

'Children First'

From the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Families,

I hope everyone is enjoying the brighter, longer days that come with the arrival of Spring.

From my very first day at Lady Gowrie Tasmania (LGT), I could sense there was a strong community behind the valuable work we all do. As the months and years have passed, I grow increasingly proud of this community of ours and its purpose of 'Children First'. So it is with great pleasure that I share some recent examples below.

In the last newsletter, I reflected on the benefits of building connections to one's community, extended family, family friends and neighbours. For children, connection to community provides them with a strong sense of belonging and the security to learn more about the world around them.

At Lady Gowrie Tasmania (LGT) we look to give back to our community and our recent Tassie Mum's campaign was a testament to just how generous and giving the LGT community really is. From the incredible donations from the LGT community, Tassie Mums will now be able to support countless Tasmanian babies and children in need.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our families for your kindness and generosity in supporting this campaign. The work undertaken by Tassie Mums and their passion for supporting babies and children in need, closely aligns with LGT's mission of providing services and programs that enable Tasmanian children to thrive.

Supporting children's sense of belonging and community has been a firm focus with LGT recently opening two new services - a Long Day Care Service on Penna Road in Midway Point and an Outside School Hours Care Service at St John Paul II in Rokeby. I would like to warmly welcome all children and families to the LGT community and say thank you for partnering with us on your children's education and care journey.

On behalf of everyone at LGT, I would also like to thank the Educators, Service Managers and Regional Managers for their tireless work, dedication and passion you have shown in



inside	General Manager's Message3	Nature Play at Punchbowl OSHC8
	Welcome to John Paul II OSHC4	Connecting & Exploring in School Holidays9
	Intergenerational Friendships & Fun at Brighton OSHC6	Supporting Understanding of Diversity & Inclusion 10
	Book Week Celebrations at Glenorchy OSHC7	Mud Play Ideas this Spring12



'Children First'

setting up these new services, welcoming families and settling the children into their new education and care environments. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Whilst focusing on the importance of community, it would be remiss of me not to mention the recent Educator's Day celebrations at LGT. I was so proud to witness our entire community come together and thank everyone working in our Education and Care Services for the incredibly important work they do. The notes of appreciation from children and families on the pin boards were very much appreciated by our educators, so thank you to all families for taking the time to do this.

You will find in this newsletter tips for families about supporting children's understanding of diversity and inclusion, supporting conversations and celebrating diversity through the sharing of children's books, Science Week 2023 celebrations, children's play and learning experiences in our services, essential SunSmart reminders and a delicious mini quiche recipe – happy reading!

As always, please feel free to contact your Service Manager if you have any questions or require support with your children's education and care journey at LGT.

Until next time,

Mat Rowell Chief Executive Officer









Christmas Closure

Please be advised that all Lady Gowrie Tasmania services and programs will close for the Christmas break at their usual time on Friday 22nd December, 2023 and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January, 2024.



'Children First'

From the General Manager Education and Care

'Educators...recognise that all children have the right to participate in inclusive early childhood settings, regardless of their circumstances, strengths, gender, capabilities or diverse ways of doing and being. They create inclusive learning environments and adopt flexible and informed practices, including making reasonable adjustments to optimise access, participation and engagement in learning' (The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia – V2.0, 2022)

Traditionally, the word inclusion has often been used in a way that represents the additional measures that are put in place to support a particular child with an additional need in Early Childhood, but the concept of inclusion at Lady Gowrie Tasmania (LGT) is much broader; recognising that all children have needs that need to be met in order for each child to feel safe, secure and supported. Recognising these needs is considered a foundation at LGT, with an understanding that high quality education and care can only happen when children feel a sense of belonging. Inclusive environments in early childhood services are those that support the participation, learning and development of all children, regardless of their abilities, backgrounds, preferences or needs and those which recognise and value diversity.

