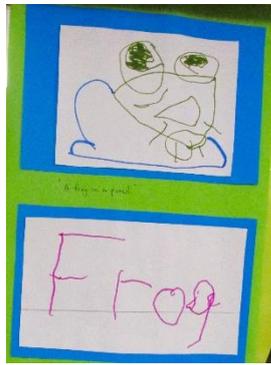


As part of our quality improvement plan from our self assessment we have been focusing on what our embedded practices are and our Belonging Tree is one of these qualities. **Our Belonging Tree ...** for children to feel recognised and respected for who they are (LO1.3a). Using the long term project of tadpoles turn into frogs we displayed this cycle on our belonging tree. Children choosing to be different parts of the cycle. We are still waiting for the tadpoles to turn into frogs. Apparently it takes 12 to 16 weeks. 😊





Shirt Order - has gone ahead this year.

If you have not paid for your order, please do so now. Thank you.

StEPS Screening Vision Screening



Michelle will be coming from Dubbo to do the vision screening for 4year old's going to school next year over the period 10th, 11th, 12th of May here at Little Diggers.



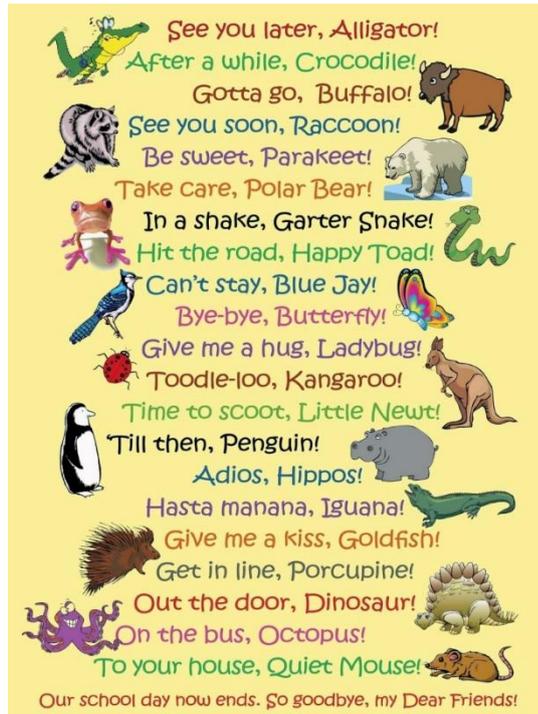
Just letting families know that there is a **Play Group** held on **Thursdays** from **10 – 12**, Upstairs at the Lighting Ridge Bowling Club. Everyone is welcome.

*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.**



What are you going to choose today?



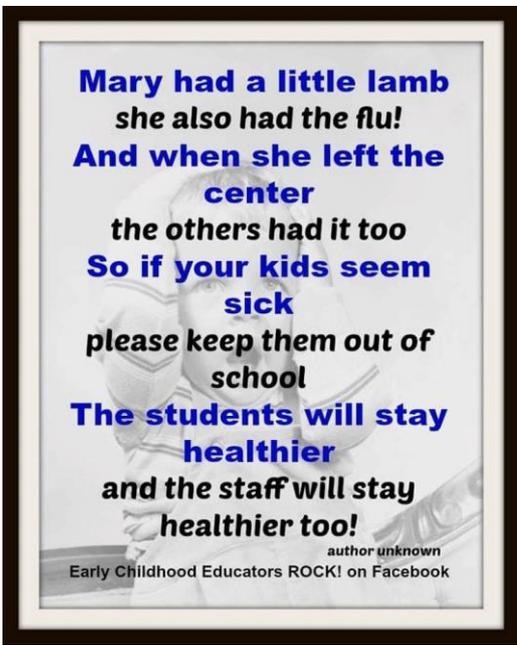
***Remembering what to bring....**

What to bring... Have you brought the following items? Are all your children's belongings **Clearly Labelled**, with your child's name?

- *A **Bag**, for your child's belongings...
- *Appropriate weather **Spare Clothes**, at least one set... Children may have toileting or other accidents Eg. Spill water and such...
- *A **Broadbrim Hat**...
- ***Shoes**...
- *A **Lunch Box**...
- *A **Water Bottle**...
- *A piece of **Fruit or Vegie** for morning tea & 50c for afternoon tea...
- ***Spare Nappies**, for the children still in nappies...
- *A **Sheet** for rest time... This needs to be exchanged regularly

Connecting with the NQS (National Quality Standards)... QA2 - Children's Health and Safety by promoting Healthy eating, developing Hygiene practices and Being comfortable.

Supporting children with Learning Outcome 3 in the EYLF (Early Years Learning Framework) - LO3 Children have strong sense of wellbeing, with their own belongings and being able to increase their own health and physical wellbeing.



*QA2 Children's Health and Safety

Our embedded practices have also helped us through these challenging times.

Part of that is Children's Health and Wellbeing, also looking after our adults too - Educators and Families. These are ongoing practices.

