Welcome

Interesting Happenings during July and August

NAIDOC Week, 3-12 July: The theme of this year’s NAIDOC Week is Songlines: The living narrative of our nation. To learn more about what this year’s theme means go to http://www.naidoc.org.au/2016-national-naidoc-theme-announced

National Tree Day, 31 July: Planet Ark is celebrating 20 years of National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day. National Tree Day aims to inspire, educate and recruit Australians to actively care for the land and create future generations of environmental advocates. You could join many councils with their Tree Day celebrations or link with a local school who is taking part in the day. Find something happening near you at: http://treeday.planetark.org/involved/inthecommunity.cfm

Rio Olympics, 5-21 August: Get children involved with team sports, new sporting ideas, looking at different countries and flags, researching information about Brazil, having your own Olympic games, and participating in exercise. (Paralympic Games 7-18 September).

Science Week, 13-21 August: What a great time to think about how you incorporate science into your curriculum! The theme is Drones, Droids and Robots. This theme encourages us to look at the use of robotic technology in our lives, e.g. robot vacuum cleaners and automated pool cleaners. For more information go to: http://www.scienceweek.net.au/schools/

Book Week, 20-26 August: The theme for 2016 is Australia! Story Country. Dress-up, promote reading with children, talk to families about reading stories with their children, visit the library, encourage a parent, grandparent, carer or community member to come in and read a story. Go to https://cbca.org.au/book-week-2016 for more information.

Keep Australia Beautiful Week, 22-28 August: A great way to be involved with the local community, join with their efforts or start your own clean up. Take the children around the local area collecting rubbish and talking about recycling. Check out what’s happening in your area, http://kab.org.au/keep-australia-beautiful-week/

Our website contains information on the courses that we train, the most current newsletter, and the CTAS Professional Development Calendar. Our web address is www.ctas.wa.edu.au

You can also find us on Facebook and Pinterest.

In This Issue

- July/August Calendar
- The Importance of Using a Variety of Observation Techniques
- Why Choose a Traineeship?
- First Aid Training
- What’s Coming Up in PD
- Successful Traineeships
- Inspiration Spot
- Potion Making
The Importance of Using a Variety of Observation Techniques

By Avril Dolan, Trainer and Assessor

In the early years it is crucial for early childhood educators to use various observation techniques to ensure that we are creating a picture of the whole child. We can easily become focused on sticking to what we know and only using learning stories.

Two observation techniques that are my personal favourites, would be development checklists and event samples. Having a monthly routine in place for completing developmental checklists really helps educators to identify which areas of development we need to encourage and stimulate for each child and also assists with curriculum planning. Event sample observation can be beneficial for identifying the triggers and patterns of children’s behaviour so we that can take appropriate action and interpret what is going on for that child and adapt as necessary, whether it be our environment, routines, our relationship with that child, or any other contributing factors.

Other methods for recording and documenting observations, include:

- Narratives—running records, anecdotes, jottings, self reflections (educator and children), parent reflection
- Samples—artwork, drawing, writing time, event samples
- Language transcripts—transcripts of conversations, interviews, creating texts, mind maps
- Visual representations—photos, diagrams, sketches, visual charts,
- Family input—surveys, feedback forms
- Video and audio recordings

We use documentation to develop an understanding of each child’s learning and development and then use this to plan for future learning, so using a variety of methods will ensure we can create a more holistic picture.

Why Choose A Traineeship?

- You get paid to learn!
- You gain valuable work experience
- At the end you receive a qualification that is recognised Australia wide
- You stay current in industry
- Gain confidence working in a real job role
- Hands-on training in the workplace.

If you want to learn more about traineeships or to sign up for qualification training, please call CTAS on 9350 9222 or email admin@ctas.wa.edu.au
First Aid Training

CTAS recently hosted its second Childcare First Aid Training, in conjunction with Keith at Revive.

Keith made the day fun and supported our learning in a practical and meaningful way.

We will be hosting another First Aid training day on Saturday 17th of September. There are only 15 spaces, so you will need to book quickly!

This session covers CPR, anaphylaxis, asthma, bandaging and other first aid basics.

Participants will receive a certificate for HLTaida004: Provide an emergency first aid response in an education and care setting. The course would suit educators renewing their first aid certificate, or trainees as they need this unit as part of their study.

What’s coming up in PD?

Check our website for up to date calendar information. If your service requires specific training, consider our in-service sessions. We can customise any of our previous or upcoming topics.

Workplace Health and Safety, WEBINAR, 27 July

This session covers safe manual handling techniques, hygiene practices, infection control, emergency procedures and more, all from the comfort of your own home. Do your training in your trackies or pjs, with a webinar you won’t need to brave the cold winter’s night.

The Enriching Learning Series

This series takes a look at how each age group learns best, and how we can support the specific needs of each age group. There will be ideas and discussions along the way, you will be able to network with educators from other centres and learn from them. This is a very popular series of workshops.

