Welcome

Welcome to 2015, we hope that our newsletters this year will inform you, support your practices, reinforce information you knew, inspire you and remind you why you do the important job that you do. We welcome any ideas, suggestions, thoughts and photos, please be a part of our newsletter and tell the WA childcare community what an amazing job you are doing. Contact us on admin@ctas.wa.edu.au, you can also find us on Facebook and Pinterest too.

Special Days for January and February 2015

JANUARY
1 Jan: New Years Day
1 Jan: Liberation Day, Cuba
1 Jan: Independence Day, Haiti
1 Jan: National Day, Sudan
1 Jan: Independence Day, Samoa
4 Jan: Independence Day, Myanmar
19 Jan: World Religion Day
25 Jan: Burns Night, Scotland
26 Jan: Australia Day
26 Jan: Republic Day, India
31 Jan: National Day, Nauru

FEBRUARY
4 Feb: Independence Commemoration Day, Sri Lanka
6 Feb: Waitangi Day, New Zealand
7 Feb: Independence Day, Grenada
13 Feb: World Radio Day
13 Feb: Anniversary of the Australian Government’s Apology to the Stolen Generation
14 Feb: Valentine’s Day
15 Feb: National Day, Serbia
16 Feb: Independence Day, Lithuania
17 Feb: Independence Day, Kosovo
18 Feb: National Day, Gambia
19 Feb: Chinese New Year, Year of the Goat
21 Feb: International Mother Language Day
22 Feb: National Day, Saint Lucia
23 Feb: National Day, Brunei Darussalam
24 Feb: Independence Day, Estonia
25 Feb: National Day, Kuwait
27 Feb: Independence Day, Dominican Republic

What nationalities do you have in your centre?

CTAS Cert III Student of the Year: Elizabeth Roy

Elizabeth received this award as she is a very responsible and diligent student, who hands in tasks of an extremely high quality. She strives to provide high quality care for all the children and takes all feedback on board and implements it. Elizabeth is nurturing and promotes supportive interactions with the children in her care and is always looking outside of the box for experiences to provide the children. Elizabeth has great relationships with the all of the families within the service. Elizabeth always wants to learn new and improved ways of doing things for her children. Congratulations Elizabeth.

FEE CHANGES IN 2015

The 2015 Fees and Charges Schedule is now available. Please be aware there have been changes, as per the Government Fees & Charges Policy. If you require further information, please contact the office on 9350 9222.
PD Training Update

What’s Coming Up?

Child Protection
Wed, 21 Jan 2015
6.30 – 8.30pm
Facilitator: Nikki de Domahidy
In this session we will cover types of child abuse, indicators, protective strategies and reporting procedures.

Making More of Music
Wed, 28 Jan 2015
6.30-8.30pm
Guest Facilitator Jan Spence
Explore the endless possibilities open to us to use music to help children express their emotions and alter the group dynamic. Utilise music to enhance body movement and dance, with the emphasis on enjoyment and pleasure. Gain experience in selecting music to fit the purpose.

Sustainability
Wed, 4 Feb 2015
6.30pm-8.30pm
Facilitator: Nikki de Domahidy
What does it mean to be sustainable? What is a Sustainability Management Plan? How can I demonstrate sustainability to children?

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CTAS Diploma Student of the Year
Congratulations to Latiesha Menners.
Latiesha’s attitude toward her studies was excellent, with tasks handed in on time and at a high quality standard. She has a great ability to answer all of her questioning well with great examples given from her practices in the industry and her work environment.
Latiesha has a genuine passion for her position and towards the children in her care. It is lovely to observe such a passionate person in this industry.

Staff holidays
for JAN and FEB 2015
Nikki will be away 27 Jan–30 Jan
Kat will be away 9 Feb–13 Feb
Mikayla will be away 11 Feb–11 Mar
School Readiness  By Justine Davies

How to support children’s transition to school.

