

## In this month's Newsletter...

- . \* Welcome. \* Shirt Order. \* Administration.
- \*Extending on our Assessment Feedback. \* Very Important
- \* Dental Care. \* Brian the Brain. Message re CCS.
- \* Family Shield. \* Belonging Tree. \* Sun Smart.
- \*QIP QA3 Recycling update. \* Thank you.
- \*Developing Social Awareness. \*Reading and our Community
- . Project Paint The Ridge REaD.

## \* Important dates coming up...

- \*Shirt Order due by 8.3.19
- \* Easter - Float Parade.
- \*14<sup>th</sup> of May Hatching Event at the LRCS.
- See details p6

**\* We would like to welcome you**  
 back to Little Diggers. 😊  
 Hope you all enjoyed your break.  
  
 We look forward to what the  
 year ahead will bring for us all  
 as we learn and grow together.  
 We are here for you and your child.

**Childrens Shirt Order...**

See notice board, please put the  
 name, size, colour and how many,  
 last date for orders 8.3.19.



### \*Administration... QA7.1 Governance and Leadership.

**QA7.1.2 Management systems are in place to enable effective management and operation of a quality service.**

As from the beginning of this year we have **changed over to the digital signing in and out system.** As it is now a requirement that **actual time of arrival and departure of children** is to be sent with the session reports each week.

**Thank you to families** for working with us through this process.



**QA2.2 Safety QA2.2 Each child is protected. QA2.2.2 Incident and emergency management.** We have added our Emergency evacuation procedure next to the plan. As well as some new exit signs, replacing the old ones. On the notice board at the signing in desk **we have policies under review ...** See Emergencies and evacuations. Please read, sign and date. Feel free to provide feedback verbally or written to help us in this review process. Thanks.

**In the Kitchen...** a thermometer for heated food has been added and we are working through a review of lunch boxes in fridge. **Lunchboxes in fridge...** If just a plastic box - okay in fridge as is.



If it is in an insulated casing and an ice pack in side - okay in fridge as is.

But, if no ice pack inside, all you need to do is open the lunch box a bit when putting in fridge, to be able to cool what is inside.

## **Very Important Message**

**Under the CCs ... You are liable for Full Fees if you lose your allocated hrs or % or you / your child is not connected / linked, this is what the CWA (Complying Written Agreement) is about.**

Before, we could resubmit on your behalf and claim this for you, but this is no longer possible.

Through Centrelink / MyGov you can follow up to make amendments and then... if it fits their criteria, they may reimburse you (not us). This then covers your payment with us.

**Full fees will apply and will need to be paid, to continue your attendance, until this has been sorted.**

We already have in place the current week plus one week, but you may want to consider paying an extra week, to cover yourself should this situation arise.

Dear Families,

It has been seven months since the new Child Care Subsidy started! It is a good time to **check in on your family income estimate. Make sure it is up to date and reflects your and your partner's income for the whole financial year.**

If your estimate is lower than your actual income, you may get a debt, which you will have to pay back. It is also a good time to check and update your activity test if your circumstances have changed.

**The easiest way to update your family income estimate is by using your Centrelink online account through myGov, or the Express Plus Centrelink app.**

While you are there, **do not forget to make sure your and your partner's activity details are up to date too.** For more information, please visit ...

**<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/news/new-year-great-time-review-your-child-care-subsidy>**

### **How to provide irregular work hours for the Activity Test... See full details on notice board.**

This is for Parents who work irregular hours and have children in child care. It is about How to estimate your irregular work hours and provide them to Centrelink (via myGov) What does 'irregular work hours' mean? For the activity test, 'irregular work hours' means the number of hours you work changes from one fortnight to the next. This could be because you are a casual employee, or in another situation where your work hours vary, such as being self-employed. How do I provide my work hours if they are always changing?

**There are three simple steps to follow if you have irregular work hours:** 1) Estimate the highest number of hours you expect to work in any one fortnight in a three month period. 2) Provide the number of hours to Centrelink (via myGov) and tick the box to indicate you are in 'casual employment'. 3) Update this information if things change, for example, if you stop working, start full-time work.

**Preschool aged children can receive Child Care Subsidy (CCS) even where families do not meet the activity test. Families can access 36 hours of subsidised care per fortnight if they:**

- . \* would usually be entitled to less than 36 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight because they do not meet the activity test, and
- . \* have a preschool aged child attending an early education program at a centre-based day care service.

For example, if a child is starting school in February 2020, the child is considered to be a preschool aged child from February 2019. It is important that families provide their child's expected school start date when making a CCS claim, or later updating their details with Centrelink (either in Centrelink Online via [myGov](#) or the Express Plus mobile app), because this triggers eligibility to the preschool exemption if required.

**If parents who receive the preschool exemption change their mind about when to send their child to school** (i.e. decide to defer commencement for another year), it will affect their entitlement. As soon as parents decide their child will not start school the following year, they are required to update their child's expected school start date with Centrelink. This will mean the family will stop receiving the preschool exemption until the child is in the year before primary school again (i.e. the following year).

All families with children attending a preschool program in 2019 should ensure their child's expected school start date is correct and up to date with Centrelink.



**Thank you to Natalie** who shared with us some information on tooth paste from the Dentist... For children in Lightning Ridge **Colgate Neutrafluor 5000** is **recommended** by the **Royal Flying Doctor Dental Care** as the high fluoride will help fight dental decay.

**QA2.1 Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.** As well as **QA 6.1.3 Families are supported in their family's wellbeing.**



For children to LO 3.2a,i,j... recognise and communicate bodily needs, show an increasing awareness of healthy lifestyles and good nutrition, show increasing independence and competence in personal hygiene and care for themselves...

