

AUGUST  
2018



## What's Happening

Father's Day Red Group----- 30<sup>th</sup> Aug & 6<sup>th</sup> Sept  
Father's Day Blue Group----- 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Sept  
Red group catch up day----- 12<sup>th</sup> Sept  
Pupil free day Blue group -----17<sup>th</sup> Sept  
Blue group catch up day -----19<sup>th</sup> Sept  
Early finish last day of term 2pm -----28<sup>th</sup> Sept

### AROUND THE COUNTRY

Father's Day ----- 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Sea Week -----1-9<sup>th</sup>  
National Child Protection Week ----- 2- 8<sup>th</sup>  
Indigenous Literacy Day ----- 5<sup>th</sup>  
International Literacy Day ----- 8<sup>th</sup>  
Sustainable House Day ----- 16<sup>th</sup>  
Talk Like A Pirate Day ----- 19<sup>th</sup>

What an exciting term we have had so far. Both groups have enjoyed their excursions to the Police Station aligning to the concept of trust networks in the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum.

The building of the Children's Centre has finally begun! Platforms have been erected for safe viewing. The site works have generated a lot of interest and curiosity about what the new kindy will be like. We appreciate your patience throughout this process and apologise for any inconvenience caused – however, it will be worth it!

We are asking all families to fill out a preschool parent survey – responses will inform our quality improvement plan as we continually strive to improve our practices.

Parent Direct toy catalogue – please list Roxby Downs Kindergarten as the voucher recipient. You can pay on line and the items will be delivered to your home or the address you specify.

Picture plates – fundraiser – information will be in your parent pockets shortly. These make great presents and a lovely memento.

Kindy fees – please pay any outstanding fees a.s.a.p.





FATHER'S DAY – 2<sup>ND</sup>

Father's Day is celebrated worldwide to recognise the contribution that fathers and father figures make to the lives of their children. This day celebrates fatherhood and male parenting. **How are you going to celebrate this year? Check out the recipe below and cook Dad a special breakfast.**

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK – 2 - 8<sup>TH</sup>

Kicking off on Fathers' Day, National Child Protection Week is a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the community to think about how we can work together to keep all children safe.

Child abuse and neglect is one of Australia's most significant social problems. Last year over 35,000 Australian children were proven to have been abused or neglected. Child abuse is rarely a one off incident and is always harmful. [napcan.org.au/about/](http://napcan.org.au/about/)



Very Best Blueberry Scones

PREP 10 min/40 Rest | COOK 15 min | MAKES 12

INGREDIENTS

- 3¼ cups + 2 tablespoons (420 grams) plain flour
- ½ cup + 2 tablespoons (130 grams) caster sugar, plus sprinkling
- ¼ cup (55 grams) brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (230 grams) cold unsalted butter, cut into 1 cm cubes
- ¾ cup (180 ml) buttermilk
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 1½ cups fresh blueberries
- Egg wash - 2 egg yolks and 2 tablespoons cream whisked together

METHOD:

Place flour, caster sugar, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and butter into a food processor and pulse 3-4 times, or until just combined. You should still see pea-sized pieces of butter strewn throughout the flour. Add the buttermilk and lemon zest and pulse 2-3 times or until just mixed. Turn onto a lightly floured work surface, add the blueberries and use the heel of your palm to quickly flatten the dough, gather the dough back together and repeat 3-4 times. Don't overwork the dough, it should still be quite crumbly. Flatten the dough into a 2 cm high x 40 cm (approx.) long rectangle. Cut dough into 12 triangles. Place scones onto a tray and pop into the fridge for 30-40 mins. Preheat oven to 180 C. Remove scones from fridge, brush with a little egg wash and sprinkle over a little caster sugar. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden and cooked through. Test scones are cooked by pressing lightly on the centre, if the scones bounce back they're done. Serve warm. Enjoy x *Remember to always supervise kids in the kitchen.*



Source: Recipe and images belong to [mylovelylittlelunchbox.com](http://mylovelylittlelunchbox.com)



An app for learning and one for saving precious memories!



