

WELCOME BACK!!!

*Welcome back to all of our Zebras for 2018! We hope you all had a lovely break over Christmas and New Year! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families to the Zebra room. **Britt, Jenna & Georgina** are extremely excited to be working with you and your children in the Zebra Room for 2018.*

The Zebra Team:

This year the Zebra room's educators will be **Jenna Larkin, Britt O'Connor** and **Georgina Hardy**. Britt and Jenna will be job sharing the Room Leader position with Britt working Monday -Wednesday and Jenna working Thursday and Friday. Georgina will be the full-time assistant in the Zebra room working Monday-Friday.



Hi, my name is **Britt O'Connor**. I have been working at Little Learner's since July 2017 after completing my Bachelor in Education (Early Childhood and Primary) in 2016.

I have worked casually in the Koala and Rhino Room before completion of my Bachelor in 2016. Prior to returning to Little Learners part-time in 2017, I became a Mum to Lewy who is now 10 months old!

I am extremely passionate about working with children, and love helping them to become strong, confident, independent individuals.



Hi, my name is **Jenna Larkin**. I have been teaching at Little Learners since 2012 after completing my Bachelor in Education (Early Childhood & Primary) in 2011. I have spent majority of my time at Little Learners teaching in the Zebra room, however after returning to work part time after having my two children, I have also spent some time working in the Tiger and Rhino rooms over the past two years. I am Mum to two boys (Roy 2.5yrs and Donny 18 months). I have a strong passion for working with children of all ages and love helping them to learn and grow into confident, capable and independent individuals.



Hi, my name is **Georgina Hardy**. I began my traineeship in September last year and am currently studying my Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care. I began my time at Little Learners working in the Rhino room with Britt and Jenna and have progressed with the children moving up to the Zebra room this year. I love working with children and watching them grow and develop to be happy, confident individuals.

We have many exciting ideas planned for your children this year, however to help us develop our room goals we would love to know what your goals are for your children during their time here. Could you please fill out your child's family goal sheet that was emailed along with new enrolment forms as it is important to gain your feedback and goals for your children to assist us in providing a holistic program for your children.

We've had great feedback with our family goal sheets so far,

thank-you 😊

Communication...

The Zebra Room has many ways to communicate between families and educators:

- We provide an **iPad slideshow** upon pick-up displaying photos of your children/their friends involved in learning experiences throughout the day.
- We have a **day book** that will also have information of what was achieved for the day/any special occasions.
- We provide a **communication diary**. This sits next to our sign in area and is great for communicating important information that may be forgotten upon drop-off/pick-up.
- Most importantly, please come and talk to **us!**

Important Dates Jan/Feb:

26th January- Australia Day
(Centre closed)

Tues 6th -Fri 9th Feb –
STEPS Eyesight Screening

Important Notices

Please ensure your child has a **hat**, applies **sunscreen** on drop-off or preferably prior to leaving home as sunscreen needs to be applied to the skin 20minutes before sun exposure in order to be effective and a **drink bottle**.

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning."
—Mr. Rogers

SENIOR PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM:

Our aim for the first month will be all about getting to know your child and your family. Developing a positive rapport with both the children and the families in our care is paramount to achieving positive goals for their learning and development. Once these relationships have been established, we will then begin our 'Senior Pre-School Program'.

At the core of our program is play-based learning. Play is an essential part of early learning. It provides the ideal opportunity for your children to become involved in meaningful experiences which allow them to use their creativity while developing their imagination, physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. Your child's developing interests and skills will also be used to inform our program and ensure we are meeting your child's individual needs.

In addition to play, intentional teaching experiences and strategies will also be implemented to ensure your children are fully equipped with the skills they require for their transition to kindergarten next year. This will involve teaching your child to identify and write his/her name, become competent using scissors, sit for a period of time for small and large group experiences, engage in varied numeracy and literacy experiences (i.e. Jolly Phonics, sight words, learning to recognise and write surnames (once first names are mastered), comprehension activities, identifying, writing and counting numbers 1-20, as well as learning other maths concepts such as measurement, volume, shapes etc).