Please keep children home if unwell and follow the latest covid practices.

Thank you for working with us in keeping everyone safe and healthy.

To clarify for everyone... due to choking and anaphylaxis reactions, there are

No Nuts, Peanut butter or Nutella allowed in lunch boxes.

Other items not to bring - chips, lollies, soft drink and chocolate (coated, chip, layered) foods.

If anyone would like more ideas for lunch boxes, we can provide some for you.

Just ask any of our Educators, they will be happy to help. ☺

If you are sending in grapes or cherry tomatoes for your child's lunch **please cut grapes cherry tomatoes in half, as they are a choking hazard.**





Just a reminder that... We are a **Sun Smart Centre** and so ...

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 and outside. Thanks for helping us to keep your child sun safe and

we are teaching the children to do this wherever they go.





***Family Shield** Our Family Shield's are another embedded practice that we do...

To acknowledge our Families and their strengths. If you have not 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 celebrated our community's diversity. Children love to talk about this with their peers.



QA6.1.2 Families have opportunities to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions.

P.O.L.D stands for Parent of Little Diggers...

Parents are encouraged to participate at any time in, anyway. For example... You can just come in and do something with the children, read a story, share a skill or knowledge. **This enriches our program, children's learning and helps to connect with each other and our community.** There is no cost to you, but your time. Do it for yourself and your child/ren.

We are planning to have a POLD AGM in May and you are invited to come to meetings whenever you can.

Notification will be given on the front door when these are on. It is an opportunity to connect with other families within your centre, be a part of and contribute to your centre, share your ideas, knowledge and skills, learning from each other and have support.

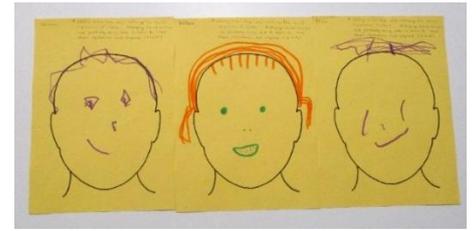
Feel free to ask questions anytime. To clarify or gain a better understanding of what we do and why and anything you might want to know. There may also be times when we may not have an answer for you straight away but, we will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible.

Please support P.O.L.D and their Fundraising Events and Efforts, as this is for you and your child/ren.





Through different experiences we have been **looking at our faces and noticing facial expressions of others** ... developing our social awareness and gradually being able to learn to “read” others expressions and respond. (LO2.1h)



Reflecting our community context, we are proud to be an inclusive service.

The above poster shows **The Benefits of Inclusion** for us to think about.

NQS A6.2.2 Effective partnerships support children’s access, inclusion and participation in the program. Together everyone achieves more.

Thank you for working together with us.

Our Philosophy reflected in play...

Sharing the love. "We have here children and adults who are looking for the pleasure of playing, working, talking, thinking and inventing things together. They are trying to get to know both each other and themselves, to understand how the world works and how it could be made to work better, and be enjoyed in friendship." (From School of Reggio Emilia - Jan Millikanc 2003)



Sharing our love of books, talking, reading, singing and rhyming together... as a group, with a friend or two and individually.

Thank you to Kathryn (Lilly's Mum) for thinking of us... passing on some comfy mini lounges. The children love them.



**A big Thank you to
Jett's Dad Ben for
introducing us to
Andrew Melrose from
Live Reptile Displays,
who brought in a fresh
water and saltwater
crocodiles for us to see.**



From this experience children re-enacted how to handle a crocodile. Following on... using loose parts - blocks, rocks and pegs... working together to create their own crocodile.



STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths...

Children have been **creating patterns and shapes** with a variety of materials.



*** Exploring colour and change...** Again, the children have been using different mediums... playdough, paint and nature to explore these concepts.



This lead to asking the question **...Why do things change colour?** Getting children to think about this question, with regards to fruit/vegies in the garden and also connecting with science... by doing an experiment with hot and cold water.



*** Sharing from the garden...**

Haylen brought in cucumbers for us to share at morning tea.

Lilly and **Indiana** also brought in mint for us to add to our garden.

Thank you for your contributions.

Professional Development and Collaborative is part of our QA7 **Governance and Leadership** covering 7.2.1,2,3 Continuous improvement, Educational Leadership and Development of professionals ...

We were fortunate to have **Leonie Blessing - Vision Support** from the **Department of Education** come to do professional development on **Teaching students with vision impairment** for Educators of Little Diggers Preschool and Child Care Centre and the Teachers from the Lightning Ridge Central School.



Tanya Whitley

We also connect with **Tanya Whitley** (the Early Childhood Coordinator) from **MacKillop Rural Community Family Services** (Dubbo) regarding the **Early Childhood Approach NDIS** – which is available for early intervention support. Let us know if you would like to know more about this program.