**KHAN ACADEMY KIDS**  
KHAN ACADEMY

*Inspire a lifetime of learning and discovery with this fun and educational program for young children*

The curriculum includes reading, language, writing, math, social-emotional development, problem-solving skills, and motor development. Open-ended activities and games like drawing, storytelling, and colouring encourage creativity and self-expression. And colourful main characters will guide children through the learning experience, keeping them engaged on their educational journey.

Khan Academy Kids includes thousands of interactive activities for toddlers, pre-schoolers, and kindergarteners that are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and Common Core Standards. Let the joyful learning begin!



**KEEPY**  
KEEPY INC.

*Keep organize and share your children artwork, schoolwork and family memories, easily and privately*

Keepy helps you stay organized, saves your family's memories, and clutter free your home. With Keepy, you can record your voice or a video telling the story of each memory, share your photos and videos with grandparents and loved ones, and preserve your family's enriched memories forever. Everything can be accessed in the Keepy app or on your very own private Keepy website.



# FOCUS ARTICLE: Responsible decision making for young children



Like adults, children make a range of decisions every day! Young children regularly choose how they will behave, which toys or games they would like to play with, which books they would like to have read to them, or which television shows they would like to watch. As they get older, children make bigger decisions that often involve their family, their friends and their schoolwork. The kinds of decisions children make affect their mental health and wellbeing, their relationships and their success. Learning to make good decisions helps children become more independent and responsible.

## How children's decision-making skills develop

Children learn good decision-making skills gradually and are strongly influenced by the expectations and values they learn from those around them. This occurs through observing others (particularly their parents and carers), hearing about and discussing values, and having opportunities to make decisions and experience the consequences.

The key skills children need to develop for decision making are:

- Identifying when a decision needs to be made
- Thinking of possible options
- Evaluating the options, and choosing strategies for making the decision and reviewing how it works.

Learning to consider the situation carefully and weigh up the options before coming to a decision helps children make better decisions. It also helps them to understand and take into account others' views when making decisions that affect them.

## Here's five ways to help develop children develop good decision-making skills

**1. Allow children to practise making choices:** Giving children opportunities to make choices helps to build their sense of responsibility, as well as their decision-making skills. It is important that the choice really is theirs, so provide options that you will be happy with no matter which they choose. Showing interest in their choice helps to reinforce that you see their decisions as important.

**2. Talk about everyday decisions:** Involve children in your own decision-making. For example, you might say, "I'm trying to decide whether to take up a sport to get fit or go to a dance class. Which do you think I should do?" Talk through the advantages and disadvantages of each suggestion so your child can learn how to thoughtfully evaluate different options.

**3. Support children to use decision-making steps:** As children develop their skills for thinking through decisions, teach them these steps of decision-making and show them how to use them effectively:

- Identify the decision to be made
- Think of options
- Evaluate the options and choose the best one
- Put your choice into action and check how it works.

**4. Ask questions that promote thoughtful decisions:** Asking open-ended questions that prompt children to think through their reasons for choosing a particular option helps them learn how to evaluate options and think through consequences. Some good questions include, "What do you like about that?", "What makes this the best option?", "How would this work?"

**5. As children get older encourage children to set achievable goals:** Setting their own goals to work towards encourages children to plan and think ahead. It helps them understand the link between making decisions and acting. It is important that the goals set are achievable and motivating for the child. In addition, the steps needed to reach goals need to be definite, clear and small enough for the child to manage. Providing praise and acknowledgment for small steps of progress supports children to meet their goals.

To discover valuable links, go to the source below. Source: Kids Matter (2018, August 19). Five tips to help children develop decision-making skills. Retrieved from <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/enewsletter/five-tips-help-children-develop-decision-making-skills>

## SAY AND SPRAY

You will need: Chalk, a safe concreted space and water in a plastic spray bottle.

