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Welcome
Hi everyone, welcome to another CTAS newsletter. This newsletter is a way of informing, celebrating and supporting the childcare centres in WA, so if you have any comments, contributions or ideas you would like to see included please don’t hesitate to contact us at admin@ctas.wa.edu.au

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Incentives for Employing Trainees in your Workplace!
There are many incentives, both sustainable and monetary, that your organisation will receive from employing trainees within your service:
- Trainees allow for sustainability in employing youth into the industry.
- Having trainees in your service also means you can train educators to the high standard you are looking for and to meet the individual needs of your service.
- Employing trainees assists in reducing staff turnover which in turn keeps your clients happy with consistency of the care of their children.
- Government financial incentives

The Government Department of Workforce Training and Workplace Development has information on their Apprenticentre website on financial support, how to employ trainees, where you can get support and where to start in employing trainees into your service. You can find all this information at www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/apprenticentre

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SAD FAREWELL
We introduced you to Tony, our “grasshead” last newsletter, unfortunately he has since passed away due to an excessive amount of water (who knew!) prior to a public holiday. He brought so much to our lives, including oxygen, and an unwavering smile.

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National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is happening this year between 27 May and 3 June. The week is a great time for centres and families to learn about the shared histories, cultures and achievements of all Australians and to explore how each of us can work towards the national reconciliation effort.

Reconciliation is about creating positive, respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

This year’s theme is **It’s time to change it up**, it is about trying to make a difference no matter how big or small. The website www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw/ has resources, ideas and factsheets on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and what you can do to be a part of change.

To learn more about Noongar (the people of the south-west of Western Australia) culture, go to: http://www.noongarculture.org.au/

We have included some ideas on experiences in our “Out of the Box” page, and you can visit our Pinterest page for additional suggestions about art and culture.
**What’s Coming Up?**

**Fun with Maths and Science**  
20 May, 6.30pm CTAS  
**Guest presenter: Jan Spence**  
Discover how much maths and science is embedded in everyday play and life activities, and how you can enhance this. Build your confidence and understanding to effectively communicate a zest for the topics with children.

**Supportive Natural Environments**  
3 June, 6.30pm CTAS  
Jenna Simmons  
*Nature is a fantastic resource for educators and children, how can we include natural elements indoors and outdoors in a meaningful way? Learn the benefits of nature based play for children and gain some practical ideas and applications.*

**Sustainability in Childcare**  
24 June, 7pm anywhere  
**WEBINAR**  
Look beyond the veggie patch; What does it mean to be sustainable? What is a Sustainability Management Plan? How can I demonstrate sustainability to children?  
**For more information on what a webinar is, see page 3 of this newsletter**

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**Wet Weather Play**

With the change in weather, how are you giving children the opportunity to go outside every day? What opportunities does the cold and wet weather bring?

There is a persistent notion that being outside when its cold causes illness, and although it is not true, it may present barriers for change. It is important to gain the trust and respect of families when making changes, because without this we cannot take risks.

Strategies include:

- Speaking to parents about why you think it is important for the children to have the opportunity to go outside in the cold and wet weather, then showing them the learning happening via emails/learning stories/conversations
- Asking parents to bring in gumboots and raincoats for the children, or extra jumpers for cold weather
- Requesting an extra change of clothes for children so that they can get wet
- Setting up tents outside to keep the rain off
- Purchasing enough all-in-one rain-suits for every child
- Having spare clothes, gumboots, raincoats, umbrellas for spontaneous outdoor adventures
- Having hairdryers and towels on hand.

Remember going outside when it was wet and playing in the mud, or in the puddles and exploring all of the insect life that came out during this time? Wouldn’t it be amazing to have the children in your centre experience these things too? Send in photos of the children at your centre enjoying the colder weather.
Have you ever wanted to attend a professional development but struggled to get there, do you live in a regional area, can’t find someone to watch the kids?

Attending a webinar is perfect for you.

A webinar is a seminar or training session broadcast over the internet to a PC, laptop, tablet or smart phone.

This means we can bring the training direct to you. All you need is a computer or other device with speakers/headphones/headset, a valid email address and a quiet place to sit and log into the live professional development session.

Next Webinar: Sustainability in Childcare- 24th June 2015, 7pm-8:30pm.

Would you like to see your service featured in our newsletter?

You could win a $100 voucher to a resource outlet of your choice. All you need to do is email us at pdtraining@ctas.wa.edu.au with photos and some information about the experience/room makeover / project/event etc.
Go beyond dot painting for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

**STARRIGHT OSBORNE PARK**

Megan, one of the CTAS trainers, found some great ideas for displaying work and art at Starbright Osborne Park. Thanks so much to Janelle and her staff for allowing us to share them. Really creative, eye-catching and natural ways of thinking about displays.

- **Aboriginal Clapping Sticks**
  - Great blog that talks about how to make these clapping sticks, why the colours were chosen, and how to extend the experience by using YouTube to find Aboriginal music to “clap” to.
  - There is also a sheet of Aboriginal symbols for older children to replicate.
  - Sourced from www.laughingkidslearn.com

- **Clay “echidnas” using sticks and clay.**
  - Sourced from the Kids Craft Weekly newsletter.

- **Painting Aboriginal symbols on rocks.**
  - Shared on Pinterest by Bernadette Calabrese.

- **Children’s and group artwork displayed with respect.**

- **Displaying documentation.**

- **Children’s and group artwork displayed with respect.**

- **Just wrap wool around cut out cardboard snakes. Older children could draw and cut their own snakes. Idea from blog.redheart.com**

- **Sign so that children can come back to their work.**

- **A display of children’s art.**