Babies, 3 August
Toddlers, 14 September
Kindy, 26 October

For the full professional development calendar or to book into sessions, please email pdtraining@ctas.wa.edu.au or contact Gabi on 9350 9222.
Successful Traineeships

Whether you are thinking about undertaking a traineeship, or if you are planning on signing staff members onto traineeships, it’s important to think about the decisions that need to be made: the most important one being, which training provider to use?

You may choose a registered training organisation (RTO) based on a number of factors, including; whether the organisation has a good reputation within the industry, what you have personally heard about the organisation, the training costs, whether it is close and accessible, or whether you have had previous experience with the training provider, just to name a few. There are so many things to consider that it often becomes time consuming and difficult to make the decision. You may find yourself not knowing who to listen to and you never know whether you are going to receive the training that has been advertised or promised. So here’s a list of dos and don’ts we have put together to help guide you in choosing a RTO that is right for you.

Do’s

• Do research. Find out the RTO’s philosophy and ensure it is in line with your own and the philosophy of your service. You want to ensure they are going to respect and promote the standards and requirements you have set for the staff at your service. For trainees: ask around, were other staff happy with the level of service and support they received from their RTO?

• Do identify which RTOs the qualified staff at your centre have trained through and evaluate their level of knowledge and skills. You should then be able to make your own assessment of the training standards of each of those organisations.

• Do ask the RTO questions: which training methods they will use to train and assess trainees, how often they will visit trainees, how much paperwork trainees will need to complete, how they assess for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), how they will train in individual areas of need, how they will report progress, and whether they will spend time with the trainees or leave them with a large file full of reading and assignments? For trainees: how will they support me if I have difficulties?

• Do find out what your role and responsibilities are as a supervisor of a trainee and third party assessor. Will you be asked to sign off on their competence? Will your opinion be taken into consideration? To what extent will you be involved in the training process? Will a traineeship affect the terms of employment?

• Do take time to discuss your trainee and their progress with the training organization at every visit. This will ensure you can work as a team to meet your trainee’s needs and to assist them to reach their full potential.

• Do find out what the trainee’s role and responsibilities are, so that you are able to monitor their participation and mentor them as needed.

• Do ask questions throughout the traineeship to ensure you are educated in what criteria the trainee is required to demonstrate before they are deemed competent. This will ensure that you know what is expected and can guide the trainee.

• Do find out the employer benefits for taking on a trainee. These may include government incentives and payroll tax exemptions.

Don’ts

• Don’t choose a RTO based on their location. Unless trainees will be going to classroom based training, the RTO will come to you.

• Don’t choose a training organisation based on the shortest timeframe for completing a qualification. Every trainee is different, and has different needs, and will therefore need different timeframes to complete their qualification. Ask yourself if you would like your staff trained thoroughly or would you potentially like corners cut and training to be compromised and rushed in a shorter time frame.

• Don’t choose a training organisation because they have the lowest fees or training costs, “you get what you pay for”. It is important to be aware that each RTO is required to adhere to the same “Fees and Charges” policy set by the government. This means that all training fees are regulated and organisations are not allowed to offer discounts and reduced prices.

In summary, a traineeship is the most logical approach to training for the childcare industry if it is done correctly. It provides trainee’s with hands on learning that is essential for the requirements of our profession as educators, and they get paid while doing it. With this in mind, choose your TO wisely and follow our list of dos and don’ts to ensure a successful traineeship.
Inspiration Spot

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

Indoor Environment

Buggles Coolbellup created a great indoor construction area to build on a few children’s current interest.

Family Involvement

Jellybeans Wembley won a “Go Home Gorilla” pack and are using it to encourage family involvement and children’s self help skills (he comes home with pjs, dressing gown and tooth brush). The gorilla goes home with a different child each night and the family are able to write in the journal, add photos or drawings about what he did at their home.

Portfolio Display

Buggles Spearwood displayed the children portfolios where all of the children could access them.

Potion Making

Children will love the mixing, bubbling and fizzing that comes with creating potions.

This is great to use for encouraging science talk and “being a scientist”. Talk to the children about what they think might happen when they add a new ingredient, and when they add different coloured dyes.

Get ingredients that will fizz or foam or make bubbles, include some that will change e.g. chia seeds, changing colour bath gel, and put them into small containers (to make them last and allow all children to have a turn). Add sticks, pop-sticks, spoons, buckets or containers for children to mix their potions.

Children could add sand, flowers, leaves or nuts from the garden. Great experience for all ages.

Warning: do not leave children unattended when playing with vinegar and bi-carb. If vinegar gets into a child’s eye, wash thoroughly.

Suggested Ingredients:

- Pantry items: Bi-carb soda, vinegar, chia seeds, corn flour, food colouring
- Bathroom items: Talcum powder, bath gel, shampoo, conditioner, shaving gel
- Kitchen items: Detergent
- Garden items: Sand, flowers, leaves, nuts
- Other: Water, edicol dye

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