

NEWSLETTER

THE INSIDER

By Woden Valley

WELCOME

Dear Families,
 Welcome to the first edition of Woden Valley's new quarterly newsletter - The Insider.

We have recognised the need for a quarterly newsletter that addresses all changes or hot topics, not only affecting our service but the whole early childhood education sector.



RATIO REQUIREMENTS

The National Quality Framework (NQF) sets out the minimum qualification and educator to child ratio requirements for children's education and care services.

Educators who are working directly with children are counted in the educator to child ratios. Ratios are calculated across the service (not by individual rooms). This gives providers the flexibility to respond to the needs of children.

Woden Valley strives to provide a higher ratio than prescribed in NQF, and all our staff are also permanent.

RATIO

Birth to 24 months	1:4
<i>Current ratio in Koalas room is 1:3</i>	
Over 24 months and less than 36 months	1:5
<i>Current ratio in Toddlers room is 1:4</i>	
Over 36 months, including preschool age	1:11
<i>Current ratio in Joeys room is 1:4</i>	
<i>Current ratio in Kangaroos room is 1:6</i>	
Family grouping (e.g. 20 children - 3 babies, 5 toddlers, 12 joeys and kangaroos)	3:20



MENU PLANNING

To plan and prepare our menu, Woden Valley uses feedAustralia which is a world-leading nutritional education and preventative health initiative that supports early childhood education and care providers to monitor, assess and help improve the delivery of food and drinks to children in care, in alignment with Australian Dietary Guidelines.

Woden Valley respects the food choices families make and strive to assist in continuing your child's diet during the time with us. We would love to include in our menu any recipes which your family loves.

Feel free to email us your favourite recipe so we can include it on our menu.



PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT

A development of playground within the Woden Valley Child Care Centre is due to commence at end of October. This is a response to Service Quality Improvement Plan, Quality Area 3 - Physical Environment and raising concerns for the safety of children while playing outdoors.

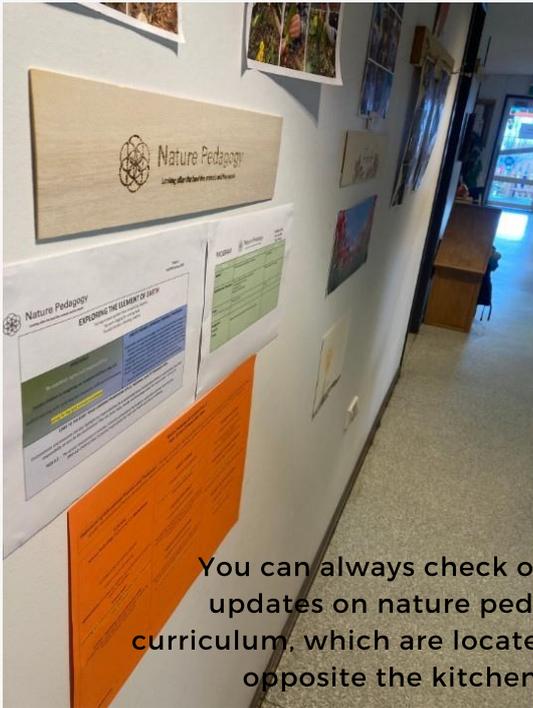
At the beginning of 2019, an assessment of the conditions of the playgrounds within the WVCCC outdoor area was conducted. Service staff, insurer representatives and relevant professionals, have identified the poor state of the playground surface and its possible non-compliance with Australian Standard for Playgrounds.

Several recommendations were made, and they include:

- removal of tree roots
- removal and replacement of soft fall area & artificial grass
- removal and replacement of drainage
- upgrading the existing environment to ally with the current philosophy of the Service and nature-based program



Management committee engaged Kate from Soul2Soil to design and manage the project. She is a well known Canberra architect who has a long experience in designing natural play spaces for children.



You can always check out the updates on nature pedagogy curriculum, which are located just opposite the kitchen door.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) is the foundation guide that we use to inform our curriculum and programs in creating rich learning environments for children. In our continued work in enhancing our knowledge around the EYLF, the Pedagogical Team has set the challenge to the educators in Term 3 to use the direct language from this framework throughout all their documentation, particularly in observations and Daily Reflections.

You will notice an increase in professional language and begin to see links between theory and practice in play. Children's play is their work, and we respect this by building capacities for learning through provocations and environmental set ups that are deliberate, purposeful, and intentional. We encourage you to comment on the posts that you see whether it is to share how this relates to your child in the home environment, or to ask for more information. When families and educators hold high expectations for children's learning and development, children authentically build their capacity for success.

NATURE PEDAGOGY

We're on our way to spring!

Term 3 will have Mick Gentleman the ACT Environment Minister visiting our service on August 6 to see our innovative Nature Pedagogy Program and showing the positive impact the children are having on their environments.

The Floriade gardens that were created by your children in May should be in flower by September 12.

In the top yard, we are doing lots of digging to prepare our summer corn and flower beds with a giant wicking bed that should reduce the amount of water we need to use. As always, we have lots of edible greens and herbs, including thyme, parsley, oregano, mint and rosemary. You are welcome to take some home for your dinner.

We're not collecting chicken eggs in the Narragunnawali Garden as we are hoping to get chicks.



*"Our task is to help children communicate with the world using all their potential, strengths and languages, and to overcome any obstacle presented by our culture."
- Lovis Mallaguzi*



WHAT'S NEW?!

The Director of Woden Valley has been working on updating our business online. We have just recently upgraded our Google account, which now contains the correct phone number and opening hours. Just a few weeks ago we launched a website, which is now live and you can find it at: www.wodenvalleychildcare.com.au

During the staff development day, we introduced the team to the Fish! Philosophy which aims at providing our educators with tools to build a more positive workplace and empower them to make changes when needed. The four concepts include; choose your attitude, play, make someone's day and be there. When we consciously choose to be present in the workplace, acknowledge the efforts of others, enjoy what we are doing and can make an impact, we are more effective in our job and create higher quality outcomes for children.

Since the beginning of the year, we've been facing ongoing issues with our phone and internet connection. Those issues are linked to a broken cable which lays under concrete slab near the entrance. At this stage, we are unable to fix it. However, we are implementing other strategies to ensure ongoing communication during possible outages, such as the introduction of an emergency mobile phone.



COMING UP



AUGUST

Monday, 3rd - Dental Incursion
 Tuesday, 4th - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
 Wednesday, 12th - Science Day
 Friday, 14th - Dental Incursion

SEPTEMBER

Thursday, 3rd - National Flag Day
 Friday, 4th - Fathers Day Breakfast & Early Childhood educators Day
 (PENDING GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS)
 Monday, 7th - Indigenous Literacy Book
 Tuesday - Thursday, 8th-10th - School Photos
 Saturday, 12th - Floriade Re-imagine
 Monday, 14th - R U OK? Day

OCTOBER

Friday, 2nd - Grandparents Morning Tea
 (PENDING GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS)
 Monday-Friday, 19th-23rd - Book Week