Acknowledgment of Country - We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people who are the traditional owners and custodians of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Welcome to our Term 3 – 8th Edition of Darebin Community Playgroups Newsletter. The Theme for the month of September is ‘Nature Play’.

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Reading & Singing with your Child

BOOK OF THE WEEK

No Way Yirrikapayi! - by Alison Lester is a story about a hungry crocodile who goes searching for food on Melville Island. On the way, the crocodile has many encounters with both land and sea animals. This humorous book is written in both the Tiwi and English languages.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aol1JOa1rBo

SONG OF THE WEEK

Justine Clarke and Josh Pyke are ambassadors for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. The song ‘Words Make The World Go Around’, was inspired by their work with the Foundation in improving literacy by instilling a love of reading and singing in young children.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOSKMaD86rl
Nature Play in September

Nature play is crucial to all areas of child development – including physical, cognitive, language and social-emotional development. Nature provides countless opportunities for discovery, creativity and problem solving. Interacting with natural environments allows children to learn by experimenting and sensory input. When in nature, children think, question and make their own decisions – developing their inquisitive mind. Contact with nature can reduce stress, improve well-being and can enhance children’s self-confidence.

Please find play activities involving nature below:

Weaving Sticks

Sticks and Yarn can provide endless fun, making stick family figurines or a tee-pee for you and the figurines, can open up opportunities for children to use their imagination, role play, motor skills and problem solving skills.

Garden Potions and Mud Pies

Little explorers love to get their hands dirty.

Garden potions and mud pies are a great sensory activity that builds nerve connections to the brain’s pathway, leading to a child’s ability to use their imagination and creative skills.

Using pots, pans, kitchen utensils, coloured chalk and natural materials can have your Little explorer playing for hours.
Nature costumes and Role Play

Making masks and crowns encourages children to use their imagination and creativity skills, leading into role play experiences that provide children to play freely and express emotions.

Get creative by exploring with assorted natural materials that spring has to offer.

Nature Paint Brushes and Painting with Leaves Activity

Let’s get messy!

If you don’t have a paint brush, you can make one – using different natural materials and textures. Leaf painting prints is another idea for children to explore the textures of assorted leaves and create an art piece on paper or rocks.

You could further extend the rock painting activity and create a scavenger hunt, finding all the painted rocks in the garden.
Indigenous Literacy Day - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Wednesday 2 September 2020 Indigenous Literacy Day is a national celebration of Indigenous culture, stories, language and literacy. It aims to encourage Australia to advocate for more equal access to literacy resources for remote communities.

**Indigenous Literacy Day - YouTube Live Premiere, 12.30pm (AEST)**

**When:** Wednesday 2 September 2020 at 12.30pm  
**Where:** On Indigenous Literacy Day YouTube channel at 12.30pm on the day  
**How:** Subscribe now to Indigenous Literacy Day YouTube channel or simply type in Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) on YouTube and tune in at 12.30pm

This 45-minute celebration will go live on YouTube at 12.30pm. The event is highly visual, and designed to educate broader Australia about the value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s first languages and why learning in language is important. Kids and community members from Tiwi Islands and Jilkminggan in the Northern Territory and Biddyadanga in Western Australia share their stories and the value of language, and Cheryl Lardy reads Yu sabi densdensbad? (Can You Dance?) in Kriol.

ILF Ambassadors Andy Griffiths, Shelley Ware, Alison Lester, Josh Pyke, Natalie Ahmat, Jared Thomas and Anita Heiss, co-patron June Oscar AO and long-time ILF supporter, Archie Roach, will also share their insights and stories of community engagement. And Jessica Mauboy will sing a stunning rendition of an Australian favourite.

**Indigenous Literacy Day - Primary and Early Learners, 2.00pm (AEST)**

For primary school and early learners aged 3-11 years, we have a special Indigenous Literacy Day event.

It's time to move, shake and dance! Share a book reading by Cheryl Lardy in Kriol and in English by Justine Clarke (Play School) plus sing along to a catchy melody sung in Tiwi, Mangarrayi and English by Australia’s favourite pop star, Jessica Mauboy. Hosted by Indigenous author and performer Gregg Dreise and NITV presenter Natalie Ahmat, this event will be launched on Sydney Opera House’s YouTube Channel at 2pm on the day. Please follow the link below to connect on the day:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzUJ8ee_v7c&feature=youtu.be

Literacy Day information, resources and activities for primary and early learners.

IndigenousLiteracyDay_Resources.pdf
**Father’s Day**

On Sunday 6 September 2020, it is Father’s Day in Australia when many families choose to acknowledge the role of fathers and “father-figures” in their families and communities. This can be as simple as a storybook.

‘I Love Dad with the Very Hungry Caterpillar’, by Eric Carle. This bright and colourful book is the ideal way to tell the person you call ‘Dad’ or who plays a special caring role in your life, how much you appreciate them.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFHSc_myBrg

Support Information, services and resources available for dads:

https://raisingchildren.net.au/grown-ups/fathers

https://www.dadsgroup.org/


Online Parenting Programs available for families:

https://parentworks.org.au/##/

https://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/vic-ucken/triplep/?itb=098d86c982354a96556bb861823ebfbd&gclid=Cj0KCQjwv7L6BRDxARIsAGj34ruJrVAKB5nMrqR0Mq00Tyc9Lj0uXL-u-s1senTUrctPC_vEaNozosaAneJEALw_wcB
Darebin Libraries Online Learning Resources

Sign up for your free Library Membership

Darebin libraries membership gives you access to loads of great online resources for the whole family. Signing up is easy, just fill in the online membership form. Use your temporary ID to access the digital library straight away! You'll find eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital newspapers and magazines, eComics, music and film streaming and more.

https://darebin.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/JOIN

Stay-at-home Storytime

Cosy up with your children and enjoy Storytime with Darebin Libraries! New Storytime sessions are posted on Facebook on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10.15am. You can also re-watch your family favourites. There are readings of some wonderful old and new classic picture books in the video playlist, including Possum Magic, Hairy Maclary's Rumpus at the Vet, and The Very Cranky Bear. Happy Watching!

https://www.facebook.com/darebinlibraries/
https://www.facebook.com/darebinlibraries/playlist/236882567453300/
COVID 19 Resources and Information

COVID-19 quarantine restrictions in Victoria are subject to change. Please check the latest updates on COVID-19 quarantine restrictions at:


The Australian Childhood Foundation has designed an activity called The four Ms: Movement, Mindfulness, Making and Message, which includes activities to engage the body, mind, imagination and to harness gratitude for families spending extended time together at home.


It is important to look after your mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, if you are feeling anxious or uncertain there are different support services, as follows;

Lifeline Australia – www.lifeline.org.au or call 13 11 14
Beyond Blue – http://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au/ or call 1800 512 348
Headspace – www.headspace.org.au/eheadspace/ or call 1800 650 893

Subscription to What’s on for Families eNewsletter

You and your families can also subscribe to our monthly What’s on for Families eNewsletter at


CONTACT US

All enquiries and feedback regarding Community Playgroups in Darebin should be directed to:

Early Years Leader: 0413 807 858 Email: early.years@darebin.vic.gov.au