

FOCUS OF THE MONTH 2024

<p><u>January</u> <i>Back to School Transition</i></p> <p>1 Jan New Years 26 Jan Australia Day 30 Jan Back to School</p>	<p>Preparing Children to return to School can be difficult. This month focus on educating the Children and families on how best to transition then back to school.</p> <p>Discuss topics such as bedtime routine, wake up time, brushing teeth and having breakfast before school. Also involve the children in packing lunches and their school bags to be better prepared for the day.</p> <p>Highlight the benefits of socialising, learning, making new friends and meeting new teachers.</p> <p>Encourage Parents to involve the Children in preparing their lunch boxes allowing them to select their own healthy options.</p>
<p><u>February</u> <i>Healthy Eating</i></p> <p>13 Feb Anniversary of National Apology Day 14 Feb Valentine's Day 17 Feb Random Acts of Kindness Day</p>	<p>Introducing a new vegetable every week.</p> <p>Focusing on food with different vitamins.</p> <p>Dietary requirements.</p> <p>Provide menu ideas.</p> <p>Provide healthy eating activities.</p> <p>Healthy eating pyramid.</p> <p>Discuss where fruit and vegetables come from.</p> <p>Educating children and having them participate in garden to plate activities eg: seed sprouting, weeding veggie garden, cooking etc.</p>
<p><u>March</u> <i>Environmental Awareness</i></p> <p>3 Mar Clean up Australia Day 10 Mar Ramadan 11 Mar Labour Day 17 Mar St Patrick's Day 21 Mar Harmony Day 29 Mar Good Friday 29 Mar School Holidays 31 Mar Easter Sunday</p>	<p>Support children to care for natural environments and to have responsibility and respect for living things.</p> <p>Arts and crafts activities using: stones, shells, flowers, fabrics, wood, bark, leaves etc.</p> <p>Stimulate children's creativity and imagination by implementing natural materials and recycled resources.</p> <p>Invite children to start sorting recyclables and continue to sort the items they use every day.</p> <p>Setup a shelf or small bins for paper & plastic waste for storage and use.</p> <p>Design and construct a garden with your children.</p> <p>Research the best vegetables to grow in your climate, how to care for them and their seasonal growth patterns.</p> <p>Create a succulent garden.</p> <p>Get creative with recycling! Repurpose things like old plastic bottles to become hanging planters.</p> <p>Allow children to become the gatekeepers against weeds and other elements that might threaten the garden.</p> <p>Create a peaceful green space to encourage your children to spend time outdoors away from screens and connected to nature.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>April</u> <i>Bullying</i></p> <p>1 Apr Easter Monday 10 Apr Eid al-Fitr 15 Apr Back to School 25 Apr Anzac Day</p>	<p>Ask the Children what their perception of bullying is. Discuss the different types of bullying- physical, verbal, social and cyberbullying.</p> <p>Give the children an example of bullying and ask them what they would do if they were the one being bullied. Use your own experiences if you have any.</p> <p>What should you do if you are bullied? What should you do if you witness bullying? Children must understand that it is okay to tell someone, their Teacher, Parent or friend. Explain to the Children that if they are being bullied, they must tell the Bully to stop and what they are doing is unacceptable/mean then walk away and notify the teacher or Adult. Keep their distance by engaging with other children that they are comfortable with. In no circumstances are we to encourage them to retaliate with violence rather to de-escalate the situation with this approach. Educate children how to respect one another, how to build strong relationships, positive behaviours and respect different cultures, religion, beliefs and traditions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>May</u> Solar System</p> <p>12 May Mother's Day 26 May National Sorry Day 27 May – 3 June National Reconciliation Week</p>	<p>Educate the Children about the Solar system. The differences between the planets, the name of the Planets and size of the Planets. Organise activities such as coloring in the planets and a question and answer session. Explain what Comets and asteroids are and gravity.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>June</u> Road Safety</p> <p>27 May – 3 Jun National Reconciliation Week 10 June Queen/King's Birthday 16 June Eid al-Adha 29 Jun School Holidays Start</p>	<p>Educate the Children on road safety. Explain what to do when crossing the road, riding their bikes and approaching dogs. For example: wearing their helmets and being careful when riding past driveways. Not approaching dogs when they see them unless they have the owner's permission as not all dogs are friendly. Looking left and right before crossing the road and not speaking or engaging with strangers even when offered a treat or told they know their Parents.</p> <p>Stranger danger awareness is important to discuss with children therefore giving the children examples of scenarios then asking them what would they do. Then explain what they should be doing instead and why.