Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to read Issue 4 of the CTAS Update. Please do not hesitate to contact one of our friendly staff if you would like to discuss your training needs, please contact us on 9350 9222 or via email admin@ctas.wa.edu.au

Traineeship Eligibility

CTAS offers traineeships in Certificate III in Children’s services and Diploma of Children’s Services. It’s important to take full advantage of the fantastic opportunities traineeships can offer students and employers. As employers you are entitled to government funding, incentives and payroll tax exemptions. Students benefit from traineeships because they are able to continue working while also studying and able to gain valuable on the job experience. To be eligible for a Certificate III in Children’s Services traineeship a student must sign up within a specific time frame, a part time employee must sign up within the first 12 months of employment at the service and a full time employee within the first three months of employment. It is important to keep in mind that students who have previously completed a different Certificate III but still in the community Services field may not be eligible for a traineeship. It’s a great time for educators who have completed their Certificate III to sign up for a Diploma of Children’s Services traineeship as they are able to sign up with limited eligibility criteria. To be eligible for a traineeship you must be working a minimum of 20 hours a week in a job role that relates to your qualification. We highly recommend that services take advantage of traineeship training and consider who could be eligible to sign up before the 2014 regulation changes. If you would like more information on traineeships or would like to sign a student up with CTAS please do not hesitate to contact the office on 9350 9222 and speak to one of our friendly staff members.

Chinese Moon Festival

September 13th 2013

The moon festival (also known as the mooncake or mid-autumn festival) is held on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar. On this day the moon is at its maximum brightness for the entire year. The moon festival is a time for friends and family to come together, give thanks for a successful harvest and a time to pray. The Chinese celebrate the moon festival by burning incense, watching performances of lion and dragon performers, carrying lanterns, eating moon cakes and reading ancient stories such as the lady on the moon to the children.

How can you celebrate?

1. Research a mooncake recipe or ask families with Chinese heritage to come and participate in a mooncake cooking experience
2. Children can make and decorate their own lanterns
3. Search with the children on the internet for videos of traditional Chinese lion and dragon dances
4. Read ancient Chinese children stories such as The Lady on the Moon
5. Safely burn a Chinese incense for the children to smell

Qualification Requirements for 2014

As of January 2014 new childcare qualification requirements come in to effect and it’s important that you are prepared for this change:

1. All centre based services need to ensure that 50% of their educators hold a Diploma of Children’s Services or are actively working towards this qualification
2. All Remaining staff members are required to hold or be actively working towards their Certificate III in Children’s Services

Please call the CTAS team on 9350 9222 to discuss how we can assist you with your training needs.
We would like to welcome Rhiannon to the CTAS team in the role of Professional development trainer.

We are already in the process of developing our 2014 professional development Calendar and we would like to invite you to share your ideas and suggestions of some topics that would be of interest to you and your service. Please send your suggestions to pdtraining@ctas.wa.edu.au

What’s Coming Up?

Managing Stress Effectively
Learn how to identify stressors, recognise the affects and symptoms of stress and how to prevent stress in the workplace.

- Date: 25th September 2013
- Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- Location: CTAS Training Room
  Unit 5 1-13 Hamilton St, Cannington

Child Protection
In this session we will cover Types of Child Abuse, Indicators, Protective Strategies and Reporting Procedures.

- Date: Wednesday 30th October 2013
- Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- Location: CTAS Training Room
  Unit 5 1-13 Hamilton St, Cannington

Multicultural Resources
A great way to source authentic multi cultural resources is to ask families and co-workers who are going on overseas holidays to look out for special items that they could bring back to the service. The CTAS team have been lucky enough to collect some great items already this year from Indonesia, Spain and Singapore.
We know that National Quality Standard 3.3 states that services need to *take an active role in caring for its environment and contribute to a sustainable future*. But how do we embed sustainable practices into our services operations?

First we need to understand there are 3 aspects of sustainability:

- **Environmental Protection** - land care, water resources, waste disposal, food resources
- **Social Advancement** - health and safety, social equity, cultural heritage, education
- **Economic Prosperity** - business and management practices, standard of living, financial accountability

To be effective in promoting sustainable practices we need to consider all of those aspects.

Early childhood is a time when children's core values can be established, so as early childhood educators we need to ask ourselves how we can help instil core values in our future generations to build a healthy society and a planet that has good water, soil, air and climate.