OUR NEW FRIEND BAZIL

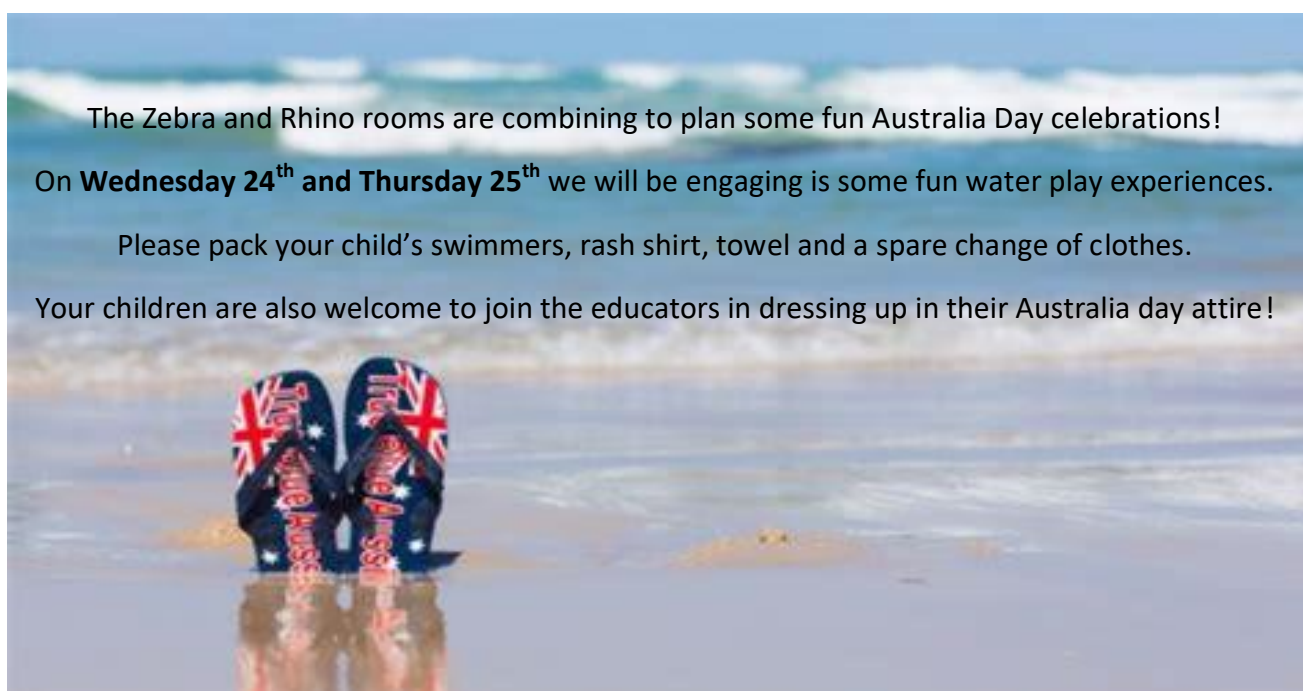


We have a new friend this year in the Zebra room.

*His name is **Basil**, each child will get an opportunity to take Basil home throughout the year. When it is your child's turn to take him home, we ask that you snap some pictures of Basil during his time at home with them. Your child can then share with their friends some of the adventures Basil has been up to whilst in their care. This experience aims to increase your child's confidence speaking in front of their peers as well as provide an opportunity for your children to share some of the activities they enjoy as a family.*

Basil will begin his adventures on Monday 5th February 😊

AUSTRALIA DAY



The Zebra and Rhino rooms are combining to plan some fun Australia Day celebrations!

On **Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th** we will be engaging in some fun water play experiences.

Please pack your child's swimmers, rash shirt, towel and a spare change of clothes.

Your children are also welcome to join the educators in dressing up in their Australia day attire!

Friendly Reminders 😊

- Please return **permission forms** for **STEPS Eyesight Screening** by **Friday 2nd February**.
- Please remember to bring your child's Little Learners hat each day that they attend Little Learners.

(If your child is consistently with NO hat your child will be issued another one at a charge of \$10.)

- Please remember to pack your child's drink bottle.
- Please remember that when children play they may get dirty, so please pack a spare change of clothes.
- We ask that children please refrain from bringing toys to Little Learners unless it is for a special occasion such as their News day.
- If your child is having a Birthday and would like to have a birthday cake with their friends at Little Learners please fill out one of the birthday cake forms at the front office and place it in the fees box at the front desk. A small fee of \$10 will be charged to your account if you require an ice-cream cake, otherwise the children will engage in a cooking experience and cook a birthday cake if preferred at no cost.

NEWS

News will commence **Monday 5th February**. We will be focusing on a new letter of the alphabet each week. We ask that you please assist your children and encourage them to bring something in from home that begins with the ***letter of the week***. This provides an opportunity for the children to extend their learning of the alphabet and individual letters in a way that is meaningful to them. It also provides opportunities for discussion where we can link to prior learning (i.e. Jolly Phonics-letters and their corresponding sounds).

Please see table below for your child's news day:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Sage	Elise	Brock	Hudson	Hanalee
Nakarla	Ollie	Bill	Casey	Patrick
Alex	Kate	Hurley	William.H	Logan
Allie	Braxton	Lewis	Ryan	Isla
Oliver	Marcus	Yilla	Jonah	Hannah
		Jonty	Aidan	

Please see below for dates for letter of the week:

Week Commencing:

Monday 5th Feb- S

Monday 12th Feb- A

Monday 19th Feb - T

Monday 26th Feb - I

Monday 5th March - P

Monday 12th March -N

Monday 19th March - C, K

Monday 26th March - E