Inclusion is evident from the very first interactions that you have with LGT, when we ask families and carers to provide information about your child during our enrolment process, including their culture, languages spoken, medical conditions,



physical, social, cognitive and emotional needs, as well as family circumstances. The Education and Care team at LGT believe that children thrive when we work together through open communication and in partnership with their families to recognise and access the parents' knowledge about their child for shared decision-making. Working in partnership with families to gather this information helps us to understand the needs, interests, development, and goals of your child, and to begin to plan for how best to support their transition into our service. This information gathering will continue during your settle visits, where relationships begin to develop and the Service Manager and Educators work with you to establish a routine at the service that works for your child and family.

Inclusion is embedded in our service delivery and affects the decisions that we make throughout the service each day. Some of our inclusion practices are explicit and you will observe these during your time at our services. These practices include:

- Educators taking a consultative approach with families and other professionals to understand each child's strengths, interests, needs and goals. These strengths, interests, needs and goals will be evident in the planning of individual, small group and large group educational experiences for the group of children in each room and in the information shared with you on Storypark;
- Educators providing a wide range of learning experiences that cater for different learning capacities and styles and allowing children to choose their own experiences based on their interests and preferences;
- Educator teams organising and adapting the indoor and outdoor spaces, equipment, and resources to ensure they are accessible, engaging and safe for all children, and making adjustments as needed throughout the day based on their knowledge of the children in the room, as well as their professional understanding of education for young children;
- Educators encouraging and supporting relationship building amongst children, families and Educators, and fostering a culture of respect, collaboration and inclusion;
- Educators using a variety of teaching strategies such as scaffolding, modelling, feedback, and peer support to meet the educational needs and style of each child;



'Children First'

- Educators building each child's capacity and understanding of inclusion, encouraging them to become knowledgeable and confident in their self-identities, developing a positive sense of self-worth, and supporting children to learn to interact with others with care, empathy and respect; and
- Educators providing opportunities for children to experience and celebrate diversity amongst their peer group, and in the context of their local and service communities.

As Early Learning professionals, LGT Educators are also very reflective and regularly participate in room team meetings, whole team meetings and professional development sessions. These interactions with other professionals focus on monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the inclusive practices and making ongoing improvements of their teaching strategies based on feedback and evidence; reflecting on their own beliefs, values and attitudes and considering conscious and unconscious biases that may affect their practice and critically reflecting on how the educational program meets the needs, interests, and goals of children.

Educators are guided in their practice by the Early Years Learning Framework curriculum document to extend and enrich children's learning from birth to 5 years; drawing on robust Australian and international evidence that confirms early childhood is a vital period in children's continuing learning, development and wellbeing.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you, your child's first and most influential Educator, towards the best start in life for your child.

Shanna Hughes General Manager Education and Care

Welcome to Children, Families & Educators from John Paul II OSHC!

We extend a very warm welcome to all the children and families from our new John Paul II OSHC. We are excited to join your school community and we look forward to supporting children and families through the provision of before and after school education and care programs.

We also extend a warm welcome to our educators Kerem (Team Leader), Jenna, Ruby and Tilly. This team of passionate and experienced educators will work in partnerships with families to develop play-based learning programs based on children's developmental needs, interests and experiences.

Judging by these photos, it looks like the children have settled in well and are thoroughly enjoying their play and learning experiences!





5

'Children First'

Tassie Mums Donations

A huge THANK YOU to the Lady Gowrie Tasmania community for all your generous donations to our Tassie Mums campaign!

Mat Rowell, our CEO, recently had the great pleasure of handing over the donations to Tassie Mums. Laura Ship, our Facilities Manager, is also a volunteer for Tassie Mums so it was great to have Laura there to be part of the handover.

Clair Harris and Madeleine Glover, Co-Founders of Tassie Mums, were thrilled to receive the donations which included dozens and dozens of brand-new children's socks, underwear, drink bottles, nappies, pyjamas, bedding and other baby supplies. Also included were excellent quality second hand coats, books, toys, shoes, clothing and a car seat.

If you would like to learn more about the incredible work undertaken by Tassie Mums or become a volunteer, then please follow the link below:

https://tassiemums.org/

Thank you again - it is wonderful to know that so many Tasmanian babies and children in need will benefit from the overwhelming kindness and generosity of the LGT community.



