



# March Newsletter



## Farewell Crystal and Congratulation's Charlene



This month we say farewell, good luck, and we already miss you to Crystal as she begins a new chapter with her family in the New England area. Crystal, thank you for your patience, support, and genuine love, not only for the sector, but for Playtime. Your dedication and care have made a lasting impact on our children, families, and team.

With change comes growth, and we are excited to share some wonderful opportunities within Playtime at Wauchope.

Charlene will be stepping into the Centre Manager position. Charlene brings years of experience as our 2IC and Educational Leader, and we are so excited to watch her continue to grow and thrive in this role.

Tammie will step into the Assistant Manager position, supporting Charlene and our centre team.

Mel will move into the Educational Leader role, supporting pedagogy across both our Wauchope and Port campuses, which includes guiding our curriculum, supporting educators, and ensuring high-quality learning experiences for children.

Jo will remain our dedicated Preschool Team Leader, continuing her fantastic work with our preschool children and families.

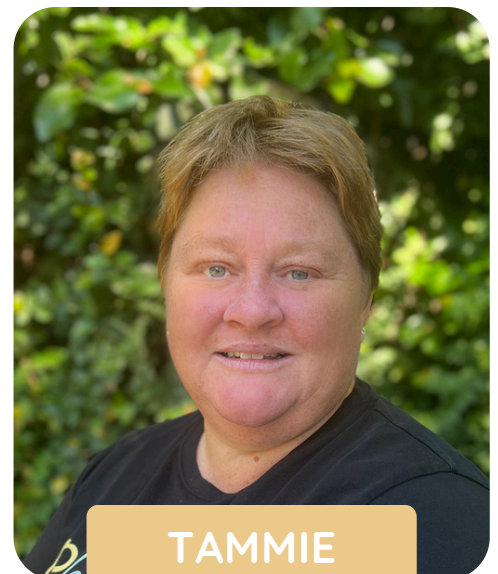
We know this is a lot to take in, but it is an exciting time of growth and opportunity for everyone. We look forward to this next chapter together!



**CHARLENE**  
CENTRE MANAGER



**MEL**  
EDUCATION LEADER



**TAMMIE**  
ASSISTANT MANGER

## WHY DO I LOVE PLAYTIME...

"I LOVE PLAYING MY FRIENDS" - LINCOLN

"IVYS FRIENDS" - IVY

"WE READ BOOKS AND SING SONGS" - LUCIA

"CUDDLES WITH MY TEACHERS" - LETTIE

"WE DO LOTS OF PAINTING AND MAKE THINGS" - AURORA

"LOOKING FOR BUGS IN THE GARDEN" - PARKER

"MY TEACHERS ARE MY FRIENDS" - IZZY

"DOING TRICKS ON BIKES" - LAYNE

"I LIKE PLAYING WITH MY FRIENDS" - SONNY

"READING BOOKS" - WYNTER

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Crystals last day 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Easter Art Show 1<sup>st</sup> April 3.30-4.30pm
- Mothers Day Garden Party 8<sup>th</sup> May 3.30-4.30pm

## LINKED COMMUNITY SERVICES LINKY LITTLES



We're excited to share that our service will be partnering with Linky Littles — a community-focused preschool transport service designed especially for early learning settings. This partnership will support us in safely exploring our amazing local community and extending children's learning beyond the classroom.

Linky Littles provides child-specific transport with strict safety measures in place. All drivers hold current Working With Children Checks (WWC) and Police Checks, and vehicles are fitted with appropriate child seat restraints to ensure every child travels safely and securely. Their service is designed specifically for preschool-aged children, giving families added confidence and peace of mind.

Through these excursions, we will be deepening children's understanding of belonging and community — exploring who helps us, what services exist around us, and how we are all connected. These real-world experiences strengthen confidence, social awareness, and children's sense of place within our wider community.

We look forward to sharing our adventures with you as we continue exploring all the wonderful supports and spaces our community has to offer.

## MANDATORY NATIONAL CHILD SAFETY TRAINING (GECCKO)

As part of important national reforms to strengthen child safety in early childhood services, the Australian Government now requires all adults involved in early childhood education and care to complete mandatory child safety training through the Geccko online learning platform.

This means that everyone who works in or supports our centre, from educators and coordinators to volunteers and students – will be completing this training as part of their role. The training has been developed by the Queensland Government and the Australian Centre for Child Protection and is provided free of charge.

The purpose of this training is to make sure that all staff have up-to-date knowledge and skills to keep children safe, understand signs of harm, and respond appropriately when children's wellbeing is at risk. Families should feel confident that this is part of a national approach to strengthening safety and quality across all early childhood services. The first part of the training became available from 27 February 2026, and further modules will be rolled out through the year

## DONT FORGET TO UPDATE CCS

As we begin the new year, please take a moment to check your Child Care Subsidy (CCS) details and update your hours if needed. Remember, if your child turns 6, the Second Child Additional Subsidy no longer applies, or if CCS hours are unused, they may be reduced. Keeping your information up to date helps avoid unexpected fees or debt at tax time.

## HEALTH & IMMUNISATION UPDATES

Please ensure your child's immunisation and health records are current and notify us of any changes. Immunisation statements can be added directly to OWNA, making it quick and easy for you to keep records up to date. If your child is unwell, arrangements for collection must be made promptly. This helps us maintain a healthy and safe environment for all children and staff.



# The NSW Early Learning Commission



## What Has Changed?

The NSW Early Learning Commission is now the independent regulator for early childhood education and care services in NSW.

This replaces the previous regulatory role managed within the NSW Department of Education. Early childhood education and care (ECEC) services are now regulated by a dedicated, independent body focused solely on early learning.

## What does the Commission do?

- Approves early learning services before they operate
- Monitors services to ensure ongoing compliance
- Conducts Assessment and Rating visits
- Investigates serious incidents and complaints

## Why was the Commission created?

The Commission was established to:

- Strengthen child safety and wellbeing
- Increase transparency and accountability
- Improve public confidence in early learning services
- Provide clearer and more consistent regulatory oversight
- Support quality improvement across the sector



## What does this mean for families?

The Commission helps ensure that early learning services:

- Provide safe and nurturing environments
- Meet national quality standards
- Follow child protection requirements
- Maintain appropriate staffing and supervision
- Respond appropriately to complaints and concerns

## What does this mean for Educators

- Your regulatory contact is now the NSW Early Learning Commission
- Stronger emphasis on child safety, governance, and compliance
- Continued alignment with the National Quality Framework

### NSW Early Learning Commission



Email: [information@earlylearningcommission.nsw.gov.au](mailto:information@earlylearningcommission.nsw.gov.au)

Phone: 1800 619 113



# 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