This simple activity can be tailored easily to your child learning level. You may choose to write lower case letters, upper case letters, simple sight words, family words etc. Choose one concept to focus on and write them on your concrete space.

Now your child needs to say the letter or word they see and then erase it with their spray bottle. This learning activity is quick to set up and is perfect for the warmer weather.



Source & Image: A Dab of Glue Will Do (2018, August 17). Say and Spray Retrieved from [adabofgluewilldo.com](http://adabofgluewilldo.com)



# HEALTH & SAFETY: How to choose the best apps for your kids



Today’s parents are savvier with mobile technology than those a generation ago, but even so-called “digital native” parents struggle to keep up with thousands of new apps aimed at kids. How do you know if an app is appropriate for children, or even educational?

“The rule of thumb for all technology is that it’s not the technology per se that is problematic,” Dr Wartella said. “It’s what the content is and how the child uses it.” After all, few parents would worry about a child obsessed with books — unless they’re pulling Stephen King’s “It” or a steamy romance off-the-shelf.

Educators picking out apps for the classroom often look for five key pillars of a good educational app. Briefly, a good educational app actively engages the child; doesn’t have distractions that interrupt the learning experience (that includes ads); bridges new learning to existing knowledge; has clearly defined, measurable learning objectives that build on existing skills; and includes social interactivity or feedback. Few parents have the time to assess every app their child wants to download on these criteria, but they can follow some general guidelines.

**Who made the app?** As always, consider the source.

**Trust the experts:** Common Sense Media is one of parents’ best resources for investigating apps. It is a third party who assesses apps on some set criteria, it also allows you to read other parents reviews.

**Does the app have advertising or in-app purchases?** Some free apps really are no-strings-attached, such as those from PBS. More often, the money to develop and maintain a free app comes from advertising or in-app purchases.

**Does the app protect your child’s privacy?** Some apps may ask a child’s name or age to personalize it or ensure the user is old enough, but parents should be wary of apps asking for too much information.

**Does the app seem right for your child?** No one knows your child better than you, so trust your gut. “It comes down to watching your child play and seeing if it’s meeting their needs,” including having fun, Dr Piotrowski said. “Sometimes we unintentionally think that if it is enjoyable, they’re not learning, but the more they enjoy it, the more they engage with it, the more sustained play we have and the greater chance we have for learning,” she said.

**Does the app do something only an app can do?** Kids don’t need an app with flashcards or work sheets. Good apps should bring to life an experience that’s impossible to create off screen.

**Balance, Balance, Balance: everything in moderation.** How much time on mobile devices is too much? The American Academy of Paediatrics offers a personalized family media use planning tool at [Healthychildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org). The principle is pretty simple: “Media use needs to fit in around all the other things that are important for childhood wellness,” he said, including eating, sleeping, physical activity, homework, reading and social interactions.

**You can’t beat ‘em, so join ‘em:** Some early evidence suggests two people using a tablet together might offer more benefits than solo use, Dr Wartella said, but not much research exists on co-use yet. Still, using it together means parents can ensure they are comfortable with the app, and they can discuss it with their child as they might discuss a book.

“A parent can really be a bridge to transfer any learning an app has to the real world, so it’s not isolated to a screen when that tablet cover is closed,” Ms Elgersma said. “Co-use and co-play — that is one of the most powerful ways that apps can be educational.”

Source: New York Times (2018, August 20). How to choose the best apps for your kids. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/05/smarter-living/educational-apps-kids.html>

*Did you know?*  
**SCREEN TIME**

It is recommended that children aged 2-5 years spend **no more than 1 hour** per day in front of a television or using other screen-based devices.

NSW Health 

*Did you know?*  
**SCREEN TIME**

The use of technology immediately before bed can distract and delay bedtime. The bright light from screens can make us more alert and less sleepy.