LADY GOWRIE TASMANIA CHILD AND FAMILY WELLBEING PROGRAM



Lady Gowrie Tasmania is a community-based not for profit organisation, providing a range of services for children, families and early childhood professionals within Tasmania.

Lady Gowrie Tasmania offers their families access to the Child and Family Wellbeing Program.

The program provides free confidential, practical and emotional support to families who might be experiencing some of life's challenges or who may benefit from support in the day to day raising of their children.

CHILD AND FAMILY WELLBEING PROGRAM

229 Campbell Street, North Hobart, TAS 7000 PO Box 422, South Hobart, TAS 7004 P: (03) 6230 6860 E: familysupport@gowrie-tas.com.au

'Inclusion works to the advantage of everyone. We all have things to learn, and we all have something to teach.'

HELEN HENDERSON





Intergenerational Friendships & Fun at Brighton OSHC

Recently, the children from Brighton OSHC spent the afternoon at St Ann's Living and what an afternoon of fun it was! Every week we take a range of activities to share with the residents including books, board games, paints and play dough. On this day the children decided we would take over our bead making kit. Making jewellery using string and beads helps children to develop a range of skills including creativity and fine motor. Something we didn't anticipate on this day were the 'friendship bracelets' that the children and residents decided they would make for one another.

They say a picture speaks a thousand words...enjoy!

Educators from Brighton Outside School Hours Care Service





'Children First'

Book Week Celebrations at Glenorchy OSHC

Every year, the children's book council of Australia holds a book week across Australia to promote the importance of reading and the joy that children can find in it. Schools, libraries, booksellers, authors, illustrators, and children come together to celebrate Australian literature in a whole host of events and parades. The children at Glenorchy OSHC were very eager for this event and educators took great delight in listening to the children excitedly discussing and planning their costumes together.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle is one of the children's favourite books, so educators supported the children's learning by offering various group experiences based on this story. The children read the story to one another, decorate biscuits together and sorted food onto plates to represent the food that the caterpillar ate throughout the book. The children and educators then shared a special afternoon tea together to celebrate Book Week 2023.

This experience relates to the following learning outcomes in My Time, *Our Place Framework for School Age Care in Australia*: Outcome 4: Children and young people are confident and involved learners and Outcome 5: Children and young people are effective communicators.

Educators from Glenorchy Outside School Hours Care Service







'Children First'

Nature Play at Punchbowl OSHC

Our service has been focusing on a nature play project. As their project, the focus area was around native birdlife. The educators and children researched about the native birds that lived or inhabited the area of their school.

The children then began to brainstorm about ways they could help the birds and decided they wanted to make bird houses for them to sleep in. The children worked hard to design their bird houses while the educators reached out to families for any donations of materials. The service was so surprised by how much was kindly donated and the children were quickly able to set to work and use real tools to build the bird houses from wood. Afterwards, the children creatively painted their own designs onto their bird houses.

To extend upon this learning experience, the children would now like to begin designing bird feeders, which will be hung up around the school yard alongside their bird houses. This project has allowed children to be confident and involved learners.

The children have engaged in risky play by building with real tools. This project has linked to QA3, as children are caring for their environment and being environmentally responsible. The service also engaged with their local community (QA6) and participated in collaborative learning (QA5).

Educators from Punchbowl Outside School Hours Care Service





'Children First'

Making Connections & Exploring our Community

During the July school holidays he children at West Launceston Vacation Care enjoyed an excursion to Devonport Bluff and the Maritime Museum. The children's highlights were finding crabs on the beach and searching for starfish and sea anemones in the rock pools. At the museum they learnt about boats and different Tasmanian animals. The children absolutely loved driving the simulator boat. On the bus ride we played a big game of eye spy and spotted all the attractions along the way like the painted cows at Ashgrove and the Spirit of Tasmania boat This excursion sparked so many great conversations between us all! This experience relates to the following learning outcomes in My Time, Our Place Framework for School Age Care in Australia: QA3 – Engaging with community.