**Where to start?** It is best to determine a ‘plan of action’ to ensure you have a clear outline of the objectives you wish to achieve and everyone can understand the process – Things to consider:

- What is your centre’s philosophy?
- What is your centre’s needs?
- Be real—what is realistic for you to achieve?
- How will you remain motivated and focused?
- How will you involve families and community?
- Don’t forget the children’s voice - what do they want?
- Who is going to document your journey on the QIP?
Here are just a few ideas about how you could incorporate the 3 aspects of sustainability into your service:

Environmental Protection
- Plant a fruit and vegetable garden or a herb garden and use the food you grow for meal times or share your harvest with your families to take home and use
- Create a composting area or worm farm and encourage children to put their food scraps in the compost everyday
- Encourage natural play areas to be set up
- Use environmentally friendly chemicals for cleaning
- Turn lights off when leaving a room and make use of natural light in the indoor environment
- Relocate the clothes line for maximum use
- Landscape with native plants, not only do they cost less but they use less water and easier to care for
- Have recycle bins in each room

Social Advancement
- Involve families and communities in the service and develop relationships e.g. working bees, donations, supporting local business
- Provide as much information as you can to children and families about sustainable practices
- Create a folder for educators to contribute ideas and help new educators understand sustainability
- Ensure health and safety is a priority in your service, have it as a standing agenda item at staff meetings
- Look at local charities and consider ways your service can help
- Reflect on different lifestyle choices and the effect they have on the world
- Promote team building opportunities for staff

Economic Prosperity
- Look at the sustainability policies of the businesses you deal with, are they policies that reflect your services philosophy?
- Work towards keeping the cost of child care affordable
- Assist families to access funding and entitlements
- Employ trainees
- Provide, promote and encourage staff training
- Educate children for the future.

In order to meet NQS 3.3, sustainable practices need to be embedded into the service. They need to be part of your policies & procedures and the staff & children need to have a clear understanding of sustainable practices and why they are doing them. As an example it is not enough to just put recycling bins in the room, the children need to know why they are there and be using them correctly therefore embedding the practice in your Centre.
We have used the motto ‘reduce, recycle or reuse’ for this issue of the CTAS Update to inspire us for our Out Of the Box experiences.

**Reusing Pringles Tin’s**

What you need:
1. Recycled pringles tin
2. Wrapping paper scraps
3. Paint swatches

We created this fine motor activity by decorating the outside of a pringles tin with wrapping paper and cutting a slit on the lid wide enough so that the paint swatches can fit through. This is a fantastic experience to challenge toddler’s problem solving skills while they are using their fine motor muscles to manipulate the swatches inside and out. Search on Pinterest shape sorters for more DIY ideas.

**Natural Paintbrushes**

What you need:
1. Sticks
2. Twine or string
3. Plant material (eg. Lavender or leaves)

Create natural paint brushes by collecting materials found in your outdoor spaces. All you need to do is tie some natural materials onto a stick to create your paintbrush!

**Reusing Water Bottles**

What you need:
1. Recycled water bottles
2. Paint
3. Paper

We used recycled water bottles as a painting tool with great results. The new object to paint with really sparked the toddler’s curiously and he was able to explore his creativity, discovered different textures of the paint and bottle and use fine motor skills to move the bottles on the paper. We then introduced a paint brush to the table and the bottle then became our new masterpiece. For some other great ways to recycle plastic water bottles search on Pinterest for DIY plastic water bottles.

**DIY Letter Rocks**

We came across these letter rocks at one of our services and wanted to share with you how easy this experience is to create. All you need to do is source rocks from an outdoor environment or you could even use rocks donated by parents from their gardens at home. Using either a scrapbooking marker or some white out write the letters of the alphabet on the rocks, don’t forget to include letters written in lower and upper case. We love how the service have set up the rocks in a basket so that it is inviting for the children to come and use. The rocks can be used for letter matching, letter sequencing, making sight words, name spelling and much more!

**Reusing Dried Play Dough**

What you need:
1. Dried Play Dough
2. Clear container / sensory tub
3. Water – you can even use squirt bottles

Use dried up play dough to explore what will happen when you mix the hard dough with water. Children will enjoy using the dough to discover new textures; you could even mix it up by seeing what happens when you add more flour! Another great way to use up dried play dough is to crumble the dough up in small pieces and place them into a tub with some construction vehicles, cars, animals etc.

**Garden Sensory Tub**

Sensory tubs are fantastic resources that allows the children to explore materials by seeing, touching, smelling and hearing. We love this garden sensory tub that was set up in the Kindy room at one of our recent student visits. The service used bark donated by a staff member, buckets, spades and flowers to create their garden tub.

We would like to thank our wonderful clients who have shared with us some fantastic experiences this issue. We love hearing from our readers especially if you have any feedback, upcoming special events, inspiring and ‘out of the box experiences’ or any organisations that you would like to share with us. You can call us directly on 3950 9222 or email admin@ctas.wa.edu.au.