

When I was 5 years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down 'happy'. They told me I didn't understand the assignment, and I told them they didn't understand life." – John Lennon

JUNE  
2021

# ON *this* MONTH

## AROUND THE COUNTRY

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Mabo Day -----              | 3     |
| World Environment Day ----- | 5     |
| World Ocean Day -----       | 8     |
| Global Wind Day -----       | 15    |
| National Refugee Week ----- | 20-26 |

## PLAYGROUND CHANGES.....

We are meeting with Gardenmakers, a local specialist child care landscaper, to plan some exciting changes for our pre school playground.

As soon as we receive the designs, we will put them out for consultation with staff and families.

One area we are focusing on is risky play and adding additional challenge of our pre-schoolers as well as the addition of more outdoor music stations.

There will also be some enhancements to the Early Learning playground.

We value the input of families on this and all aspects of our service.





## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – JUNE 5

World Environment Day 2021 calls for urgent action to revive our damaged ecosystems. From forests to peatlands to coasts, we all depend on healthy ecosystems for our survival. **REIMAGINE. RECREATE. RESTORE.** This is our moment. We cannot turn back time.

But we can grow trees, green our cities, rewild our gardens, change our diets and clean up rivers and coasts. We are the generation that can make peace with nature. Let's get active, not anxious. Let's be bold, not timid. **Join #GenerationRestoration**

## NATIONAL REFUGEE WEEK – JUNE 20-26

The 2021 Refugee Week theme is *Unity – The way forward*. The volatility of life in recent times has shown us unequivocally that we need to work together often merely to survive, let alone to thrive and progress. Let's take the opportunity to start afresh and rebuild our lives together. **Find out more.**

## FAMILY FAVOURITE SAN CHOY BOW



PREP 5 min | COOK 10 min | SERVES 4

San Choy Bow is a delicious classic Chinese meal! It is quick and perfect for week nights. Place a big bowl of your meat mix on the table with empty lettuce leaves and let the kids make their own wraps.

### INGREDIENTS

- 500g chicken mince
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup soy or tamari sauce
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 2 tbsp sesame seeds
- 2x spring onions, thinly sliced
- 1x lettuce (iceberg, butter or cos)

### METHOD:

In a frypan, heat the sesame oil and add the chicken mince. Stir until browned and add the garlic, tamari and honey. Stir until the sauce reduces and the chicken starts to caramelise. Serve with the lettuce cups, sliced spring onion, coriander, sesame seeds and fresh chilli

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

## App reviews

*A few apps for the adults. Think clearer, feel better, smile more.*



### ZEN STUDIO MEDITATION FOR KIDS

EDOKI ACADEMY | FREE (\$4.49 to unlock all features)

*Zen studio is a unique geometric finger-painting app designed to help children relax and focus.* It may be the simplest painting app ever published! Tap once for a new canvas, tap again to pick a colour, and then draw with your finger. What's more, a calm, soothing music algorithm accompanies every swipe of a finger making it a very zen experience!

### ANIMAL NOAH'S ARK ANIMALIBRIUM

GIULIA OLIVARES | FREE

*A tiny little boat, many animals and ... A delicate balance!* Splash into a sea of fun! You are Noah. Help get the animals on the ark, balance them on board, and bring them to safety, or freely explore the world to discover the hidden characters

### EGGY PHONICS 1

BLAKE ELEARNING | \$2.99

*Making Phonics fun and reward with 20 interactive levels that use a multisensory approach to learning.* Phonics is an essential part of learning to read and Eggy Phonics 1 makes phonics fun and rewarding. This app focuses on the first 100 short-vowel words, such as cat, dog and bus. Once your child finishes Eggy Phonics 1 you can move onto 2 and 3.