Educators from West Launceston Outside School Hours Care Service





Children First

Supporting Children's Understanding of Diversity & Inclusion

1. Model Inclusive Behaviour

Children learn best from observing the role models around them. They are always watching, listening, and learning. It is not always easy, but it is important to *be the type of person* you hope your child becomes.

Examine your *personal beliefs and behaviours* and ensure that you are promoting the same values you would like your child to have.

Celebrate differences, use respectful language when talking about people from all backgrounds, and avoid reinforcing stereotypes. If you *treat all people with kindness and respect,* your child will too.

2. Build Self-Esteem and Empathy

To raise children who celebrate differences, work on fostering their self-esteem and empathy.

Children with high *self-esteem* are more likely to be accepting of others. Rather than following the crowd, they will stand up for what they believe is right. Give your children opportunities to feel capable and competent. Show through both words and actions that they are loved and valued.

Empathy is the ability to notice the feelings of others and imagine how it feels to be in their position or to see from their perspective. It is a cognitive skill that can be taught and developed in children.

3. Be Prepared to Answer Questions

Children are naturally curious, and they want to learn about the world around them. It is common for children to ask questions when they encounter someone with differences to themselves. Still, discussing differences can be challenging. Try these steps:

- Talk about it openly. Don't avoid the questions. Doing so indicates that it is not okay to talk about diversity, which may suggest there is something uncomfortable or bad about being different;
- Ask them what they would like to know or what made them think of the question;
- Provide an honest answer that is age appropriate; and

 If you don't know the answer, don't be afraid to say so. You can say, "I need to think about your question and tell you the answer later." Once you've gathered the information you need, go back to your child and say, "Let's talk about it."

5. Expose Children to Diverse Experiences and People

Exposure to diverse experiences and people normalises differences for children. It increases understanding and removes the confusion, fear, or "otherness" that often leads to prejudice.

Through *exposure and education,* you can teach your children to celebrate the diversity that enriches our world.

Facilitate experiences for your child to expand their life experiences including:

- Visiting museums and cultural institutions;
- Attending multicultural events in your area;
- Giving your children opportunities to be around people from diverse backgrounds; and
- Travelling to new and different places if possible.

We often live in communities or belong to social circles of people who look like us, believe in similar things, have similar jobs and incomes, etc. It is important to *actively push past your comfort zone* so children understand that there is no "one way" or "normal way" to be.

When you are at home, you can also engage in the following activities:

- Choose media that actively represents and celebrates diversity;
- Select dolls/toys of varying races and ethnicities;
- Find a pen pal from another country;
- Explore a globe and talk to your child about the many different places in the world;
- Read books that explore other cultures and ideas; and
- Read stories about interesting people and role models from different and diverse backgrounds.

Keep in mind that over-talking about the subject of differences and diversity can cause children to tune you out.



'Children First

That is why naturally introducing (and celebrating) that everyone is different is a great way to raise an inclusive and accepting child.

6. Celebrate Diversity

While teaching children about differences, it is also important to explore similarities. Explain that although people are different, we all share the experience of being human. We all want to connect with other people and be loved, we all have hopes and dreams, we all experience mistakes and triumphs, and we all experience the same emotions. As the researcher and storyteller Brené Brown says, "We are all made of strength and struggle." In addition, it is not our backgrounds, appearances, or income that defines us. The way we treat others and the choices we make are far more important.

7. Read Diverse Children's Books

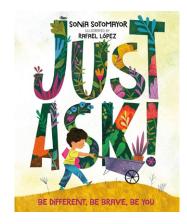
Sometimes, starting conversations with children about diversity can be tricky. We are not always sure if we are sending the right message or using the right words. Luckily, there are many children's books written for this exact purpose. See opposite for some fantastic children's books that will help children to understand diversity.

Once you get the conversation started, you will find that children are very open to accepting and celebrating diversity. All you have to do is plant the seed!

