



# The Early Learner

Aranmore Catholic Primary School Early Childhood Newsletter  
20 Brentham Street, Leederville  
[www.aranmorecps.wa.edu.au](http://www.aranmorecps.wa.edu.au)  
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DATE: 8/06/2018

Edition 3#

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

A good beginning to life is well recognised as the foundation for future development, health and wellbeing, not only in the early years but also throughout life. With this in mind our early childhood educators therefore play such an integral role in shaping the future of our little ones.

Teaching at any level is a skilled profession geared toward facilitating learning and promoting emotional, intellectual and social development. Early Childhood teaching involves promoting the development of basic skills, coordination, creativity and expression; evaluating the progress of children in all of the basic areas of development; working with other professionals and specialists to assist children needing remedial intervention in any area of development as well as providing a positive role model in all aspects of social life.

One of the other key tasks of early childhood teachers is discussing with parents aspects of their child's development and the aims of the education program. This vital relationship with parents aids in the ultimate goal of helping each child reach their full potential. Hence this home-school partnership plays a central role.

This newsletter has been created to celebrate and support the creativity and dedication of all those who participate in the education of our young children and I congratulate the early childhood team on their outstanding effort.

Margaret Williamson

**Principal**



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## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING READ TO AS A CHILD

### *“How can I help my child learn to read?”*

This is possibly the most frequently asked question by parents of young children.

The answer is to **read to them every day!** That’s right, bedtime stories have an educational purpose. Stories don’t just come from books and text, make-up funny stories in the car on long road trips, listen to stories on your iPad or MP3 player. This is how young children learn to read. Drilling children on their letter sounds and alphabet is definitely not the way to go. Better Beginnings is a government initiative targeted

to get parents reading and engaging in literacy activities with their children from birth (yes, birth!). You may have received a Better Beginnings pack from your local library when your child turned four. This is because, recent research indicates that parent involvement in reading activities, from a very young age, helps foster positive attitudes towards reading.

The English language is very complex and part of learning to read is understanding storybook language, comprehending on both a literal and inferential level. Also at a technical level that is, learning to decode letters and text. This is the part you should leave to the teachers.

Melbourne University in conjunction with the State Government of Victoria conducted a study on the impact of parents reading to their children. They found that there were long lasting cognitive benefits to this with the final conclusion stating;

*“Parental reading to children increases the child’s reading and other cognitive skills at least up to the age of 10–11. This is an early-life intervention that seems to be beneficial for the rest of their lives.”*

The moral of the story? Be sure to find time to read your child in the early years of their life. You can read more about the research [here:](#)

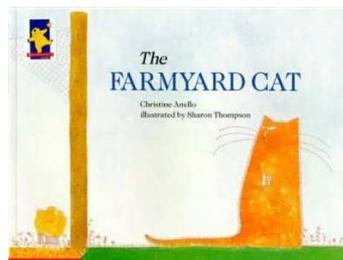
**Ms Tania James, Assistant Principal**

## FUN READ ALOUD BOOKS

If you need some fun, read out loud books, here are a few you can pick up at your local library.

### **THE FARMYARD CAT**

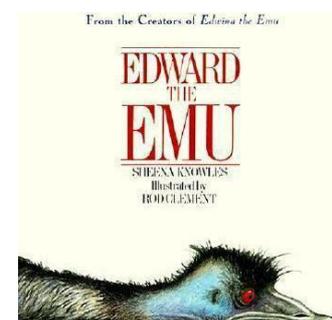
The farmyard cat is very hungry. "I'll get you," she says to the farmyard chickens. But when the cat runs into the farmyard dog, he says, "I'll get you," and...the great farmyard chase is on!



### **EDWARD THE EMU**

Tired of his life as an emu, Edward decides to try being something else for a change.

This is a fun rhyming book! You can also catch the sequel, Edwina the Emu!





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## FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Fine motor skills involve the use of smaller muscles of the hands such as when doing up buttons, opening lunch boxes or using pencils or scissors. Fine motor skills are essential for performing everyday skills like self-care tasks e.g. brushing teeth and academic skills such as cutting or holding a writing tool correctly. When able to carry out these tasks independently a child's self-esteem can be higher and their academic performance stronger. In developing stronger fine motor skills, we aim to develop appropriate independence in life skills assisting our students in becoming active participants in their learning.

Activities for home to help improve fine motor skills;

- Using tongs when serving food
- Creating with play dough when rolling, stretching or pressing can be encouraged
- Collect and build with smaller sticks, honey nuts, leaves and/or rocks
- Set out patty pans and have children place small items in each. Retrieve these items using finger or small tongs and sort into colours, count the items or set them up in a given pattern
- Use old ribbons to tie onto sticks to create a simple mobile.

Have fun!  
Laura Krikorian, Year 2 Green

## WEEKEND FINE MOTOR FUN!

Need something to keep the kids entertained on the weekend or over the school holidays? This is a fun, cheap activity. Cloud dough is a soft, scented dough that will keep the kids occupied for hours!

### CLOUD DOUGH

750g of cornflour  
500ml cheap scented conditioner  
(both can be purchased for \$1.50 each from your local IGA)  
Mix together! That's it  
Raspberry/Lime and Coconut/Apple

This recipe courtesy of  
@FoxFamilyDayCare





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## DEVELOPING MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING

The early years provide a wealth of opportunities to help your child develop mathematical understandings. Maths can seem daunting to many children (and adults!) but by talking through Maths thinking as often as possible, your child's understanding of Maths, and its practical applications in life, will be enhanced.

**Count with your child** – when you're walking, count your steps; when you're unpacking the apples, count them and when you drive in the car see how high you can count (adjust according to the age of your child). The more often they hear the counting sequence and relate it to actual objects, the more they will learn. When you count actual objects with them, make sure they move each object as they count so they develop an understanding of 1 to 1 correspondence.

**Numbers** – draw their attention to the numbers that surround them such as family ages and birth dates, numbers on letterboxes, numbers on packaging, prices at the shop etc.

**Time** - show them the time on your watch or phone and talk about time often e.g. we will leave for school in 5 minutes, your favourite TV show is on at 5 o'clock, we will go to the park for an hour and then we need to come home etc.

**Addition and Subtraction** – we had 3 apples and now we have 6 more from the shop, let's count and see how many we have altogether; you have 5 ooshies now but let's see how many you would have left if you lost 2 etc.

**Multiplication and Division** – we've baked 8 biscuits and there are 4 of us in our family, let's see how we can share them fairly so we each have the same amount; you have 12 Shopkins, let's see how many groups of 3 we can make etc.

As with literacy, the more a child is surrounded by adults who make their mathematical thinking visible through talking, the greater the child's learning.

Laura Nelson, Year 1 Red.

There are many quality Mathematics and Science apps that you can download to assist your children in their development of these types of concepts and understandings. Remember, real life experiences are best! Click [here](#) to read Warren Buckleitner's article on the best Math & Logic apps for Early Childhood.