

UNICARE NEWS

Refreshing our world!

IN THIS ISSUE

Spotlight on Rooms

An update on our makeover!

Quality is everything!

Being involved in your child's day. We are developing the new online program system so that you can see their learning in different ways. What do you want to know about your child's learning? Do you want to help us with the design?

March Parent Survey

What languages do you speak at home with your child?



Meet Audra, the youngest member of our Unicare family 😊

Congratulations Michele!

By Daniela Hundzova (Danka),
Chair of the Unicare Board

The Board of Unicare would like to congratulate Michele Lucerne on her appointment as Centre Director. Michele has been a force for children, families, and staff since her appointment as acting Director in mid-2022. Her work on the environment, team building and planning with the Board means that we look forward to an exciting future. We commend her commitment to the Unicare environment that has had such a big impact on every child.

A WORD ABOUT

Each month we take an informal poll of parents (in the foyer) and open our discussion with the information that you are asking for. This month – **Who is who at Unicare!**

Unicare is built on parent staff relationships, and we encourage taking the time to talk, share, discuss and ask questions. One great question asked in the foyer recently – **who are you?** Please always ask if you are unsure. To assist parents, we ask all new staff to wear labels.

One issue = many of our children hate badges and pull them off. Our new photos around the rooms are another system, as is the daily staffing list in the foyer, for parents to reference. On an important note – the Fish Tank cleaner and the Gas Metter reader today were delighted to be stopped by parents and asked about their work! They enjoyed the children's questions too!

SPOTLIGHT ON ROOMS

A happy note to all of our Bindi Bindi and Djoongong families

We reported to you late last year that we have had a refresh project in the works for BindiBindi and Djoongong. We wanted to report on progress on that, and update you on the next stages we are now bringing online:

What we did in stage 1:

- Room wall repaints.
- New softer furnishings
- Resources refresh.
- More plants and garden beds for the children to explore and learn about
- More shelter from the elements
- Playground works to create smaller active areas where the children would be deeply engaged in play while protected from the elements.

What is still to go in stage 1:

- More resources refreshing.
- Better storage.

When:

This work will be happening over the next few weeks.

The works impact:

What you will see will be a stage-by-stage approach so that we have as little impact on our day-to-day operations as is possible!

Our goal:

As always, what we do will be to create a lovelier environment for our children and the Educators!

Our thanks:

- To Michele, Ron and Mekhi who have done much of this work as volunteers in their own time.
- The Attenborough team for their hard work in the area with the children each week, opening up play and exploration areas.
- The room teams for their patience and co-design processing of what they needed.

What is about to begin in stage 2:

- Nappy change room paint and tile works.
- Storage works and prettier storage to reflect our desired homelike environment that we want the children to see each day.
- Nappy change room re-design.

IN THE FOYER

A child recently came into the office with hand made art as a gift for the staff. What a beautiful moment. It is hard to convey how much that means to us as Educators. What was lovely too, was the child peeking into the office as they went by over the next few days, we suspect to see if their art was on display. This lovely, seemingly simple gesture is an interaction that is so important to children and their learning about relationships. [Here](https://raisingchildren.net.au/newborns/development/understanding-development/relationships-development) is some great reading: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/newborns/development/understanding-development/relationships-development>

Dr Tom Child development event

Dr Tom has had to change the date of the child development event – you guessed it – due to hospital roster changes.

We will get the new date and time out to you straight after Easter.

Books!

Great Book Swap 1 June 2023 at Unicare

We are thrilled to be hosting a **Book Swap and Fundraiser for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation on 1 June. More details soon**

New resources

In the Centre we have started a showcase of new resources – take a moment on your way in to check out the new resource in the corner each month.

In March, we had a focus on slowing down with nature.

More new resources

In April, we are building new quiet spaces in the rooms where children can be seen and observed, but still feel they have a safe quiet space for solo play and quiet time! Check out the display when we come back after Easter.

New changes to the Child Care Subsidy

Changes are coming! Many parents will receive more CCS. **What will you be entitled to from 1 July?** Stay up to date by checking your MyGov messages and of course, ask Doreen if you need any assistance.

National Science Week – Get involved at Unicare.

We are preparing for our next National Science Week program. We know that a significant number of our families work in a science-related field. We would like to tell your science story. The children are inspired by what is around them knowing people who work in science is important in their development of understanding of the world! Email Doreen at enrolment@unicare.ent.au if you are interested in a 2-minute interview for a special Unicare Children's Science Zine (Mini magazine) !

Want to know more about early childhood standards?

By Peyton Davis

Our primary reference is from the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) and is the [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#).

If you have any questions about this, please see Doreen who loves to talk about standards and regulations!

For health, hygiene, and illnesses we follow this [guide](#).

Dates for parent - room meetings with parents will be displayed:

in the foyer,
on Xplor, and
on our [Facebook page](#).

On the next page you will find our latest mini survey.

We need your help to update our home languages records so that we can better cater for our amazing, wonderful, beautifully diverse community!

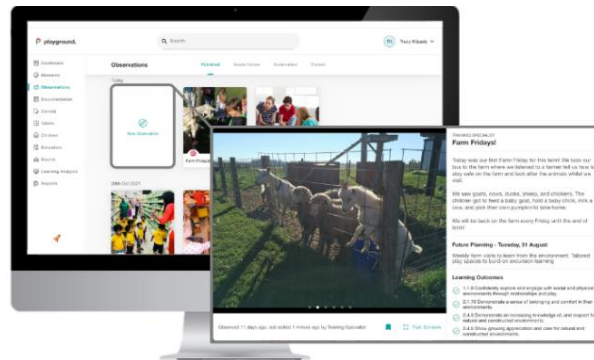
Please take a few minutes to make your contribution.

Quality is everything – a window into your child's world

As we discussed in the last Newsletter, we develop our Centre through the nationally mandated quality improvement processes*.

Our next project is the development of an online programming window for parents to interact with – meaning that you can investigate your child's plans, activities and learning and offer feedback, add items, and ask questions at a time convenient for you. This would all be done through your Xplor App.

Xplor has many layouts, and the interactivity and need varies. What would be the best and most informative for parents?



Only you can answer that.

We would like to have a group of parents involved in the design of the new system.

If you are interested, there is a parent meeting at the Unicare parent lounge:

Date: Monday April 17

Time 5.30

Duration: 30 minutes

RSVP: Essential by Monday April 17 - 12md

The centre will be open and parents coming to the meeting will be able to have their currently enrolled child cared for in-room until 6pm as long as this is booked with Doreen. enrolment@unicare.net.au

March Parent Survey

We need your help to update our home languages records so that we can better cater for our amazing, wonderful, beautifully diverse community!

Can you please answer the following questions?

A: What is your main language/s spoken at home?

1. _____

B: What other languages do you speak?

2. _____

3. _____

C: If you are reading books, poems, singing songs, watching any shows, in your home languages, can you share titles and links with us?

D: What is your favourite home culture recipe?

(Hint: Doreen's is Dutch Apple Slice just like Oma made it!)

Please email your answers to enrolment@unicare.net.au by 15 April to enable us to collate your answers.

Bienvenidos a Unicare, aqui Tambien Espanol y estamos encantados que se unan a nosotros