Welcome

Welcome to the third edition of the CTAS update. We would like to thank all our clients and students for a fantastic first half of 2013 and we look forward to bringing you the latest CTAS news, inspiring ideas and training updates throughout the second half of the year.

CTAS Study Days

Supporting students in their study is an important focus for the CTAS team. We host two study days per month at CTAS head office and all of our students are openly invited to attend. Study days are held in the second and fourth Thursday of each month and open to students between 9:00am - 4:30pm. We try to ensure a trainer is present at the sessions to offer support to the students while they complete their written tasks and to provide feedback and, when possible, conduct questioning. We are also seeing great success in students promptly completing their tasks and handing them directly to the trainer. If you would like to learn more about the study day or to book your CTAS trainees in for the next session please contact Mikayla on 9350 9222 or via email m.reynolds@ctas.wa.edu.au

Celebrating NAIDOC Week

7th July 2013 - 14 July 2013

NAIDOC week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The national focus city for 2013 is Perth and the theme is "We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963". This year’s theme celebrates the 50th anniversary of the presentation of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions to the Federal Parliament.

How can you help celebrate NAIDOC week?
- Listen to indigenous music with the children
- Explore Indigenous musical instruments
- Participate in an Aboriginal art experience
- Read a dreamtime story at mat time
- Plant a native Australian plant
- Use traditional bush tucker recipes to cook a themed lunch
- Hold a flag raising ceremony of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags

For further information check out the NAIDOC week website: http://www.naidoc.org.au/

Do you have a staff member that is ready to take the next step and commence a qualification?

Traineeships are currently available for the Certificate III in Children’s Services and also the Diploma of Children’s Services.

To enrol your student or learn more about qualification training please email admin@ctas.wa.edu.au or call our head office and speak to one of our friendly staff members 9350 9222

Posting Correspondence

When sending correspondence to CTAS via mail please use the CTAS PO Box address to ensure mail is received.

CTAS
PO BOX
353
Cannington
WA 6987
Sessions for the July - November 2013 PD calendar have been booking out fast so we encourage all services to ensure they are sending in the booking forms before the due dates. We love hearing your feedback at CTAS and would like to encourage all of our attendees to complete and hand in their feedback forms at the end of each session. We use this feedback to help develop upcoming sessions, bring you topics of interest and to improve our services.

Why is Professional Development Important?

Professional Development is extremely important to help assist educators to build on their skills, knowledge and experience. In an ever evolving industry PD sessions can help attendees to keep up to date with regulation and legislation changes, stay in touch with current best practice, and can assist to keep information current.

It also gives educators the opportunity to reflect on their own practices and make improvements where necessary. Professional Development sessions are also a fantastic way to connect with other services and discuss ideas with other child care professionals and see what works in other services. Participants can use their new skills and knowledge to feel inspired in their current job role and will be able to communicate and share knowledge learnt with families and co-workers. Be sure to keep any certificates from the training sessions in a safe place, they can be valuable for recognition of prior learning when studying Childcare related qualifications and can be an asset to your CV.

What’s Coming Up?

**Cultural Competence**  
Discuss positive attitudes to differences, knowledge of different practices and views, communication and interaction across cultures  
Date: Wednesday 10th July 2013  
Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm  
Location: CTAS Training Room

**Through Children’s Eyes**  
Learn how to communicate effectively with children and manage their behaviour appropriately, while working within the Early Years Learning Framework.  
Date: Wednesday 14th August 2013  
Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm  
Location: CTAS Training Room  
Bookings Due: 31st July 2013

**Speech & Language Development from Birth to 6 Years Workshop**

CTAS is working with Felicity Lear a speech pathologist to facilitate a Speech & Language workshop that will provide information to educators on how to help children develop language skills; learn some key signing and when to refer children for outside assistance.

Two sessions will be held in the month of July. To make a booking please request a booking form by emailing pdtraining@ctas.wa.edu.au or speak with Mikayla on 9350 9222

**Session 1**  
Venue: CTAS Training Room  
1-13 Hamilton St, Cannington  
Date: Monday 15th July 2013

**Session 2**  
Venue: Karrinyup Sports Centres  
2 Nerita Way, Karrinyup  
Date: Tuesday 23rd July 2013

**For the complete July - November calendar or for further information on Professional Development please contact Mikayla via email:**  
pdtraining@ctas.wa.edu.au or phone: 9350 9222

Task Cover Sheets

Students it is important to always remember to attach a task cover sheet to completed tasks before handing them into your trainer. Task cover sheets allow trainers to provide feedback, ensure your work is correctly labelled and identifies which tasks relates to particular units. Don’t forget to include your full name, the date your are submitting your task and your signature. When you sign the declaration you are confirming that you are submitting your own work.

