



# ON *this* MONTH

## AT LITTLE ASSETS

Centre Wide Excursion	6th
Ronald McDonald House Charity Collection	13th
Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony	18 <sup>th</sup>
End of Year Christmas party	20 <sup>th</sup>

Centre will be closed on Christmas day, Boxing Day & New Years Day

## AROUND THE COUNTRY

International Day of People with Disabilities	3
Human Rights Day	10
Christmas Day	25
New Years Day	31

## DECEMBER IS HERE!!!

Dear Families & Educators,

The festive month has officially begun.

As we get ready to wrap up the year, a humble request to all families to kindly let us know if you haven't already done so if you intend to take time off during Christmas/New Year period. This will really assist us in approving staff leaves and manage the end of year rostering.

Another small request to everyone that our much-loved charity "**Ronald McDonald House**" is awaiting your generosity. Every year Little Assets collects presents that you put under our Christmas tree placed on the Centre's foyer area and hand delivers it to the sick children under the care of Ronald McDonald House. This Christmas let us collectively bring some much-needed Christmas cheer to these children and families and what a great way to get our children involved in picking presents for them.

**Our Children's Kindergarten Graduation Event is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> of December.** If you haven't already done so, kindly RSVP for the same. And our world famous "**End of Year Celebration**" is on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of December** so we look forward to having a great time with you all then.

Let the mad rush of December begin but don't forget to take care of yourselves and remember we are always here to assist you and your families.





**HUMAN RIGHTS DAY – DECEMBER 10**

Human Rights Day is a global observance dedicated to promoting and celebrating the fundamental rights and freedoms that all individuals are entitled to, regardless of their nationality, gender, race, religion, or background.

It serves as a reminder of the importance of upholding human rights and addressing issues related to social justice and equality. **Learn more here**

**KMART WISHING TREE APPEAL – DECEMBER**

For 37 years, The Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal has helped assist families and people in need in our communities at Christmas and beyond. Kmart and their long-standing partner The Salvation Army, are working together to create positive change. You can help by giving a gift in store or donating money. **Find out more here.**

**SPELT GINGERBREAD**



PREP 10 min | REST 30-45 min | COOK 8-10min

**INGREDIENTS**

- 3 cups white spelt flour
- 1 tbsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp cinnamon and nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp bicarb soda
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 125g unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup pure maple syrup
- 1/2 cup coconut or rapadura sugar
- 1 egg

**Preheat** oven to 180 C. **Combine** dry ingredients in a medium sized bowl and set aside.

**Heat** a saucepan to medium heat and melt the butter. Once melted, **stir** in the maple syrup and coconut sugar until combined and the sugar has dissolved.

**Whisk** the egg in a separate bowl and add to the dry ingredients followed by the wet mixture.

**Stir** to combine then place on a pastry mat or floured surface and knead until a smooth dough forms.

**Place** in the fridge for 30-45 mins to chill. Use a rolling pin to **roll** dough out until 5mm thick.

**Cut** into cookies or use a template for a gingerbread house. Bake in the oven for 8-10 minutes and cool completely on a wire rack before icing. Use a royal icing recipe to make some fun designs.

*Jo Kate is a realistic nutritionist offering simple & effective ideas, tips and recipes to inspire healthy living. Find more delicious recipes at [jokatenuitrition.com](http://jokatenuitrition.com)*

**Podcast Reviews**

Summer holidays often means road trips!  
Add these to your family podcast line up.



**Tumble Science | Science podcast for kids**

*Tumble is a science podcast for kids, to be enjoyed by the entire family. Listen to stories about science discoveries, with the help of scientists! Join Lindsay and Marshall as they ask questions, uncover mysteries, and share what science is all about.*



**Dirt Girl's Nature Detective Academy | Dirtgirl**

*dirtgirl's Nature Detective Academy is an invitation for kids to switch on their senses. From seeds to trees, butterflies to chickens, clouds to rainbows – dirtgirl wants to share the little things that make a big difference to our planet. Each episode is full of fun things to do; poems, tips, amazing facts, and real-life nature sounds to connect you with the outside.*



## HEALTH AND SAFETY: Have a water safe summer

In Australia we have access to a wonderful variety of water environments for our recreational activities. These environments, however, can be dangerous to children. Tragically, children represent the most vulnerable group in relation to drowning, particularly those under 5 years of age.

Whether at home, visiting family and friends or on holiday, it is always important to keep safety in mind when children are in or near water. Drowning can occur quickly and quietly, without any warning noises. Sadly, on average, one child dies each week in Australia because of preventable drowning.

Most children who drown in home pools fall in by accident. Children drown quickly and silently, often without making any noise or splashing. Young children are naturally curious and attracted to water but do not yet understand the concept of danger, while parents can become complacent about safety around a familiar home environment.

In cases of child drowning in home pools, designated supervisors were often distracted by everyday tasks, such as a conversation with another person, answering the door or attending to another child, all of which give a young child time to wander away unnoticed.

It's important to remember though that children can drown in all sorts of water.