Kids and Traffic from **Macquarie University**, travelled to Lightning Ridge to provided professional development for our community. Little Diggers Preschool and Child Care Centre, Lightning Ridge Youth Centre, Walanbaa Dhurruli, and the Lightning Ridge Central School all attending, showing **our commitment to keeping children safe in our community and taking back ideas and key messages to our services.**

Children share their voice in a Community Consultation on the design of our new play park area. Walgett Shire Council lead the visits to services around the community such as Little Diggers Preschool and Child Care Centre and the Youth Centre for children to share their ideas of what they liked to have in the park and families also had an opportunity for their input. We are all looking forward to what will come from this.



Celebrating our Diversity

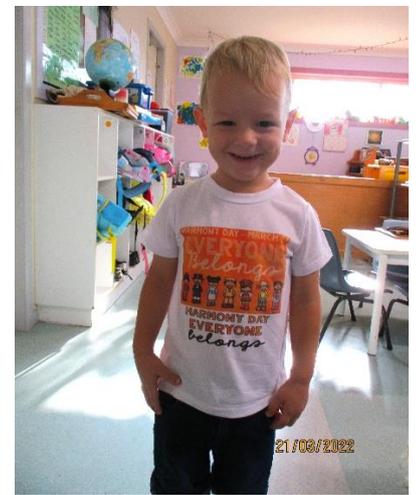
Harmony Day

IS HELD ON 21 MARCH
& CELEBRATES HOW ALL
OF OUR DIFFERENCES
MAKE AUSTRALIA A
GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

HARMONY.GOV.AU



Thank you to our families for sharing their favourite food from home. We had a range of dishes from around the world... South Africa, Danish, Hungarian, Lebanese, Australian, Aboriginal, Italian and Swiss. As well as some lovely exotic fruit.



Over the morning the children added themselves to our **Harmony Day friendship drawings** around our tree. Right - Charlie and Pippa engaged in this experience. Below left - Victoria - "Me and my Mummy." Willow - "I'm drawing my family." Harlow - "Me too. Mum and Dad." Below right... William - "I can draw me." Harrison - "That's me."





As a lead up to it's 3rd Birthday... the **Dhinawan** who lives at Little Diggers Preschool and Child Care Centre **visited services in our community**... the Lightning Ridge Central School, Youth Centre, Walanbaa Dhurruli, Lightning Ridge Preschool and the LR Play Group... getting ready to celebrate it's birthday on Saturday 26th of March at Opal Park.

The Paint The Ridge REaD Dhinawan has celebrated it's 3rd Birthday.



Lawrance Walford did a Welcome to Country to open our event. books were then presented to Services involved in this Project - Thank you. Karnie Walford - NSW Outback Division, Quenisha Walford and Tanya Barclay - Lightning Ridge Central School, Joan Jones - WSC Lightning Ridge Library, Sarah Chamberlain and Layla Samuelsson - Little Diggers Preschool and Child Care Centre, June Langmead - Lightning Ridge Community Church, Jayhli McGovern - Paint The Ridge REaD and Walgan Brenda McBride - Walanbaa Dhurruli. We then introduced our Street Library and shared cake 🍰.





Heather from the Community Church helping children and families with books.

Families and children enjoying the day out with each other and engaging in activities provided.

Thank you for coming.

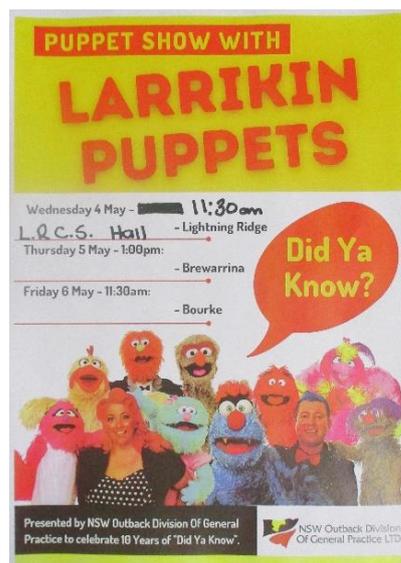


* **Events to come ...**



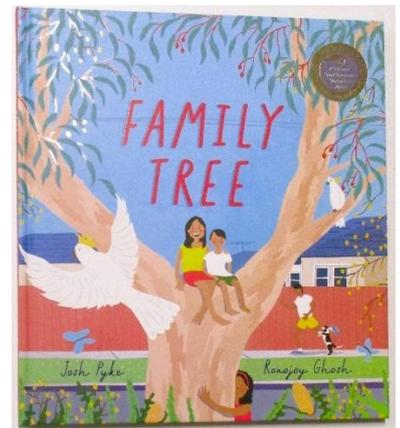
The Dinomanics

Saturday 9th April
at the
Lightning Ridge
Bowling Club



Larrikin Puppets

Wednesday 4th May
LRCS Hall. Show starts at 11.30
Little Diggers will be attending
this as an **Excursion**.
Leaving centre at 11.15.
We will require some parents
to come along.



**National Simultaneous
Storytime**

Wednesday 25th May
11am AEST
This year's story - Family Tree.