

In this Newsletter... * Important dates coming up. * Administration-Survey / Bookings 2021. * Hats.
 * Transition to school - Kinder Start. * From the Children. * Indigenous Literacy Day in the Ridge.
 * Yuwaalaraay Language & Culture - Family. * Child Protection. * RUOK? * Inclusion.
 * Early Childhood Educator Day.

***Administration** - QA7 Governance and Leadership.
 Thank you for your input / feedback with our **Early Learning Matters Survey**, we were able to get a response from all of our families. The survey touched base with what you know about what we do and why we do it. Your responses are greatly appreciated. As part of our own self-assessment processes we review our strengths and look at areas of improvement. It was great to see your responses connected with our own reflections. I have touched base with any questions and ideas that were presented... such as learning more about the NQS- National Quality Standards and EYLF- Early Years Learning Framework, all of which we work with and it guides our practices and procedures. The survey highlighted families preferred way of communication and our partnership agreement was also mentioned. Being part of our centre means we work together for the best interest of your child, we are here for your child, your family and our community. This is a reciprocal relationship - it goes two ways. We can all help each other. Additional points that came up were about... outside Community Services available, others using our parking drop off pick up area and a refresh paint, all of which is being followed up on. We had great acknowledgments for what we do, families specifically labelling these things, for more details come and see me or if there is anything else you would like to discuss, I am here and I will make time for you.

Sarah Chamberlain. Director / Teacher.

*** Important dates coming up...**

October - Taking Bookings for 2021.

Friday 20th of **November** -
 LRCS **Kinder Start** Program Commences

Thursday 17th of **December** -
 Gordon WAMS **Hearing Screening** revisit.

Last day for 2020 Wednesday 23rd December,

Reopen on Thursday 21st January **2021.**



QA2 **Hats Hats Hats**



Being a SunSmart Centre our children need to have a hat to play in the sun, so that they are protected from sunburn.

Be sure to bring your hat, you can even leave it here. If you have any Little Diggers Hats at home, please return as we are low on our spares. Thanks. No Hat, No Play.

*Administration continued... QA7.1 Governance and Leadership.

Position Booking Forms for 2021 will be coming out to you shortly. Be sure to **indicate your last day of attendance for 2020** and **start date in 2021**, as we require this information to manage our staffing. **Reopening** on... **Thursday 21st of January 2021**. If you have a child who is **going to school**, you will not be required to have one of these and **your end date will be the Wednesday 23rd of December**, unless you talk to me and we can see what we can do to accommodate your needs, or you are leaving earlier.

In November the accounts will be finalised to the end of the year / your last day.

All accounts must be paid in full before the end of this year, so we can start the New Year fresh.

To keep information current... If you need to update any information, please use the change of details form at the front desk.

*** Transition to Lightning Ridge Central School - Kinder Start.** QA6.2.1 Transitions...
Continuity of learning and transitions for each child are supported.



Making connection... **Mary Cross** the lead in the Kinder Start Transition to School Program came over to connect with some of the Kinder Start children who will be going to big school next year.

Katherine Cross also came to read a book with the children, being the Lightning Ridge Central School Librarian.

A major part of becoming ready for school is children's **social emotional development** which will help them to be able to **strive** rather than just **survive**. **Communication is key** in this area... being able to express themselves and understand.

Children are also **developing** their **language** and **literacy - reading and numeracy skills**... becoming familiar with letters and numbers, particularly relating to themselves ... their age and name. As well as **physical development**... **being independent** and **capable**, this is also in relation to



fine motor skills ... such as using Pinchie finger (**pincer grip**) and use their **helping hand**. We tell the story about Peter pilot providing direction on developing grip and control. Experiences such as threading developing hand eye coordination. This all helps in getting tasks done, writing etc. **Connecting all these areas is cognition** – children's ability to **think, problem solve** etc. This can be social emotional – **6 steps to conflict resolution**. **Reflect, question** - What can we do about that? **Think about how things work, fit together, categorize, sort**, such as maths $2 + 3 = 5$.



Mary Cross - Kinder Start
4 Sessions on Firdays,
starting Friday 20th Nov
9.30 - 12.30
Graduation Ceremony
and Parent Session
Friday 11th of December
11.30 – 12.30

Pictured here:- Our Thursday group of children eagerly waiting to meet the transition team from the Lightning Ridge Central School.
Mary Cross, Meg Loiterton and Tania Kennedy got to spend some time playing together with the children getting to know each other and make a connection.

***From the Children...**

LO3.1c Children share humour and happiness...



Children have been **sharing their humour with jokes**

Claire - Knock knock. Who's there? Lettuce.
Let us in or I'll break the door down.

Ruby - Knock knock. Who's there? Ben.
Bend over and kiss my butt.

A cheeky joke passed on to Ruby by an ex student of Little Diggers.



Connecting with our Solar system exploration **Ethan** shared
"What did Mars say to Saturn?" "Can you give me a ring sometime."

