

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2020



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

Supporting your child to develop language and cognitive skills

This month's theme focuses on supporting children to develop language and cognitive skills.

The important adults in children's lives influence their development when they interact with them. Each interaction stimulates the child's developing brain and builds the foundations for their future.

Adults can support children's language and cognitive development in lots of ways. Look at the ideas below to think about how you can make a positive impact.

Babies

- Listening to stories
- Being sung to
- Hearing adults talk about what they see

Toddlers

- Reading books with adults
- Singing songs
- Listening to stories
- Playing games, I spy, guess who, etc.

Children

- Reading books
- Writing stories
- Having support to research topics of interest

Do you need ideas? Ask an educator at your service about additional resources.

Children become confident language learners by:



Mayor Neil Trotter thanks Early Childhood Educators for their dedication.

Early Educators' Day

Early Childhood Educators' Day (Wednesday 2 September) recognises and celebrates the work of Australia's educators in early learning services for their wonderful contribution to the wellbeing and healthy development of the young children in their care. It's a chance to say thank you to Australia's early childhood educators on a very personal level by service operators, families and their children, as well as collectively at the national level.



Timboon Family Day Care Educator Coralie Lucas has been caring for children for more than 20 years.



Language & literacy at Timboon Kinder

We recently discovered that we need to develop our vocabulary and our descriptive language. We had difficulty thinking of different words that we could use to describe something we had done or what our families might tell us about something we had done apart from good or great! We were looking for exciting words to call our space shuttle. Eliza was able to remember that sometimes her Mum calls her a 'superstar' and then Eva remembered sometimes she gets told she is 'awesome'. At the end of the day I asked the children to think of one word to describe their day and this is what they had to say!



We will continue to work on expanding our descriptive language and vocabulary and to also identify different feelings, other than happy or sad. To develop children's voice, language and communication skills we are continuing with elements from our SRF language and literacy project last year. Each day we ask the children a different question to answer that will contribute to the program and their learning. We are asking simple questions such as 'what was your favourite activity today?' or 'What did you enjoy today at kinder?' and encourage the children to answer in a sentence (for children that need to develop this skill, we will say the sentence for them to repeat). We will then extend to 'Is there an activity you want to do again?' or 'Is there an activity you want to change?'. We will also ask the children to identify what they have learnt, it may be about a topic we are learning about or something they achieved for themselves that day.

This will help build and develop children's contributions to their learning, communication skills, language skills and self-confidence.



National Science Week

For kids of all ages, the benefits are enormous. Doing science projects helps develop a child's resourcefulness, particularly their skills at goal-setting, planning, and problem-solving. It also nurtures intellectual curiosity, helping children acquire new ways of asking questions and understanding the world. Nurturing future scientists, doctors, and pharmacists, the Family & Children's services teams introduced science in fun ways during National Science week.



At one of Corangamite's Family Day Care residences with Catherine the children have been exploring Shadows & Light, Bubbles & Magnets during National Science Week. Noticing how the wind effects the bubbles and how light passes through the blocks and about what sticks to the magnet.

Science at Skipton Childcare. The question was asked what will happen to the lollies when hot water is added? Tilly thought the lollies would melt? The group discovered patterns, colour mixing and that the lollies were left different with the colour gone.

If you would like to try these experiments at home visit:

Fireworks in a jar: <https://bit.ly/2GfWdxf>

Magic milk experiment: <https://bit.ly/3bleXqx>

Skittles rainbow experiment: <https://bit.ly/3jCZntk>

Child360

The Child360 app has been designed as a tool for parents to reflect on how they are going in supporting their children's social and emotional wellbeing, and identify areas where action can be taken to strengthen resilience. Parents can use the app either on their own or with guidance from a practitioner. Download from the App Store.



With spring comes a change in the weather and increased UV index. It's time to find a broad brim hat to add to your child's bag.

The skin on your face, ears and neck is much thinner and more sensitive to UV damage. Choose a hat that provides good shade to your face, head, neck and ears. Sun protection is recommended when UV levels are 3 (Moderate) or higher. UV radiation isn't like the sun's light or heat, which we can see and feel. You can download the FREE Sunsmart app from either Google Play or App store.

Enrol

Enrolment for all of Corangamite Shire's Children's Services can be completed online on the Council website:

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Community/Family-Children-Services/Enrolment-Forms

Once you have completed the online form, enrolling in another Council Family and Children's service is as simple as a phone call.

To update details or add an additional child to an existing enrolment just visit the council website and click on the button (pictured below).

[Update details / Enrol additional child](#)



Cook Well Eat Well

With 1 in 2 Victorians meal planning during the coronavirus pandemic to save money and keep healthy, we know it can be tough to come up with nutritious and affordable meal ideas.

Corangamite Shire Family & Children's Services are here to support you during this time, with some help from VicHealth and Nutrition Australia, who have created easy-to-follow healthy recipes you can make with common pantry staples.

Check out their new website Cook Well, Eat Well for ideas on cooking with ingredients like flour, rice and lentils. With more recipes being cooked up regularly over the next three months, you can forget the stress of meal planning and supermarket shopping.

Visit Cook Well, Eat Well at www.cookwelleatwell.org.au and tag your recipe creations using #cookwelleatwell.

Recruitment Family Day Care Educators

We desperately need more educators across the entire Shire.

Can you help?

Do you know anyone who is looking for a great job working from home?

Great opportunities for home-based employment for suitably qualified early childhood educator wanting a change from the rush of centre based care or someone who is working towards a qualification in early childhood education and care and wants to gain experience while studying and earning an income.

Encourage your relatives or friends to contact Christine Dewhurst on 5593 7149.

Vacancies

Contact the Family & Children's Services team on 5593 7100 to enquire.

There are currently places available at:

Mobile Child Care in Port Campbell
Friday 10 am-3 pm

Mobile Child Care at The Sisters
Wednesday 10 am-3 pm

Family Day Care

Monday - Camperdown & Terang

Wednesday - Cobden

Thursday - Terang

Friday - Timboon

Coming Up

6 September - Father's Day/Special Person Day

7 - 11 September - Women's Health Week

10 September - R U OK Day

17 September - Australian Reading Hour

19 September - Talk Like a Pirate Day

19 - 25 September - National Deaf Awareness Week



Corangamite Shire Family & Children's Services

Connect with us   

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au

www.facebook.com/cschildrenservices/

www.facebook.com/CorangamiteShire/

www.twitter.com/CorangamiteSC

www.instagram.com/corangamiteshire/

Policies

Family and Children's Services policies are available at www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Policies

Feedback

Your opinion is important to us, click on this link to provide feedback on the service:

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Contact/Feedback

Info book

Available at: www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Enrol

