Welcome

Welcome to the new-look CTAS newsletter! We would love your feedback on the new layout, any articles you might like to see, or any photos you would like to submit. This is your newsletter, to inform, inspire and support you in the Early Childhood Education industry, please be a part of shaping it.

Days of celebration during March & April

Clean Up Australia Day 4 March, you can find a park or area near your centre and register to clean it, or you can go to the website and join an existing Clean Up Site.

World Frog Day 20 March, did you know the Australian Rocket Frog can jump 50 times its own body length!!

World Water Day 22 March. World Water Day is an international observance and an opportunity to learn more about water related issues, be inspired to tell others and take action to make a difference.

International Children’s Book Day 2 April. Two of the aims of this International day are:

• To promote international understanding through children’s books
• To give children everywhere the opportunity to have access to books with high literary and artistic standards.

Earth Day 22 April. Earth Day is a day that is intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth’s natural environment. How could you do this at your service?
Safe Water Play

Safety in and around the water for children is paramount, but the danger is not a reason to stay away from water play.

Water play is a great open-ended activity which fosters development in so many areas, including maths, problem-solving, physical development, social and emotional development, language development, and creative development. Other benefits include that it allows for experimentation and exploring senses, it can be an outdoor or indoor experience, it is readily available, cost effective and open-ended.

Ideas for water play

Freeze water in ice-cream containers with plastic toys or edicol dye or food colouring in to add to the water trough/tray.

Have warm, sudsy water for washing things (baby bath day-dolls, kitchen utensils, cars, laundry day-clothes).

Choose a colour, add that colour edicol dye or food colouring to the water and only items of that colour, e.g. red dye and fire engine trucks, plastic red apples, red plastic spoons etc.

Create a ‘water wall’ from containers, funnels, and tubing attached to a wall.

Draw stars or shapes or letters around the playground, give the children spray bottles and have fun trying to find the hidden symbols and spray them off.

Have an empty water tray and encourage children to add leaves and flowers from the garden to create a ‘garden soup’.

Do a “What dissolves in water?” experiment.

For more ideas for all ages, check out our Water Play Ideas board on Pinterest. Just search for CTAS Training.

Best practice

Children must be supervised at all times during water play.

Water troughs/trays should be filled to a safe level and emptied onto garden areas after use.

Play areas should be checked every morning to ensure that no containers or pool of water are accessible to children. If rain occurs during the day, outdoor areas should be checked prior to children entering this area.

Children should be taught about safety in and around water.

Children should be discouraged from drinking water in water troughs.

Encourage children to have a spare change of clothes for these occasions.

Remember:

Children can drown in 3cm of water.

Job Boards

A Job Board is a place on a company’s website where jobs are advertised.

The Australian Apprenticeships Support Networks have individual job boards. If you are thinking of studying a traineeship, you can go to the Australian Apprenticeship Office website to find an employer looking for trainees.

Thinking About A Childcare Traineeship?

CTAS offer traineeships in CHC30113 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, CHC40113 Certificate IV in School Aged Education and Care, and CHC50113 Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care. If you are thinking of studying a childcare qualification, CTAS prides itself in providing high quality training from passionate, experienced trainers. Contact Mikayla on 9350 9222 for further information.

Future Skills courses, subsidised by the Department of Training and Workforce Development
In-services

At CTAS we can develop a customised session for your centre from our many and varied topics, including Child Protection and Supporting Children’s Behaviour.

This means that your staff don’t need to travel anywhere, all of your staff can attend an evening session that suits them, and the workshop will have the learning outcomes and context that your staff may require.

Webinars

A webinar is a live workshop that takes place over the web. Participants can view documents and videos via their computer, tablet or smart phone.

Participants can listen to the presentation through their speakers and ‘whiteboards’ allow them to contribute and guide the discussions. All of this from the comfort of their own home!

Great for rural educators, educators with children, and anyone who want to eat dinner, stay in their pyjamas and learn all at the same time!!

To be a part of a webinar each person will need their own email address and device to participate, for more information contact Gabi on 9350 9222.

What’s coming up in PD?

Managing Stress and Using Mindfulness, Wed 6 April **Webinar**

Work-place related stress can affect your physical and emotional health. We will look at what can cause stress, the symptoms, and how your stress may impact on the children in your care. We will explore the use of a variety of strategies, including mindfulness to manage and decrease your work-place stress. We will also learn some techniques to support children who are stressed.

Play and Literacy, Wed 20 April

How can we use play to support literacy development in the early years, 0-5 years? This workshop looks at how play and literacy are related, how you can setup your environment to encourage children’s literacy, and what your role as an educator is, in supporting children’s literacy development.

Creativity, Wed 18 May

This fun and hands-on workshop looks at understanding the importance of creative thinking and how to encourage it in children, exploring open-ended play to encourage creative thinking, discovering the difference between art and craft, and investigating practical ways of enhancing creativity in child and adult instigated ways.

For the full professional development calendar or to book into sessions, please email pdtraining@ctas.wa.edu.au
Inspiration Spot

These are some centre photos that have caught our eye this month:

Jellybeans Padbury—Great Family Wall!

Noranda CCC—Group Painting Experience

Buggles Cherry Court—Nature Experience Documentation

Easy Easter art for all ages

This can be done with each child or as a group experience.

You will need:

- Contact
- Paper
- Pom poms, small pieces of tissue paper, cellophane, buttons, pipe cleaner pieces, or sequins
- Scissors
- Painters tape

To set it up:

Cut out a large egg shape from the paper, OSH children could draw the egg shape themselves and cut it out. Stick a piece of contact paper over one side of the paper so that one side is sticky and one side is smooth.

Stick the paper onto a flat surface (a window works well, or a table) using tape, with the sticky side facing inside/up. It may be a good idea to set up more than one depending on the amount of children.

Have a table close to the window with all of the items that children can use to stick onto the contact.

To finish remove tape from paper, turn around and stick it to the window, or add another layer of contact to ‘sandwich’ all of the pieces to the egg.

Join in

Be a part of our newsletter, and you could earn your centre a $100 voucher for resources.

Just send in some photos of your centre’s makeover, an amazing experience you have set-up or your inspiring environment.

Send the photos to pdtraining@ctas.wa.edu.au with a paragraph describing the event.

Visit us on the web at www.ctas.wa.edu.au