NSW Health 

## Sustainability CORNER

Children’s thinking about sustainability & recycling

**Kerry asked the children some questions about sustainability:**

**What goes in our waste buckets?**

Christopher: green – food scraps; red – rubbish; yellow – yoghurt containers and lids; recycle – plastic

**What does sustainability or being sustainable mean?**

Christopher: “throwing away our rubbish”, “collect rubbish, put it into the dirt”

Max – “cups, wash them when they are dirty”, “Yoghurt containers get washed for making”

Jordyn – “If you put it into the bin then it won’t go in the ocean and the whales and sharks won’t die!”

Cooper: “If I lick my spoon and put it back in my bag, is that sustainable?”



## What's been happening at kindy:



This month we introduced the story 'Chicken Licken' to the children.

First we read the story, introducing the characters, engaging in letter/sound connections in rhyming words and exploring the sequence of events in the story. We then asked the children their thoughts and ideas about the story and characters before making masks for the characters. The children were very involved with the mask making process, creating detailed character representations. After we had made the masks, we began discussing how to perform the story re-tell. The children gained a lot of confidence with their actions, projecting their voice and re-telling the story without assistance.



This week we once again ventured out into the community, this time we went to the Police Station! During the last two weeks we have been learning about the word trust. The children had mixed ideas about police officers, most children had the impression police officers just have guns and 'shoot the bad guys', they weren't quite sure if they were people we could trust.

This excursion became a wonderful learning opportunity for the children and they soon discovered all the amazing things police officers do for our community. The police officers gave us a tour around the station. We had our fingerprints done, tried on their special helmets and protective gear, we were able to see inside the cells and (I think this was the highlight for most children) we were able to climb into the police cars and hear the sirens. The children were given opportunities to ask the police officers questions.

By the end of the visit the children had all come to the understanding that police officers are here to help keep us safe and they are people we can trust within our community.



## LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT



### Language development in children: 0-8 years

Language development in children is amazing, and it's a development that many parents really look forward to. The secret to helping your child learn language is very simple: talk together lots and listen lots.

Language development is a critical part of your child's overall development.

It supports your child's ability to communicate, and express and understand feelings. It also supports thinking and problem-solving, and developing and maintaining relationships. Learning to understand, use and enjoy language is the critical first step in literacy, and the basis for learning to read and write.

"In their first 12 months, babies develop many of the foundations that underpin speech and language development. And they keep developing language skills at an amazing rate in the first three years of life."

#### How to encourage your child's early language development

The best way to encourage your child's speech and language development is to do lots of talking together about things that interest your child. It's all about following your child's lead as he shows you what he's interested in by waving, pointing, babbling or using words. (Source: [www.raisingchildren.net.au](http://www.raisingchildren.net.au))

To read the whole article follow this link: [http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/language\\_development.html](http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/language_development.html)



In the sandpit some children were interested in witches and creating potions to change into various things. Spices, flowers, plant cuttings, leaves and grass were all collected to help with potion creating. The children added their various ingredients to a wooden bowl, added water and stirred with a stick. After their potion was ready the children used a pipette to transfer their potion to a vial to use later. The finished potions turned children into bats, butterflies, superheros and cats. The children enjoyed using the language around potion making and used their imaginations when deciding what their potion was for. This type of creative and literacy based play prepares children for narrative telling at school.



#### Increasing Core Strength

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

Remember wheelbarrow walks from your childhood? They are an oldie-but-goodie that improve core strength. Have some fun with your kids with daily wheelbarrow races, and throw in some animal walks too.

Choose one transition a day (for example, going to the dinner table) and do a wheelbarrow or animal walk to get there. Bear walks, crawling, slithering like a snake, leap frogs, bunny hops – all of these tap into the foundation skills in a playful, fun way.

To find out more about the importance of core strength for children go to [thisbirdsdays.com/core-strength-kids/](http://thisbirdsdays.com/core-strength-kids/)

**Feedback**   
is always welcome

How can we make our newsletter even better?

What information would you like us to include?

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