For a copy of this document please contact your trainer or the CTAS head office.
Using Pinterest as an Online Resource

Pinterest is a website that allows individuals to 'pin' their favourite ideas, photos, websites, inspirations and much more to the one place. It has become a personalised virtual scrapbook. For educators Pinterest has opened the door to share and discover some wonderful ideas that will help to inspire future experiences for the children. By creating your own individual profile you can ‘pin’ everything you have discovered in the one place. What we really love about Pinterest is that it shares so many great experience ideas using recycled materials, resource ideas, sensory experiences, inspiration for most topics and is a great tool to discover websites that you may not have seen before. If you’re looking for a point of difference or some new experience ideas we would highly recommend logging on to the Pinterest website or downloading the app.

To keep connected with CTAS on Pinterest search under pinners: CTAS Training

Out of The Box Experiences

Using Pinterest as our inspiration this month we have used pinned ideas and recreated them to show you how you can use the website to inspire experiences

**Busy Board**

Busy boards are a fantastic resource and one that can be very popular with the toddler and kindy age group. Children will need to rely on their problem solving skills and fine motor muscles to work out how to use the locks, switches and latches. A parent who is handy with tools would be able to assist in the creation of the board and a tradesperson may be able to donate used parts that can be attached.

Search on Pinterest : Busy Board

**Sensory Rice Tray**

This was a really quick and simple experience to create! Allow the children to pour the rice over the tray and then add some small cars to push the rice around. Children will love exploring the different texture and will also use their fine motor grip to manipulate the cars around the tray. This tray is perfect for the toddler age group to explore.

Search on Pinterest: Rice sensory tray

**Stepping Stones**

Stepping stones are a great way for children to explore different textures. Using resources found around the centre children can help create these sensory stones by gluing materials onto cardboard circles. Children will be able to practise big and small steps, design a pathway and discover textures by touching the stones with their hands and feet. We created our stones using felt, ribbon, fabric flowers, jewels and balloons. We tapped our stones to the floor to prevent slips and trips.

Search on Pinterest: Sensory Stepping Stones

**Sensory Balloons**

Sensory balloons are a great experience for all age groups to enjoy. All you need to do is find some sensory materials around the service and put them inside a balloon. We used some red lentils, rocks and brown rice. Children will be able to use their fine motor muscles to grasp the balloons and manipulate them to feel what is inside. Children will enjoy discovering new textures and smells using these easy to make balloons. For the older age groups why not use your balloons in a ball toss game or in a tub of water to see if they will sink or swim?

Search on Pinterest: Sensory Balloons

To share your inspiring and ‘Out of The Box Experiences’ Please email your suggestions and photos to Gabrielle g.ryan@ctas.wa.edu.au
**REmida’s Early Years Experience**

REmida’s Early Years’ Experience has been developed to provide the Early Years with a program that introduces concepts of sustainability through “valuing waste”. Through interactive play children learn about their environment using sound, touch, communication and collaborative play during this 1 hour workshop.

Children are learning and identifying through a material world. REmida materials are a sustainable option for educators to introduce into the learning environment. Materials have been collected as clean off cuts from local industry and are unique, colorful and playful. Children will explore communication, social and emotional development during their play based learning experience.

This REmida Early Years’ Experience program aims to engage children from the ages 3-5 years.

REmida offers educators optional professional development component during REmida’s Early Years Experience. Once the workshop begins educators are able to participate in a two page ‘experience page’ that has been designed to inspire deeper observations of the responses of your children’s reactions to REmida materials. This optional PD experience provides an introduction to new perspectives in your learning environment and aims to enhance Educators professional judgments, creativity, intuition and imagination.

Note: For this PD to be effective you will need to become an observer during the REmida Early Years’ Experience and have a camera available for documentation. This means avoiding interaction with your children and allowing the REmida facilitator to guide the children during the workshop.

The PD experience pages present questions that engage you as the educator into listening and photographing you children’s responses to the materials. From your evaluation you will be able to see future planning opportunities that you can introduce into your learning environments.

If you are interested in booking your group in to workshop please email bookings@remidawa.com or phone 9227 5576

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**Bianca The Travelling Bear**

We have been lucky enough to learn about Bianca the travelling bear at one of our service visits. Bianca bear has been on some very exciting journeys with friends and family. She has travelled near and far and even holidayed in the US. Bianca Bear chooses a friend in the service to go home with and then stays the night or the weekend with them. The children take care of Bianca by feeding her, dressing her and making sure she has lots of fun. When the children bring her back to the service they share their experience with the rest of their peers and put pictures up on a display so everyone can see where Bianca Bear has been. This is a fantastic way to build relationships with parents and families and a great inspiration for your home stories. Families love Bianca so much that the service have set up a booking system and Bianca never goes to sleep on her own!

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**Baby Doll Baths**

On a recent centre visit our trainer had the pleasure of observing the children giving their baby dolls a bath. The children had a wonderful time working together to wash their dolls and it was a great opportunity for the educators to open up discussion about babies, siblings and the importance of personal hygiene practises such as bath time. The children enjoyed socialising with one another role playing and really worked out their large muscles to make sure the dolls are nice and clean.

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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