The transition to school can be best thought of as a process to prepare children and their families for the unknown rather than ticking boxes of ‘readiness.’ The educator’s role is to adapt to the different strengths and needs of children and their families. Children need to know their sense of wellbeing will be nurtured. Imagine each child asking you: “Will I be safe and secure? Will I know anyone at school? What will be expected of me at school?” A ‘Transition to School’ policy is a wonderful way of reassuring parents. This need not be a separate program but a process for informing, involving and supporting parents in what your service already does to support this transition. Here is a list of some practical ways services can support a child’s transition to school:

• Read stories about going to school
• Visit the school as a group with parents, document the visit and display for children to refer to
• Ask the school teachers in your area what they consider ‘school readiness’ to be
• Ask parents for their aspirations for their child’s transition to school
• Find out the daily routine of the schools around you, discuss these with children
• Invite the teacher to visit your service, invite parents
• Develop a Transition to School Policy, informing parents of the regular routines and resources children use to promote literacy and numeracy through a booklet, photos of their child or a formal four year old meeting
• Provide children with opportunities for gaining confidence in speaking to a group such as show and tell
• Model and scaffold a love of learning
• Encourage questioning, expressing feelings, guessing, planning, reasoning, and listening to other’s view’s through play
• Promote a playful interest in language such as nonsense stories, rhymes and repetitive sounds
• Encourage a child’s independence through routines

REFERENCE: The importance of transition in the new early years learning framework By Sue Dockett,
Minutes Matter: First Aid For Broken Bones

Kids love to climb trees, jump off high things, run around like mad and play sport. Although kids are pretty tough, at some point they may break a bone. We are going to run through some basic first aid for fractures and what to do.

What to look for

Consider how they were injured- did they fall, slip, fall of their bike or were hit by a car or ball or another player in sport. What body part could be affected? Could this force or impact result in a fracture?

Sometimes fractures can result from not so obvious events. People with epilepsy can sometimes break bones while fitting; elderly people with brittle bones can break easily as an example. Not all fractures are very painful or obvious. Stories of parents are common of dismissing their child’s sore elbow as minor- only to be taken to the Doctors two weeks later, and found that their poor child’s elbow was broken for all that time.

Do not waste time with fractures, especially if there are any airway, breathing or circulation threats to life. Fix these first then treat any fractures.

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Other important things to remember include:

- Check for other injuries
- Do not give them anything to eat or drink, as they may need surgery.
- Any open wounds or protruding bones need to covered or padded around with sterile dressing from your first aid kit. Infections that get into bones can be very hard to treat.
- Do not try to straighten bones or dislocations.
- Lots of reassurance and keep checking their condition until the ambulance arrives.

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Disclaimer: This article contains only generalized first aid advice and is not a substitute for attending a nationally accredited training course. You should always keep within your skills and training limits.

Long Day Care Professional Development Funding

Did you receive LDCPDP Funding? Do you need to spend it? Look no further than CTAS.

You can use it for:

- Assisting staff to meet the costs of getting Nationally recognised qualifications—CTAS offer traineeships.
- External training or internal training—we offer Professional Development Training at our training centre or, for more than 10 people, we can do an in-service at your service tailoring our existing programs to meet your specific needs.
- Transport or accommodation costs for attending Professional Development training at our training centre.

If you have queries about how CTAS can help meet your training needs, please contact Mikayla on 9350 9222 or pdtraining@ctas.wa.edu.au
Loose Parts

For those of you not familiar with loose parts, it’s the idea of giving children groups of loose things such as pebbles, pine cones, gumnuts, pop-sticks, cardboard tubes, sticks etc. This way children are able to use the items anyway they choose, in a very open-ended way. It is a good idea to present the items to the children in boxes sorted into like items, this way children don’t seem to get as overwhelmed as if they are just all put out in a mess. Loose parts can be used inside or out. You can leave these creations out and children can add to them over a few days. Great to add a mirror on the bottom for a different perspective, or a chalkboard for children to draw additional things. What to include as a loose part is only limited by your imagination, ask the children what items they would like to see included.

Remida is a great place to source your loose parts, you could ask parents for specific items, or go on a nature walk near to your centre to collect things. This a great activity for Long Day Care or Out of School Hours Care children.

Photos from the No time for flashcards website by Allison McDonald, retrieved 5 December 2015,
http://w.notimeforflashcards.com/2012/04/ tabletop-loose-parts-creative-activity-for-kids.html

Great Beginnings Applecross received the Featured Service Award for Issue 11. They received a certificate and a $100 IKEA voucher for resources. Here are Leonie and Wendy accepting the award.

Would you like to have $100 for resources?

We would like to showcase a different service each newsletter. If your centre has got some great ideas, or you are doing something innovative that you would like to share, please email us at n.dedomahidy@ctas.edu.wa.au

The featured service will receive a voucher to the value of $100 to purchase resources for the centre.

If you are looking for great natural resources, Fingadingadoo is a good place to start. Find them on Facebook.