Article adapted from: <u>https://</u> biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/raisinginclusive-kids

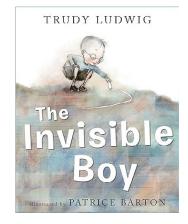
Celebrating Diversity Books

Sharing books together opens up new worlds for our children and can be a powerful tool for starting conversations with them about inclusion, diversity, respect and belonging.



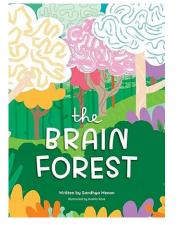
Just Ask! by Sonia Sotomayor

A kind and caring book which celebrates the differences that make each of us unique and special.



The Invisible Boy By Trudi Ludwig

Meet Brian, the invisible boy. Nobody in class ever seems to notice him or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until, that is, a new kid comes to class.



The Brain Forest By Sandhya Menon

Come explore The Brain Forest, which follows a mother and her son down the path of understanding the different ways brains can be. Brains that go fast, brains that go slow, brains that do what they're told, brains that say NO!



What Do You Do to Celebrate? by Ashleigh Barton & Martina Heiduczek

This joyous book provides a fascinating look at festivities and traditions from all around the world. It explores the different ways we celebrate the close of one year and the beginning of another.





SunSmart Reminders

- 1. SLIP on some sun-protective clothing that covers as much skin as possible
- 2. SLOP on broad spectrum, water resistant SPF30+ (or higher) sunscreen. Put it on 20 minutes before you go outdoors and every two hours afterwards. Sunscreen should never be used to extend the time you spend in the sun
- 3. SLAP on a hat broad brim or legionnaire style to protect your face, head, neck and ears
- 4. SEEK shade
- 5. SLIDE on some sunglasses make sure they meet Australian Standards

Free SunSmart UV App

UV radiation can't be seen or felt but is harmful on warm, sunny days and on cool, cloudy days too. SunSmart's free Global UV app puts sun protection advice at your fingertips, so you know when UV levels can damage your skin leading to skin cancer - wherever you are in the world.

The SunSmart Global UV app puts sun protection advice at your fingertips.

REMEMBER - 'WHEN THE INDEX HITS 3, COVER UP FROM UV!'

Download the new SunSmart Global UV app today: http://bit.ly/3jia8Xe

To learn more about sun safety for your family please visit: https://www.sunsmart. com.au/

Mud Play Ideas this Spring!

Do you remember making mud pies as a child? Then what better way to celebrate spring and keep children busy than with mud and some spring flower petals!

Mud play enhances children's key developmental milestones, connects them with nature, helps to reduce anxiety and stress, sparks curiosity and imagination and creates wonderful childhood memories.

All you need is a mud, flowers, a few basic 'cooking' supplies and a sprinkling of imagination to try out these fun, naturebased play ideas at home:

https://runwildmychild.com/ways-to-havefun-with-mud/

https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/mud-playactivities-sensory-science-art-for-kids/

https://mothernatured.com/nature-play/ mud-play-for-kids/







Follow Us! Social Media & Website Details

We encourage all families to follow our Facebook and Instagram pages to receive current announcements and the reflections, stories and photos from our services and programs. Please also visit our website <u>www.gowrie-tas.</u> <u>com.au</u> for current information on all services and programs, details of upcoming events, direct links to the latest Newsletters and Vacation Care programs and most importantly for families, an easy to navigate 'Contact Us' page.





Lady Gowrie Tasmania is a proud member of Gowrie Australia. Gowrie Australia is a national consortium of state-based early childhood education and care organisations, all sharing the same history and strong foundations. We collaborate, share learning and harness our experience to improve the quality of education, training and professional development in the early childhood sector. The Gowrie Australia group meets on a regular basis to share best practice and publishes the national Gowrie Australia publication, *Reflections*.



Mini Ham & Zucchini Quiches

Prep Time: 10 mins | Cook Time: 14 mins | Servings: 12

Making these simple quiches together is a great way to connect with your children and encourage children's intake of protein. Quiches are perfect for on-the-go snacks or school lunches.