**Children can drown in shallow water:** swimming pools, spas, bathtubs, rivers, creeks and oceans, dams and lakes

**Children also drown in less obvious locations:** nappy buckets, toilets, water tanks, water features, fish ponds, pets' water bowls.

Keeping children safe around water constitutes following the four key actions of **Royal Life Saving's Keep Watch Campaign**:

- **Supervise.** Actively supervise children around water
- **Restrict.** Restrict children's access to water
- **Teach.** Teach children water safety skills
- **Respond.** Learn how to respond in the case of an emergency

Children must be supervised by an adult when in, on or around water. Active supervision means focusing all of your attention on your child, all of the time. You must be within arms' reach,

interacting with your child and be ready to enter the water in case of an emergency.

Restrict access to water by correctly installing and regularly maintaining a pool fence with a gate that self-closes and self-latches. Remember to never prop the gate open.

Buckets, **bathtubs**, eskies (coolers), water fountains and features, fishponds, drains, **inflatable pools**, water tanks and even pet bowls all pose a significant drowning risk especially to younger children. It is crucial that these are emptied, covered, put away and not left where they can fill up with water. Inflatable pools should be emptied after use and stored securely out of reach of children.

Teaching children water safety skills is an important step in ensuring they grow up to become confident around water. Familiarise children with water by enrolling them in water awareness classes, spending time with them in the water and establishing basic water safety rules.

All parents are encouraged to learn **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)**. Knowing how to respond in an emergency could mean the difference between life and death.

### Free online CPR training

The NSW Health Training for Parents program is a free online program developed in partnership with clinicians from the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network to teach the steps involved in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) for a babies (aged less than 12 months) and children (aged over one year). The steps can also be used on an adult. Follow the link below to access these modules. Additional courses for Automated External Defibrillators (AED) use and choking can also be found here.



Access CPR training via the QR code.

Source: NSW Health & Sydney Children's Hospitals Network. (June, 2024). **CPR training modules**  
Retrieved <https://www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/cpr-training-modules>

Source: <https://www.kidsafensw.org/safety/home-community/water-safety/>  
<https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/stay-safe-active/locations/water-safety-at-home>

## READING AND BOOK-BASED ACTIVITIES

Getting hands-on with preschool math games and counting with cubes is a great way to get a "feel" for math. Give your child a pair of dice and blocks, LEGO bricks, or Unifix Cubes. Roll one die and build a tower with that number of blocks or cubes.

They then roll the second die and add that number to the tower. Now count how many cubes or bricks in the tower. Make another tower and compare towers. Ask questions like, Which is tallest? How many cubes is it? Which is shortest? How many cubes in that one? Take towers apart and begin again. Source: <https://www.weareteachers.com/preschool-math-games/>



# FOCUS ARTICLE: Make your New Year's resolutions a family affair

It's that time of year again, when many of us make New Year's resolutions that we have the best intentions of keeping. But despite our initial efforts, we often don't follow through. A lot of us fail because we either make unrealistic goals or we lack a support system that will help keep us honest. If you want to keep this year's resolutions, make a realistic goal. Your goal should be specific, measurable, and doable within a reasonable period of time. Being supported and held accountable by others will further help you reach your goal, so consider making resolutions as a family.

## Families Who Make Goals Together Keep Goals Together

While making a family resolution may seem as sensible as herding cats, it's worth the effort. But setting family resolutions will only work if each member of the family feels invested. And for everyone to feel invested, shared goals need to be recognized and treated equally within the family. If everyone feels they have a stake, then you have created the foundation for achieving your shared goals. Making goals as a family has a distinct advantage over making a personal goal as an individual. For example, if you go running every day with a friend, you're more likely to continue making progress because you will feel supported. Making goals public to your family and working together to achieve them provides the outside encouragement we all need to keep resolutions.

## Alone You Will Struggle; Together You Will Thrive

Many of our routines are built around work and family, but your autonomy and ability to make personal changes to your life can be undermined by your greater responsibilities. So if you want to exercise more or eat healthier, you are more likely to do so if your other family members exercise with you and eat the same things you do. But if you are the only one in your family that is actively working towards a goal, constantly removing yourself from your other family members' habits (e.g. eating a salad during family pizza night) will eventually erode your desire to keep your resolutions. You might stick with eating salads for a while, but that pepperoni pizza will be



more tempting when everyone else is enjoying it but you. You shouldn't force your family to do what you're doing, especially if they don't want or need to, but you can easily find ways for you and your family to work together and achieve a common goal.

## 8 Resolutions That Are Easier Kept as a Family

Some habits are truly personal and require individual accountability, but many common resolutions can be adopted by the entire family with a little planning and coordination. Maybe you're the only one who needs to lose weight or create a better diet, but there are other ways to encourage your whole family to work together.

1. Eat Meals Together
2. Go to Bed at the Same Time
3. Unplug Devices
4. Create Reading Time
5. Exercise as a Family
6. Work Toward a Financial Goal
7. Switch Out the Soda
8. Go Meatless One Day a Week



This is just a quick read of this article.  
Read the in full via the QR code.