Indiana – Singing and recalling all the words from Frozen 2 "Into the Unknown".
Plus a joke... "How do you make an octopus laugh? With 10 tickles (tentacles)!"

LO4.4 Children resource their own learning... by connecting with people and materials / equipment.



LO4.4 They experience the benefit and pleasures of shared learning exploration... using cooperation and coordination to explore motion

...Marble roller ball painting...



Liam and **Harlen** having their turn with **Nevaeh**, **Victoria** and **Ruby** look on. **Nate** and **Hunter** working together.

We run our program inside or outside and acknowledge that children can learn over the whole day.



Thanks to **Amber** and **Willow** for bringing in some footballs for us... Some of the children who play footy shared their skills. Passing, catching and kicking. Thanks **Tom**, **Levi** and **Sophie**.

We revived our Ski walk which takes **whole body coordination** and **team work** to move along.

Jahyli set up and then demonstrated how to **hop** and **jump**... part of our Munch and Move **Fundamental Movement Skills**.

The children followed an interested in **Puppet play...**



We recycled paper bags to make puppets with some great expressions. Megan introduced a **Ginger bread story... with a different ending.**



From training **Natalie** highlighted the importance of **children being actively involved in playing with language.** So we made props from the story to do this and for children to share this at home with their families. Children used play dough... creating gingerbread men and women. We also made ginger bread men biscuits. Thanks to **Charlie T** for contributed to our program by bring in Teddy Bear biscuits to share. **Language and literacy in every day experiences...** Singing another song "Roly poly" while we make jam scrolls.



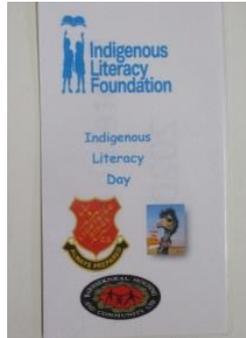
Hunter also wanted to share a treat with his friend at lunch. Thanks Hunter. **Our garden has finally started producing asparagus...** it takes two year to start producing and we have been persistent and luck that it survived through the drought. Check this out next time you come in, they grow quite quickly and stand like little soldiers.



***Connecting with Nature ...**
 Children have been bringing in flowers and the flowers have been blooming in our garden. From this we made our own flowers to take home with

a variety of scents and we also shared them with others in our community.

LO2 Children are connected with and contribute to their world.



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Indigenous Literacy Day in the Ridge... The Lightning Ridge Central School, Barriekneal Housing and Community Ltd and Paint The Ridge REaD supported this event. Katherine Cross from the LRCS came to read with the children and present them books from the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Little Diggers children sharing our PTRR (Paint The Ridge REaD) cake with Walgan Brenda and Simon from our local Yuwaalaraay Language and Cultural Group, celebrating our culture and our love of talking, reading, singing and rhyming, as well as building relationships, literacy and learning. Thank you to all with a special mention to Katherine for making all the cakes for this event.

Ngiyani Milan Dhiyaan

Bubaa is my father
Guni* is my mother
Ngiyani milan dhiyaan
Lu, la, lu, la, lay

Baawaa my sister
Dhagaan my brother
Ngiyani milan dhiyaan
Lu, la, lu, la, lay

Baagii is my nanna
Dhaadhaa is my poppy
Ngiyani milan dhiyaan
Lu, la, lu, la, lay

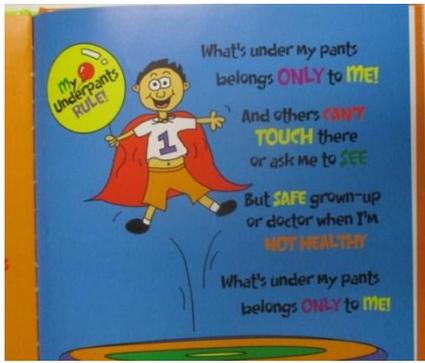
Garruu is my uncle
Walgan is my aunty
Ngiyani milan dhiyaan
Lu, la, lu, la, lay

Guliir is my partner
Birrallii my child
Ngiyani milan dhiyaan
Lu, la, lu, la, lay

Birray is my boy
Miyay is my girl
Ngiyani milan dhiyaan
Lu, la, lu, la, lay



Yuwaalaraay Language and Cultural Group – Walgan Brenda, Aunty Liz, Simone and Lee Lee have been teaching us about **Dhiyaan - Family... connecting with Culture and Diversity**. We have permission to share with you the words of the song that the children have been learning. If you would like a copy let us know. Pictured here are also some of the awesome drawings the children have made of family. Ellie drawing her family. Skylar presents Aunty Liz with a copy of the children's drawings to hang up at the office.

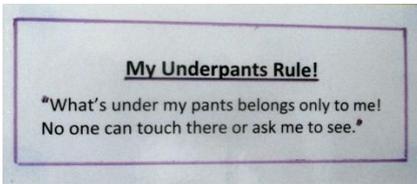


QA2.2.3 **Child Protection Week** (6-12 Sept.) this year's theme was **"Putting Children First"**, which is at the core of what we do as Early Childhood Educators. We have embedded child safe practices and follow the NSW Child Safe Standards.