## FOCUS: 6 important tools to raise body positive children

**In prior decades, body image issues usually didn't hit the scene until kids reached adolescence. But thanks to social media, and our culture's relentless pursuit of thinness, we now have to find creative ways to teach young children how to develop healthy body images.**

Before I dive into some practical tips to help kids improve body image, I want to first diminish any shame that you might be feeling if you have body issues of your own. It's so important to remember that you downloaded every internal message from somewhere else. Of course, it's critical to work on your own issues, but it's also important to know it is *not* your fault that you developed them in the first place! So, whether you are struggling with your own body image, or you love your body, here are some tools to help your child feel better about the precious body he or she lives in.

**1. Break the spell** How do you know if your child has a bad body image? Perhaps they've begun making negative comments about their size or shape. Maybe they are comparing their body to others. Maybe they are avoiding foods or activities they once enjoyed because they feel uncomfortable about their body. Often the most common response a parent has is to reassure their child that they are "fine," or "beautiful" or "perfect." And while there is certainly nothing wrong with some reassurance, it simply may not be enough to overpower the cultural messages kids are surrounded by. Reassure them that they are perfect just the way they are.

**2. Unkind mind, kind mind and quiet mind** This little menu of options encourages kids to identify and differentiate between three different thinking states within themselves. I refer to them as "mind moods." Try teaching your child about these three states of mind and brainstorming examples of each. For example, unkind mind = "I hate my thighs." Kind mind = "I love singing." Quiet mind = Peacefully resting or playing. This will raise their awareness of their thoughts and help them to choose their mind moods more consciously. As they learn to turn up the volume of their kind minds and spend more time in their quiet minds, they begin to feel more present and peaceful. Once you have helped your child identify their unkind mind as a distinct voice, they can then try on some different responses and see which ones help bring them some relief. Try asking them to write or say all the messages their unkind mind is saying and practicing using strong, soft, silly or silent responses. Kids can learn that their unkind mind is not all of who they are, and that it doesn't have to run the show.

**3. Get to the root** This concept helps kids discover what triggers their body dissatisfaction. You can help your child by asking

questions or taking guesses about what might have started their bad body image. For example, I helped one 7-year-old get to the root of her body obsession by noticing it started when there was a death in her family. Right around that time, her best friend started talking about dieting, so she latched onto food obsession as a distracting coping tool. Once we uncovered this, she was able to learn about healthy grieving and truly healthy eating (as opposed to what the diet culture deems as healthy—which can actually be *unhealthy*).

**4. Mind movies vs. really real** Try asking your child to show you some things around them that are real (i.e., things they can see, touch or hear). Then ask them if they can show you one single thought in their minds. You can playfully challenge them to take a thought out of their head and show it to you or fold it up and put it in their pocket. This tool teaches kids how to be more present. Of course, they might use their imagination to do this, but with some finesse, you can teach your child to distinguish between the *mind movies* that cause them stress and the *really real* things around them. This is an immensely helpful tool that will not only help them with body image (since body image is one long *mind movie*) but will also improve the quality of their lives in-general.

**5. Dog talk and cat chat** Many kids cannot relate to the concept of being kind to themselves but ask a child how they feel about their favourite pet, and a doorway to their compassion, kindness and unconditional acceptance opens. For non-pet lovers, you can ask your child to imagine how they would speak to a baby or their best friend. *Dog talk and cat chat* can help teach youngsters how to take the loving words and tones they use toward a beloved pet and direct these sentiments toward themselves and their bodies.

**6. Do an internal upgrade** In addition to helping your child combat the messages they receive out in the world, you can also work on the messages they get in your home. Again, if you struggle with body image, it is not your fault, but you can work on healing—and not only will you feel more peace, but your child will benefit as well.

Wachter, Andrea (2019, December9). Mobile. Retrieved from <https://www.mother.ly/child/how-to-raise-kids-with-a-positive-body-image>

## FIND A STORY

**Give your child a small bucket, basket or bag and ask them to wander around the house and/or yard and collect a few items. At first the items will be random however, they will likely become more organised as your child becomes familiar with the activity.**

Go through the collected items, ask your child to tell you what they have found. At first you are going to have to use 'your' imagination and guide and structure the story. Your child will take over once they become comfortable and familiar with the activity.