Down, Kelsy. (March, 2024). Make Your New Year's Resolutions a Family Affair Retrieved from <https://www.gottman.com/blog/make-new-years-resolutions-family-affair/>



## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLING CHRISTMAS

**This year don't buy wrapping paper or Christmas cards make your own or better yet use art already created.**

**Collect your kids drawings and paintings** – After your child's art has spent its time on the fridge, tuck it away ready to be used as wrapping paper or as part of a Christmas card. Family friends and family will love receiving gifts and cards created with love.

**If you do have to buy cards or wrapping paper** – Choose cards and paper not wrapped in plastic. Check that items you are buying are made of recycled materials. You could even try sending e-cards this year.

**D-eco-rations** – Many of us reuse our decorations year after year already but if you are planning on buying new ones this year why not try making some instead. Turn off your lights at night and try to use LED ones instead.

**Presents** – Take a look around your home. How many things do you already have? Do you really need more stuff? Maybe instead of buying more things this year, you could try an 'experience' Christmas. Like, a **trip out to a theme park** with a friend. Or a **surfing lesson**! You can also ask your family to get all their gifts at **online eco-stores** this year!

We can all play a part in helping the earth this Christmas.

Source: <https://www.natgeokids.com/au/kids-club/cool-kids/general-kids-club/eco-friendly-christmas/>





## MUSIC AND DANCE

If you've ever witnessed pre-schoolers grooving to music, you can't help but smile. They obviously love the feeling of moving to the tunes we play for them. But music and dance are much more than just fun activities for children. In fact, it's very beneficial for pre-schoolers to participate in these "performing arts". Here's why:

**Music and dance engages the brain:** Children learn new things, like sounds, words and patterns through music. And with dance, they can explore and control their body movements. These activities are great for development and stimulate connections in the growing brain.

**It helps cultivate communication skills:** Bringing together kids with songs, rhymes and actions lets them discover how to interact and connect with others. They develop listening and social skills that will give them self-confidence and better prepare them for school.

**Music and Dance allows kids to express themselves** Happy, nervous, tired? Engaging in creative activities lets kids release their emotions and express their feelings. It's a fantastic opportunity for children who aren't yet able to put their thoughts into words.

**It helps foster physical skills:** Young musicians and dancers learn skills like balance, control and coordination. Singing and movement is also good aerobic exercise- linked to stress reduction, physical fitness and overall good health.

**Music and dance contribute to creativity and imagination:** With children spending more time in front of screens rather than physically playing, music and dance encourages them to be curious and imaginative. This creative outlet can also give them opportunities to learn about other cultures through the arts.

Source: <https://www.nvrc.ca/notices-events-blog/active-living-blog/5-benefits-music-and-dancing-preschoolers>

**National Quality Framework | Quality Area 1:**  
Element 1.1 – *Program*. The educational program enhances each child's learning and development.

## December Events

### All December Aboriginal Melbourne Walk (self Guided)

Follow the map in the link and see Aboriginal art, history and shops in Melbourne

FREE

<https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/walks/aboriginal-melbourne>

**14 December Koorie Krismas** Celebrate Christmas, Koorie-style, at this seasonal favourite, celebrating First Nations artists, performers and makers. The much-loved Koorie Krismas is returning to Fed Square, bringing with it a free, fun-filled day for the whole family.

The exciting program will include live music, comedy and dance performances, featuring a line-up of incredible First Nations talent. Emceed by Cerulean, enjoy a variety of performances from the Djirri Djirri Dancers, Pirritu Duo, Barry Gilson, ENOKiCurrie, randals dad, DJ PGZ, MC Lady Lash, the Ngargee Dancers, Madi Colville Walker and more. Shop for unique gifts from local First Peoples artists and makers such as: Clothing The Gaps, Haus of Dizzy & Haus of Ziggy Lee, Ilan Style, Kevin Williams, Kinya Lerrk Pty Ltd, Mabu Mabu, Mana Dreaming, Marbeangrook Designs, N'Dene Riley, Wiimpatja Nhuungku Designs, Wunyun, Yulaa-li, with more to be announced. At the drop-in workshops you can create your own wreath with Thelma Austin, customise a Krismas Kard designed by ENOKi, or design and make your own badge.

Free

<https://fedsquare.com/events/koorie-krismas>

**12 & 19 December Murran Melbourne** At this festive season exclusive pop-up, you can purchase Christmas gifts by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander makers, artists and businesses from across Australia.

FREE entry

<https://fedsquare.com/events/murran-melbourne>

**4 December Festive Native Wreaths (For Adults)** Learn the techniques to build your wreath from the base through to the finer details of arranging the native flowers and foliage into its finished look. All flowers and materials are included in this workshop, and you will take home the beautiful wreath that you made to hang on your door or gift to someone.

\$45

<https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/festive-native-wreaths>

## The after dinner walk



Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

Maybe a little more than 5 minutes however, very worthwhile. After dinner is finished for the night take a walk, down your street, to a local park. It doesn't have to be a long walk but getting out into the fresh air while the days are long can be a great way to get some extra movement into your day.

Walking after meals improves overall well-being, help digestion, and reduce blood sugar levels. Doing an activity as a family post meal can also give you a chance to unplug and connect. Why not wait until dark

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