To use a well-known quote...

"It takes a community to raise a child"
and **child protection is everyone's responsibility.**



Children are learning about our bodies and we teach children protective practices through conversations, play, stories and rhymes.

QA2.2 Safety - Each child is protected.

Another area we have supported children's learning is about **Kids and Traffic**. Pictured here **Debra** is playing a bingo matching game with the children. Again through play, conversations - engagement and intentional teaching, children learn and share their experiences about road safety - stop, look, listen and think; wearing seat belts, hold hands etc.



R U OK? Day

A conversation could change a life.
How to ask R U OK?
Simple steps, that could change a life.



1. Ask



2. Listen



3. Encourage action



4. Check in



At Little Diggers we are actively promoting the practice of RUOK? Through our QA5 Relationships QA6 Partnerships, focus on QA2.1.1 Wellbeing and being the I in Kind.

LO3.1 Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing. We support LO3.1.an increasing capacity to understand, self-regulate and manage their emotions in ways that reflect their feelings and the feelings of others.

Rest and relaxation - Megan found "Goodnight music to clam - sleep", with mesmerising visuals. We have taught the children a **new breathing exercise using our hand...** so you can do this anywhere, anytime. Get your child to show you how. Also, using the characters from the Movie "Inside Out" we have had **conversations about feelings** providing a variety of words for children to describe them.





Inclusion ... QA3.2.1 Inclusive environment and QA6.2.2 Access and participation.

We have been working with Myra Wells our ISP Inclusion Support Professional and received our star for 2020. Connecting via zoom at our last Team Meeting we shared feedback from Professional development that we had done and touched base with our Inclusion Strategies. One area we have been working on for children and for ourselves as adults is to strengthen our **Growth mind set.**

This involves reframing our thoughts / self-talk.

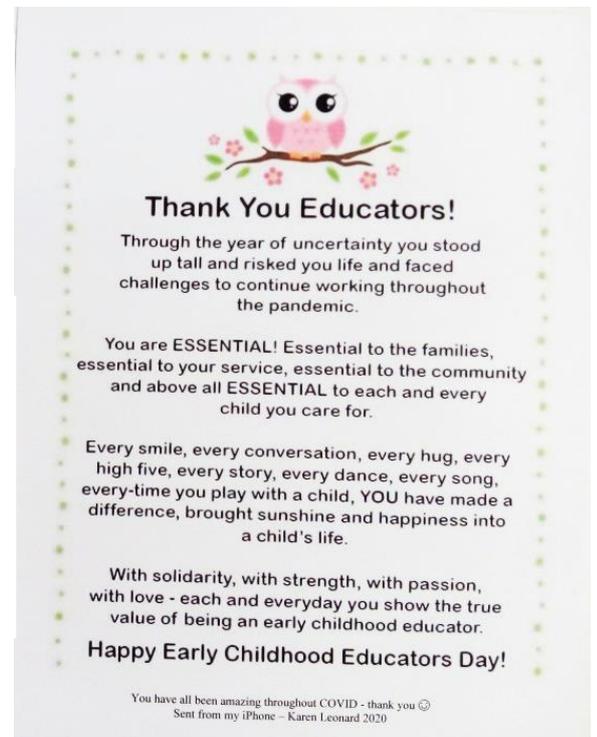
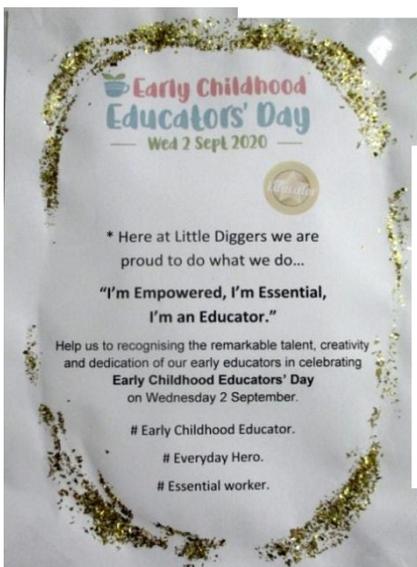
Myra also shared how to **Reframe the behaviour**, if you would like a copy let us know. **Thanks Myra.**

A reflection from a child who has **reframed her thinking using her words...**

from "I can't." to "I'm getting the hang of it."

This made all the difference for her to try, be guided, practice and then achieve her goal. Well done.

**I'm Empowered, I'm Essential,
I'm an Educator...**



***Early Childhood Educator Day...** We are grateful for the acknowledgement and appreciation we received on the day. We are proud of what we do for our children families and community. 😊

***Father's Day** - Children were excited to pass on their special gift to their Dad / Pop.

A cup made with love... with writing on it and it came in a box they had also decorated, using their cutting and collage skills.

