levels are at their strongest.

Information from the Bureau of Meteorology and the Cancer Council Australia websites.

Facts about UV Radiation
- The sun emits UVA, UVB and UVC radiation. The ozone layer blocks all UVC radiation, most UVB but none of the UVA radiation.
- UVA penetrates deep into the skin causing damage like wrinkles and discolouration.
- Exposure to UVB causes sunburn. Sunburn, whether severe or mild, can cause permanent skin damage.
- Skin cancer is a disease of the body’s skin cells caused mainly by overexposure to UV radiation.
- Factors such as latitude, ozone, cloud, reflection from surfaces, time of year and time of day determine UV levels.
- When the UV Index reaches 3, sensible sun protection is warranted.

Great way to start off the training journey
When Hannan St Play and Learn in Kalgoorlie had three staff members starting their traineeships, the Managers wanted to celebrate the beginning of this new and exciting journey. They presented each trainee with a bag containing all the things they would need to study, pens, pads and notebooks.

And they made a toast (with sparkling apple juice, of course), as shown in the photo below, left to right, Karen, Marelize and Daisie.

Their new trainer Alice Jackman, far right, was there to support the girls at the beginning of this momentous occasion. It was really great to see how excited everyone was, and the support that was being offered from the Centre Manager and Assistant Manager will make the trainees studying journey so much smoother.

How did you celebrate the commencement of your studies?

Why choose a traineeship?
- You get paid to learn
- You gain valuable work experience
- At the end you receive a qualification that is recognized Australia wide
- You stay current in the industry
- Gain confidence working in a real job role

If you want to learn more about traineeships, please call CTAS on 9350 9222, or email admin@ctas.wa.edu.au
Salt dough ornaments

Recipe: 1c flour, 1 c salt, 1/2 cup water.

Day one: Make dough with the children then using shape or biscuit cutters, cut shapes out of the rolled dough with them. You could use a star, circle, Christmas tree shapes, or anything really. Make sure you use a straw to make a hole in the top (for the string or ribbon).

You could at this stage get the children to put their finger, hand or foot prints into the dough. For older children, they could stamp words or patterns into the dough ornaments.

Bake them in the oven.

Day two: The children can paint the ornaments. Once dry, the children can decorate the ornaments with glitter, mini pompoms, bits of ribbon or anything.

These ornaments could be hung anywhere.

For more ideas on holiday craft, check out the CTAS Pinterest page.


A centre near you is......

Having an incursion.

Jellybeans Greenwood had a parent with contacts in the ambulance service, so they asked them to come to their centre. The visits from the rooms were organised in small groups so that all the children could see inside the ambulance and have a chance to sit in the passenger seat. The other children who were still in the room made pizzas whilst they were waiting.

Redoing their outdoor space.

When one of the children at Morley Out of School Care saw a mural in the shape of a lizard, the centre decided to extend the discussion by doing their own. The children were all involved in the process of creating the artwork. They discussed the items they would need to make this mural and the families brought in the recycled materials to complete the flowers. One of the parents donated a bath which was turned into a garden bed, and the children decided that they wanted to grow herbs and some vegies that they could eat at afternoon snack time.

The minion tree was created due to a minion obsession by one child!! One educator drew the outline and some of the children painted the tree.

Going on an excursion.

Great Beginnings Northam went to a Butterfly Museum, which is housed inside the house of a Northam resident.