



January Newsletter



Welcome to January

Happy New Year and welcome to January at Playtime Port! We hope you all enjoyed a safe and relaxing holiday period and are feeling refreshed for the year ahead. It has been lovely welcoming children and families back to the centre and seeing familiar faces return.

January is a time for settling in, reconnecting, and supporting children as they transition back into routines. For our new children and families, welcome to the Playtime Port community we are so happy to have you with us and look forward to getting to know you.

Our educators are focusing on building strong relationships, helping children feel safe and secure, and supporting smooth transitions into their learning environments.

LEARNING FOCUS

Learning Focus

This past month, children have been engaging in experiences that support:
Nature and environmental care,
Life cycles (frogs) and living things.
Social connections and friendships
Confidence, independence, and
exploration

Educators will continue to share daily reflections to keep families connected to their child's learning throughout the day.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT & TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

With the recent regulation changes, we've updated our policies and procedures around technology and children's digital footprint. Moving forward, families are asked to keep phones in pockets or handbags and not take photos of their children or others while at the centre.

On special occasions, we'll have a designated Photo Booth available for personal photos.

We'll also be more mindful about the types of photos we share on social media. All the special learning moments and fun experiences will continue to be shared safely and privately through OWNA.

EXCURSIONS

Excursions & Learning Experiences

We are excited to continue our ongoing excursions, .

We will continue our much-loved fortnightly visits to the nursing home, where children enjoy spending time with the Nans and Pops and building meaningful community connections.

More exciting excursions and incursions are being planned, and we will share details with families as they are confirmed.

SNAPSHOTS



HEALTHY CHOICES

At Playtime, we know lunchboxes can be tricky, convenience and cost often guide what we pack! But the food children eat during the day makes a big difference to their energy, behaviour, and ability to learn.

Here's what works best:

- ✓ Fruit or vegetables for morning tea

Fresh, crunchy foods like apple slices, grapes, carrot sticks, or cucumber help keep children energised and focused.

- ✓ Something filling for lunch

Sandwiches, wraps, rolls, or crackers (like Cruskits) provide slow-release energy to fuel children through play and learning.

- ✓ Healthy extras

Cheese, yoghurt, muslie bars (not LCMs) are great choices for extra protein and nutrition.

Why?

High-sugar foods such as lollies even “natural” ones and chocolate can cause big spikes and crashes in energy, leading to unsettled behaviour. To support this fairly these foods will be removed from lunchboxes and sent home.

If you'd like fresh ideas or support with planning, please chat with us, we're happy to share inspiration.

This approach supports our Nutrition and Food Policies and connects with Quality Area 2 of the National Quality Standards, which promote children's health and wellbeing.

HOW PLAYTIME ENSURES THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN



Being child safe in Early Childhood Education and Care means creating an environment where children are protected, respected, and empowered, with their safety and wellbeing at the very centre of all decisions and practices.

It goes far beyond just supervision; it's about embedding child protection into the culture of the service.

QUALIFIED & CARING EDUCATORS

The National Regulations require at least 50% of educators to hold or be working towards a Diploma.

At Playtime, almost 90% of our team (23 out of 26 educators) are studying or hold a Diploma or higher.

We are proud to have 2 Bachelor-qualified educators and 2 more halfway there.

This reflects our strong commitment to high-quality early education, led by knowledgeable, and passionate professionals.

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFETY TRAINING

All educators have completed Child Protection Refresher Training in June.

We critically reflect on the safety of our indoor, outdoor, and online environments.

Policies and procedures are in place to safeguard every child's wellbeing and digital footprint.

MORE EDUCATORS THAN REQUIRED

Ratio requirement: 7 educators per day
Playtime roster: 13 educators per day

Nearly double the minimum requirement, ensuring children receive the attention and care they deserve

ONGOING REFLECTION AND IMPROVEMENT

We regularly review our practices to ensure Playtime is a place where children feel safe, respected, and protected.

STRONG INDUCTION PROCESS

We've strengthened our practices with a comprehensive interview and induction process, mandatory Working With Children Checks, and regular child protection training for all educators.

At Playtime, child safety isn't just a requirement – it's our commitment

MEET OUR TEAM



Ash
Team Lead Juniors
Diploma



Steph
Team Lead Preschool
Working Towards
Diploma



Deb
Certificate 3
Preschool educator



Hailee
Trainee



Tilly
Trainee
Juniors Educator

MANAGEMENT



Jesse
Approved provider



Tegan
Operations Manager



Ellie
Director Port



Crystal
Director Wauchope



Charlene
Educational Leader
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CASUAL TEAM

Izzy
Cert 3



We would like to introduce Izzy, who will be joining our casual team at Playtime Port.

Izzy is a Certificate III qualified educator with five years of experience in early childhood education and care. She has spent these years working at our Wauchope sister centre, where she has built strong relationships with children, families, and colleagues. We are excited to have Izzy join our team and know she will be a wonderful addition to our centre. Please join us in giving Izzy a warm welcome.

Kay
Cert 3

We would like to introduce Kay, who will be joining us as part of our casual educator team.

Kay is a Certificate III qualified educator with over 26 years of experience providing high-quality care and education for children aged 0–5 years. She brings a wealth of knowledge, a nurturing approach, and a strong passion for supporting children's learning and development.

We are very pleased to have Kay supporting our team and caring for the children at Playtime.

Please join us in giving Kay a warm welcome when you see her around the centre





Hi, I'm Anne!

I am currently studying the CHC30121 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care through Kirana Colleges.

I will be completing my work placement here from 19 Jan 2026 - 30 Mar 2026

Part of the course requires me to complete a work placement!

I look forward to meeting and working alongside the children, families and staff!

I have a genuine love for working with children and supporting their learning and development :)



Welcome Mel

From next week, Mel will be working alongside Ellie. Mel comes to us from our Wauchope Centre, where she is the Preschool Room Leader. She is diploma trained, has been an educator at the Wauchope service for 8 years and has been a wonderful asset to the Playtime team.

From 25 February, Mel will be stepping in for Ellie while Ellie has her knee operation and takes time to recover over the following six weeks.

In the lead-up to Ellie's time away, Mel will be spending time in both the Junior and Preschool rooms, getting to know the children, families, and staff, as well as learning the ropes in the office.

We can't wait for Mel to join us and bring her early childhood expertise to the team.