**We have reintroduced Brian the Brain 😊**

Feedback from families has been positive. Their children are discussing Brian the Brain at home in their everyday life experiences, talking about food, water and sleep and the effects of this on our body. Even the new children are starting to connect with these principles. Which then **allows them to be... Happy, Healthy and Strong** and **enjoy their day learning through play.** To support this learning please remember to put fruit or vegie in the bowl in the mornings and 50c in the jar for when we make things for our afternoon tea.

**Brain Health**  
thoughts | feelings | behaviours

**Food - Water - Sleep**



[www.briantheamazingbrain.com.au](http://www.briantheamazingbrain.com.au)

In the Kitchen is our **Fruit & Veg Bowl...**

Each day a piece of fruit or veg is added by the children to share for our morning tea. This gives us **an excellent learning experience ...** an opportunity to try different things and open up our tastes. As well as having conversations about what is there, the name, colour, texture, smell, how many etc. We even get special surprises, which we love.



## Here at Little Diggers...

We have QA6 collaborative partnerships with families and communities.

Where QA6.1.2 culture, values and beliefs of families are respected.

**To acknowledge our Families and their strengths we are refreshing our Family Shield display.**

If you have not as yet made one, you will be given a shield to take home.

This is for families to do with their children and bring in to display at the centre.

To get ideas, have a look at the ones already on display.

It is a time to reflect on the critical role that families play in teaching, supporting and nurturing their children as they grow, being recognised as the child's first teacher. This also gives us an opportunity to celebrate our community's diversity.



Since reopening we have been working with the children on updating our Belonging Tree for this year, with the theme... **“Watch me fly”**...

We can be anything we want to be.

At little Diggers we support children to develop

**LO1 A Strong Sense of Identity.**



Just a reminder that... We are a **Sun Smart Centre** and so ... We **Slip** on a shirt, **Slop** on sunscreen, **Slap** on a hat and stay in the **Shade**.

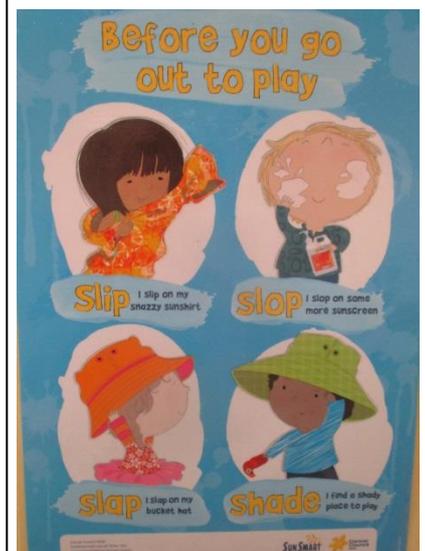
Children need to bring a broadbrim hat, have clothing with sleeves that cover the shoulders... no singlet's or singlet dresses allowed.

Sunscreen is available at the signing in desk, in the rooms & outside.

Thanks for helping us to keep your child sun safe and we are teaching the children to do this where ever they go.

We have also been singing...

“I like to wear my giggle hat and play in the sun”.





**We are continuing our collecting Recycling.**

Thank you to Phoenix, Quinn and family;  
as well as Natasha Earl for their donations.

The children excited to continue  
...Ryder "sorting bottles" he tells his Mum.  
As at the beginning of February we have reached **\$566**

\*\*\*\*\*



Earlier in the day the children with the support of an Educator set up the tent and tunnel. Ethan saw some children using the cups and bowls in the cubby under the fort and decided this would be a great idea for in the tent. So later he and Scout used them in the tent. "I brought at Little Diggers" Ethan tells us. Thank you to the Reavell family, the children loved setting it up and playing in this outside as well as inside.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*Developing our Social Emotional Awareness and for Children, Families and Educators to LO 1.1 build secure attachments and to establish and maintain respectful, trusting relationships with each other...

When we come or go .... We can...

Give a **Wave** ...      **Smile and Say Hi or Goodbye**...      or      A **High Five** ...      or      even A **Hug**.



...to our family, friends and educators. What are you going to choose today?

\*\*\*\*\*

**QA6.1.3 Families are supported** Current information is available to families about the service and relevant community services and resources to support parenting and family wellbeing.

We have to share with you some links to 1. the Raising Children Network [raisingchildren.net.au](http://raisingchildren.net.au)

and 2. Starting Blocks. [www.startingblocks.gov.au](http://www.startingblocks.gov.au)



Read Aloud... Change the World...

### **Why World Read Aloud Day?**

**We think everyone in the world should get to read and write.**

We think everyone in the world Every year, on World Read Aloud Day, people all around the globe read aloud together and share stories to advocate for literacy as a human right that belongs to all people.

By doing this **gives children the best start in learning and developing connections...** enjoying literacy in its many forms.

At Little Diggers we talk, read, sing and rhyme with the children every day.

This is a great lead into our QIP project QA6 which we started last year,

### **Paint The Ridge REaD is coming to town...**

**Our egg and it's story** is ready to share with our children and community.

We will be coming to services for **children to add their name to the egg,** to look after and care of our egg, **to help it grow strong.**

It will **join in** with the **Easter Float Parade.**

On **Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of May** our **Hatching Event** will take place **at the LRCS.**

Save the date and come and join our community in this event...

**To welcome our Mascot for Paint The Ridge REaD...** whose motto is **"Talk, Read, Sing and Rhyme with your child all the time."**



**Our Hatching Event will be supported by the Reading Bug from Parkes (Founder of this Initiative) and part of the Reading Relay.**

Thank you also to Kerry Flint and Charlotte Van Wilpe for their donations of books towards the book boxes for this project.