For example: Set the scene "It was a sunny morning and" ...select an item continue the story, ask your child what happened next...They will see the items they have selected as so much more than what they actually are. A Lego block is a mountain, a water trough, a trophy. Enjoy their incredible imagination.



## HEALTH & SAFETY: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 Grounding Technique

Whether someone is having a panic attack, experiencing a high level of anxiety or is struggling to fall asleep, finding a way to ease the mind and return to a place of calmness and clarity can be extremely difficult to achieve. That's why mindfulness/grounding techniques are so important, because they can help someone achieve just that - no matter their current mental state.

The 5,4,3,2,1 technique is a simple, yet powerful grounding technique, bringing quick relief by forcing you to be mindful of the environment around you. In order to recommend this technique to someone in your life, we feel it is important you give it a try yourself first. This way you will not only experience first-hand its effects, but you can feel more confident explaining it to someone else.

**Now start by**, identifying five things that you see. This does not have to be large objects. The smaller and more specific you can be the better.

Found them? Great! Now identify four things that you can touch. Once again, be as detailed as you can. Identify the texture of this object, the temperature, whether it's wet or dry.

Starting to feel slightly more grounded? Let's keep going! Now, we would like you to identify three things that you can hear. This can be external sounds like birds chirping or cars driving by. Or, this can be internal sounds, like your stomach rumbling or the sound of your breath.

Almost there! Time to identify two things that you can smell.

Alright, last one. Identify one thing you can taste. What was the last thing you ate or drank? Can you taste it? Is it sour/sweet, bitter/tart? Be specific.

Now this technique is most effective when repeated several times. We recommend a minimum of 3 repetitions, but sometimes it may take 5 or more; it simply depends on the person/situation. Please note that the exercise can also be adjusted as needed. For example, if someone is struggling to sleep and don't want to turn on the lights, they can simply identify more things from the other senses and skip over vision.



What if your child is finding this activity difficult and can't hear, feel or smell enough things?

We have two ways out of this: you can ask your child to name favourite things (e.g. "name 2 smells you like" instead of "name 2 things you can smell") or provide the sensory input for them for example

**FEEL / TOUCH** – Ask your child to close their eyes and focus on what they are feeling. You may softly blow a bit of air on their face, apply soft pressure on one arm or run a finger through their hand to slightly tickle them.

**HEAR**- Open a window so if the house doesn't provide enough inputs, you may hear birds, a dog barking or cars.

**SMELL**- Instead of asking your child to imagine a smell, why not provide that pleasant experience with a smell of an essential oil, a flower, some hand cream or a spice bottles from the kitchen cabinet.

**TASTE** – This can be as simple as giving them a drink of water, or a fingertip of salt, honey, lemon juice.

This is just one grounding technique, if you find this one isn't working try another. Here is a list of **10 great ones**

Camskids (2021). *5,4,3,2,1 Grounding Technique* retrieved from <https://www.camskids.com/supportresources/54321-grounding-technique/>



### LET THE WIND BLOW

Global Wind Day is a worldwide event that occurs annually on 15 June! It is a day for discovering wind energy, its power and the possibilities it holds to reshape our energy systems.

'Let The Wind Blow' By Malgosia Bartosik, Philippa Nuttall Jones and Zam Zadeh was inspired by a conversation between two mums (a Polish wind advocate and a British journalist) and a talented young Iranian artist. It is a comic book that tells the story of how renewable energies like wind will help lead the transformation to a cleaner, healthier world for everyone. You can download the book at <http://www.letthewindblow.org/>. Read and discover why making the move to clean energy is so important for the health of our world.



# What's Been Happening at Seaforth Childcare: June



The Kookaburras and Kingfishers have been learning an array of signs in Auslan this month. Auslan is short for Australian Sign Language, a version of sign language that is unique to Australia.

Auslan was developed and is used by Australians who are Deaf or hard of hearing. It consists of using hand, arm and body movements to communicate, as well as facial expressions and lip reading.

