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Welcome
Welcome back, we are now more than half way through the year, and Professional Development is continuing to be busy with many sessions selling out. New funding has come through for the Cert III and Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care and Cert IV in School Age Education and Care, and the winner of the bi-monthly $100 CTAS Featured Service Prize is announced. Happy reading!

Training News
The new qualification funding for the (CHC30113) Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care and the (CHC50113) Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care and the (CHC40113) Certificate IV in School Age Education and Care has been released. The major changes for the Cert III are the introduction of core units relating to developing cultural competence and working effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Diploma delves deeper into developing cultural competence and working effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as well as new units about sustainability. Providing care for babies is now mandatory.

All of the new qualifications have the Early Years Learning Framework and NQF firmly embedded in all units. And the language has been updated to reflect National Quality Standards.

If you are currently training with CTAS your trainer will be speaking to you soon regarding the new qualifications and how it will affect your training.

We are very excited to be training these new qualifications to help prove the highest quality of care for the children and families in your service.

If you would like more information about traineeships with CTAS please call us on 9350 9222.

Days in SEP/OCT

SEPTEMBER
3rd Sep—Australian National Flag Day
7th Sep—Father’s Day
7-13 Sep—National Child Protection Week
11th Sep—R U OK? Day
13th Sep—International Chocolate Day

OCTOBER
4th Oct—Yom Kippur
4-10 Oct—World Space Week
5th Oct—Eid al-Adha
12-18 Oct—Carers Week
15th Oct—Global Handwashing Day
19-27 Oct—National Children’s Week
23rd Oct—Diwali

New staff member
We would like to welcome a new Professional Development Trainer to the CTAS family, Justine Davies. Justine hails from New Zealand and has worked in childcare for 13 years. Her areas of passion are creative natural environments and supporting children’s emotional intelligence. One day Justine would like to retire to a forest kindergarten and catch eels and play in the mud!
Good quality professional development can have many benefits for you: it may re-light the spark in you for why you became an Early Childhood Educator again, it may help clarify your own thinking, it may give you new information or it may jog your mind to something you already knew but hadn't considered in a while.

As an owner of a childcare service, a good professional development program may help you to recruit, reward and retain staff. According to Ken Blanchard and Spencer Johnson (1981) staff members are more likely to be effective in any workplace when they receive support and are well resourced in their role, and are recognized and rewarded for their efforts.

At CTAS we pride ourselves in providing high quality training; we want to motivate you, remind you of the theory behind your practices, ensure your practices are up-to-date, build on your knowledge and stimulate deeper learning, encourage you to reflect critically on your practice and challenge your current ideas.

We have a calendar of training sessions at CTAS in Cannington or if you would like to have a session tailored specifically for your service, please contact us at CTAS for in-service details. You can use your Long Day Care Professional Development Programme (LDCPDP) funding with us.

What’s Coming Up?

**Creativity**
24 September, 6.30pm
Facilitator: Jan Spence
Encourage creative thinking and ideas; look at open-endedness and art versus craft.

**Effective Supervision**
8 October, 6.30pm
Facilitator: Justine Davies
Supervision is about more than watching children; it is about using techniques that promote effective supervision practices and create safe care environments.

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Do you need a bookkeeper with experience in the childcare field?

Would you like someone to come to you to do your accounts?

Sue Gamble is a bookkeeper with 30 years experience in various industries including the childcare industry, she is also a registered BAS Agent.

Sue: “As a mobile bookkeeper I pride myself on being flexible with times and locations, if you are located within 30 kms of the Perth CBD I can come to you and discuss your bookkeeping needs.

I offer onsite bookkeeping for your convenience but if you feel your bookkeeping can be completed off-site I also offer this service with a weekly, fortnightly or monthly meeting to ensure all data entry is being captured. I can pick up the paperwork as required or it can be posted to my secure PO Box.

Whether your business is currently using MYOB, Quickbooks, Xero or no accounting software at all, I have experience in this software. I can take control of your bookkeeping needs allowing you to run your day to day operations without any added stress. I want you to be able to work on your business, not in your business.

My focus is to develop a long term mutually beneficial relationship through providing a personal, reliable and flexible business solution”.

For more information, please contact Sue on 0419 939 141.
It's Spring Time- Hello Hay Fever

While it's great to say goodbye to the cold winter weather, many children and childcare educators can see their hay fever symptoms start to return. Hay fever is an allergic reaction that can occur all year round in some people. It is more common in spring due to the increase in allergens like grass pollens—although house dust mites and fur can also cause it. During an attack, sufferers can end up feeling very miserable and run down, with about 50,000 sick days taken off each year in Australia.

Reducing Hay Fever Symptoms

- Sufferers should try to stay indoors with closed windows on windy days with high pollen counts.
- Washing eyes out with water can help remove pollens.
- Sunglasses can help.
- Take steps to reduce allergen exposure like:
  - Grass cutting is done when sufferers are not at the Centre.
  - Selecting plants that do not disperse their seed by wind.
  - Avoiding parks or trips to the country.

Treatment

Some sufferers may find symptomatic relief with eye drops, nasal sprays or anti-histamines. These should always be taken with advice from your pharmacist or doctor.

Hay Fever Season and Asthmatics

A condition known as ‘thunderstorm asthma’ can be triggered by hot humid rainy weather during high pollen counts. The extra moisture can make pollens swell and explode. They then become smaller and more easily inhaled into the lungs, which can cause asthma attacks. Use your 4-step asthma action plan and first aid training to deal with this.