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>July</u> NAIDOC</p> <p>14 Jul School Holidays end 15 Jul Back to School 7 July to 14 July NAIDOC Week</p>	<p>NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week is a week-long celebration of the history and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia. The theme for NAIDOC Week 2024 is “For Our Elders” .</p> <p>How to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2024:</p> <p>There are many ways that you and your students can celebrate NAIDOC Week 2024, and engage with the NAIDOC Week 2024 theme ‘For Our Elders’. These might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading stories of The Dreaming. • Have a go at creating your own Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander-style artworks. • Read the poetry and literature of Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander peoples. • Organise a trip or excursion to one of the many sites of significance and history to Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander peoples that allow visitors. • Invite an Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander Elder into your classroom to speak to your students about their life and experiences. This is a perfect way to explore the NAIDOC Week 2024 theme. • There are also many programs broadcast on TV before and during NAIDOC Week, sharing some of these with your students or inviting them to watch them at home with their families can be a great source of information.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>August</u> Personal Hygiene</p> <p>4 Aug National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day 9 Aug International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>Encouraging children to follow basic rules of hygiene such as hand washing, covering mouths when coughing, not sharing food or drinks, using a tissue when they have a cold etc. Educator’s role model personal hygiene and discuss hygiene practices with children.</p> <p>Dental health and hygiene. (Oral Hygiene) Provide activities.</p> <p>Encourage children to follow hand washing procedure. Encouraging children to follow basic rules of hygiene such as hand washing, covering mouths when coughing, not sharing food or drinks, using a tissue when they have a cold etc. Educator’s role model personal hygiene and discuss hygiene practices with children. Provide activities.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>September</u> <i>Around the World</i></p> <p>1 Sep Father's Day 6th Sep Indigenous Literacy Day 12 Sep R U OK DAY 21 Sep School holidays start 27 Sep Grand finals AFL</p>	<p>Introduce the map of Australia and ask the children where they are from. Point this out on the Map and discuss what they know about their country of birth or where they originated from. How the weather/seasons differ in each Country.</p> <p>Quiz them on what temperatures are like in each country. For example- Africa is very hot. Antarctica is very cold. When it is winter in Australia it is Summer in America.</p> <p>Provide activities to the children – create and color in your country's Flag. What special places are around the world? Educate them on the 7 wonders of the world or within Australia? For Example – Ayres Rock, the Great Barrier Reef. Discuss which country they would like to travel to and why?</p> <p>Explain to Children that Australia is a multi-cultural Country and we must respect everyone's religion, background, traditions and belief's. Ask them what they like about living in Australia.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>October</u> <i>Science</i></p> <p>6 Oct School Holidays End 7 Oct School Starts 25 Oct Children's Day 31 Oct Halloween</p>	<p>Prepare Science experiments that the Children will enjoy. For Example – Egg Experiment, Color Experiments, Magnet experiments.</p> <p>Ask Children what they think the result of an experiment will be and why? Then do the experiment to show them the result and explain why this was the outcome.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>November</u> <i>Achievements & Goal Setting</i></p> <p>5 Nov Melbourne Cup Day 11 Nov Remembrance Day</p>	<p>Talk about your achievements, reflect upon them Evaluate your progress. Celebrate your success. Set goals for the upcoming year. Write Your Goals Down. The first step is to clearly define what you want to accomplish. Define the Steps Necessary to Accomplish Your Goals. How are you going to accomplish the goal that you set? Plan Your Day, Week, and Month. Take out your calendars! Review and reflect.</p> <p>Start the conversation by reading children's books illustrating different family structures. Allow (and encourage) children to ask questions. Be honest. Bring conversations about family structures back to the heart of a family.</p>

December
Sun Safety

21 Dec **School holidays start**

24 Dec **Christmas Eve**

25 Dec **Christmas day**

26 Dec **Boxing Day**

31 Dec **New Year's Eve**

Educating children about the sun and the how to protect yourself.

Setting up safety precautions and measures.

Set up sun safety station.

Go over sun protection policy.

Provide ideas on how to set up a hat & sunscreen station.

Provide activities.

No hat, No play.

Remind children to apply sun cream and wear hats.

Stay hydrated, drink lots of water.

Weather match game.

Sun smart hopscotch.

Shadow games.

Sun smart activity worksheets