Ingredients

- 2 sheet frozen puff pastry (defrosted)
- 1 zucchini (grated)
- 80 g ham (diced)
- 1/2 cup tasty cheese (grated)
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk

Method

- 1. Preheat oven to 210°C (190°C fan-forced);
- Using a round cutter with an 8cm diameter, cut 9 circles from each sheet of pastry; Press them gently into the rounds of a patty-pan tray. You will either need two trays or to do this in two batches;
- 3. Distribute the zucchini, ham and cheese evenly into each pastry case;
- 4. Whisk eggs and milk in a jug and gently fill the pastry cases ; and
- 5. Bake for 14 minutes until puffed and golden.

Children might also like to experiment with this recipe using different ingredients, vegetarian fillings, gluten free pastry - the possibilities are endless!

Source: <u>https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/mini-ham-zucchini-quiches-recipe/aygdka86</u>



Contact Details

Head Office

346 Macquarie Street, Hobart	6230 6800	info@gowrie-tas.com.au			
Northern Services					
Long Day Care Services					
Alanvale	6348 1390	alanvale@gowrie-tas.com.au			
Gordon Square	6382 2445	gordonsquare@gowrie-tas.com.au			
Norwood	6336 6971	norwood@gowrie-tas.com.au			
Pedder	6344 9993	pedder@gowrie-tas.com.au			
University	6324 3731	uninorth@gowrie-tas.com.au			
Swansea, Oatlands	6331 5106	oshcclusternorth@gowrie-tas.com.au			
Outside School Hours Care Programs					
Gordon Square ASC, VAC	6382 2445	gordonsquare@gowrie-tas.com.au			
Launceston Preparatory School ASC	6331 5106 / 0438 109 367	oshcclusternorth@gowrie-tas.com.au			
Norwood ASC, BSC	6331 5106 / 0438 109 367	oshcclusternorth@gowrie-tas.com.au			
Mowbray ASC	6331 5106 / 0438 109 367	oshcclusternorth@gowrie-tas.com.au			
Punchbowl ASC, BSC	6331 5106	oshcclusternorth@gowrie-tas.com.au			
West Launceston ASC, VAC	6331 5106	oshcclusternorth@gowrie-tas.com.au			
University North VAC	6331 5106 / 0438 109 367	oshcclusternorth@gowrie-tas.com.au			
Youngtown ASC	6331 5106	oshcclusternorth@gowrie-tas.com.au			
Occasional Care Program					
West Launceston Pre-School	6331 5106	oshcclusternorth@gowrie-tas.com.au			

Southern Services

Long Day Care Service	S		
Acton		6248 5644	acton@gowrie-tas.com.au
Battery Point		6214 0380	batterypoint@gowrie-tas.com.au
Bowen Road		6228 4568	bowenroad@gowrie-tas.com.au
Campbell Street		6230 6881	campbellstreet@gowrie-tas.com.au
Kingston		6229 1901	kingston@gowrie-tas.com.au
Integrated Centre for Children and Families		6230 6805	integrated centre@gowrie-tas.com.au
Midway Point		6230 6872	midwaypoint@gowrie-tas.com.au
Penna Road		6258 9103	pennaro ad manager@gowrie-tas.com.au
University		6226 2088	unisouth@gowrie-tas.com.au
Fahan, Richmond, South Hoba	rt	6230 6805	clusteradmin@gowrie-tas.com.au
Outside School Hours	Care Programs		
Albuera Street ASC, VAC Bowen Road ASC	Mount Nelson BSC, ASC Richmond ASC	6230 6806	clusteradmin@gowrie-tas.com.au

Albuera Street ASC, VACMount Nelson BSC, ASCBowen Road ASCRichmond ASCBrighton BSC, ASC, VACRosetta BSC, ASCGlenorchy ASC, VACSorell ASC, VACGoulburn Street ASCSouth Hobart BSC, ASC, VACJohn Paul II ASCTaroona BSC, ASC, VACLansdowne Crescent BSC, ASC, VAC

14