Keith Emin, Revive Emergency Medical Training, (08) 9467 4805.
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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.
Are you creative?
Creativity requires passion and commitment. Creativity is the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality. It involves two processes; thinking, and then producing. If a child wants to draw a black flower or a pig with two heads they just do it because it makes them happy. Children do this all the time, but what stops us from being creative?

Some myths about creativity:
1. There's only one right answer to every problem
2. We need to follow the rules
3. Don’t be foolish
4. Don’t make mistakes
5. You’re not creative.

Can you learn to be more creative?
A study at Exeter University concluded that excellence in creativity is determined by:
- opportunities
- encouragement
- training
- motivation, and
- most of all—practice

CTAS can help with the “training” aspect of increasing your creativity. If you would like to know more about our Creativity workshop or book in, check out our website www.ctas.wa.edu.au

What could you do with plastic milk containers?

Featured Service Prize
This month we are featuring two services which are doing amazing work in the childcare industry; Early Learning Centre Summer Pines and Starbright Booragoon.

ELC Summer Pines recently finished the upgrade to their outdoor environment. The transformation (featured on page 5) happened over the past 6 months, with the team working together to source the tools and resources.

Starbright Booragoon recently celebrated NAIDOC Week, and involved the children in some interesting experiences which are featured on page 6. Both of these centres have been awarded our prize of $100 to spend on resources.

Thankyou to both of these centres for all of your hard work, and for sharing the experiences with us.

Did you know? CTAS have a facebook and pinterest page. Like us or check out our pins.....
Teagan Kean, from ELC Summer Pines answered a few questions about the changes to the centre’s outdoor environment.

**What made you decide to change your outdoor environment?**

As a team we decided we wanted to change our outdoor environments to be more natural and inviting for the children. We also wanted to extend on the children’s interests towards outdoor materials i.e., bark, wooden logs, flowers.

**How did you decide what to do in the area?**

We all divided off into a few groups and each group picked an area to focus on and brainstorm what they wanted to do, and what they wanted to achieve in that area. Once we all had an idea on what we wanted to do, we all came together and discussed our ideas. Once our final plan was set, we all got to work in achieving our new outdoor environments. We knew we wanted to incorporate more natural and homely elements so it was a matter of deciding exactly what to create.

**Have the changes made any difference to the way that the children use the space?**

Yes, the children do lot more exploring and discovering in the outdoor areas, they move around more and explore particular areas with an open mind, instead of sticking to the sandpit area. They are now provided with new learning areas to imagine and create during play.

**What do the families think of the new environment?**

Various families have commented on the new look giving us feedback which includes:

- Looking more inviting
- Looks fresh and well cared for
- Parents believe incorporating natural elements is good for the children to feel ‘at home’
- Older children have gone home and said they wish they had some of these elements in their own homes.

We have had heaps of positive feedback about our natural areas, parents seem to really like it.

**What are the staff’s favourite things about the new environment?**

The staff love each idea we have incorporated as we did a lot of planning and it has paid off!
NAIDOC Week Experiences

NAIDOC Week was celebrated 6-13 July this year, Starbright in Booragoon had some innovative ideas to support the children’s learning on this part of our Australian culture. Kate McArthur from the Kindy Room at the centre shared some of the experiences with us:

The children have been focused on NAIDOC Week and Australian landmarks and their Aboriginal cultural links. We have explored traditional Aboriginal paintings, symbols, cooked damper and we have even created our own ochre paints. The children enjoyed discovering the Dreamtime and their cultural stories, as well as listening to native Aboriginal music and interpreted it using traditional and recycled instruments.

We have been extending our learning through Australian bush exploration in sensory play and discovered our natural and man made Australian landmarks including the Pinnacles, Dog Rock, Ayers Rock, Rottnest, the Great Barrier Reef, Ningaloo Reef, Wave Rock and the Sydney Opera House. We have created sand sculptures and salt dough sculptures for our Art Gallery, played with a sensory reef and created our own Sydney Opera House and it’s performances. The kindy children are learning to respect their friends artwork by looking and not touching, just like in a real art gallery.

The toddlers have been exploring NAIDOC week through traditional colours and their meanings (Black: People, Yellow: Sun, Red: Earth, Blue: Torres Strait Islanders). The toddlers have created their own Mia-Mia to encourage dramatic play incorporating camping and traditional cooking in the bush. Natural resources and smells have been added for additional sensory play.
Out of The Box Experiences

Space week

Make your own constellations
What you will need:
Black card
White stickers or star stickers
Crayons
Children can stick the stickers where they would like to on the card and then join the dots with a crayon.

Sensory Space Bag
Ziploc bag
Clear packing tape
Scissors
Clear hair gel or thick shampoo
Food Colouring (black)
Glitter
Foam Space Shapes
**Remember you want to put things with round edges. Something pointy may puncture the bag

Directions:
1. Add hair gel to the bag, just a few tablespoons you don’t want the bag too full, about 1/3 full
2. Add colouring and your space theme items, glitter, etc.
3. Fold the bag over and push out all the air before you seal it.
4. Seal bag with tape on the top. I like to fold over the ziploc seal part and tape that down.
5. Place the now taped and sealed bag upside down inside another bag.
6. Seal this bag on all edges with clear packing tape. Trim the edges when you are done to remove excess tape.

Images on this page are from Pinterest