Learning Auslan in Early Childhood poses many benefits for all children, both Deaf and of hearing. Children are able to understand, learn and use sign language from as early as 6 months old. This is a wonderful way to communicate with your child before they can verbally respond.

Other benefits include:

- Opening the lines of communication between people who are deaf and people who can hear
- Promoting an inclusive mindset and an awareness that being deaf is a difference not a disability
- Developing an appreciation of the Deaf culture and community
- Enhancing the development of fine motor skills, literacy capabilities and social skills.

By incorporating Auslan signs into our learning, we are providing the children with a foundational understanding of this language which they can take with them to school to pursue further.

The Kookaburras have been exploring signs for colours and animals. The children have loved signing familiar animals to the tune of 'Old Macdonald Had a Farm' and using the colour signs to sing along to 'I Can Sing a Rainbow'. The Kingfishers have been extending upon their literacy skills by signing the alphabet. The children love to sign the first letter of their name and are able to identify the signs related to the names of their peers. The Kingfishers have also incorporated Auslan signs into their Acknowledgement of Country, which they sign together each morning.

It is important to research authorised Auslan resources before learning Auslan, as the signs vary from state to state. In NSW, we use the Northern Dialect. However, there can be a myriad of signs that can represent the same word, or the Deaf community may have a preferred sign for your area. At Seaforth Childcare, we always refer to the official Auslan Signbank to ensure that we are using a sign that is relevant to our area: <https://www.auslan.org.au/dictionary/>



'Sky'



'Friends'



'People'



'Cow'



'Purple'



'Pink'

## Feature Article



### Take Advantage of Lockdown: Learn About Auslan with Your Children

YouTube is filled with many creators who are hard of hearing or Deaf, a lot of which have videos that can teach you and your family a variety of signs and handshapes. Here are some videos that you can use to learn the Northern Dialect of Auslan together:

Learn the Auslan Alphabet with Lisa Mills:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONohx6mBAR8>

Numbers 1 – 10 with Lisa Mills:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbZdku0-Gvo>

Greetings with Tegan:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ck8jjZUJVXc>

One of our favourite songs, 'I am Australian':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kfFmwEgJPs>

The Wiggles offer many of their songs in Auslan, which can all be found on YouTube. This one is 'Hot Potato' with Emma Wiggle:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hv9NHjsgXg4>

Many of our favourite books have been translated into Auslan too. This one is 'The Very Cranky Bear':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QsogILzKtQ>





## Cultural Diversity

*Cultural diversity surrounds us. Diverse cultures in early learning is a tremendous opportunity. We value and respect our families and staff's cultural background and enjoy participating in the wider community to share authentic cultural activities with children and families.*

### *Ways we share cultural diversity*

**Sing and tell stories together.** We read stories from a wide range of authors with diverse characters and storylines. We ask families to share stories that are special to them, support Home Languages, retell oral stories, encourage children to participate in oral storytelling.

**Invite families to share** Cultural celebrations happen throughout the year. These are opportunities for communicating and interacting across cultures. We encourage families to share important cultural holidays or celebrations in authentic ways. We organise inclusive activities that children share in together.

**Use a range of media** to share, learn and challenge stereotypes and discrimination.

### **IF THE WORLD WERE 100 PEOPLE**

50 would be female | 50 would be male

26 would be children. There would be 75 adults, 8 of whom would be 65 and older.

There would be:

60 Asians

15 Africans

14 people from the Americas

11 Europeans

12 would speak Chinese, 5 Spanish, 5 English, 3 Arabic, 3 Hindi, 3 Bengali, 3 Portuguese, 2 Russian, 2 Japanese, 62 would speak other languages.

83 would be able to read and write. 17 would not.

Source: <https://www.geteduca.com/blog/sharing-diverse-cultures-early-learning/>

**National Quality Framework | Quality Area 6:**  
*Collaborative partnerships with families and communities*

## PLANNING FOR 2022....

Please keep an eye out for emails about 2022!!

Incredibly we are at that time of year when we start to plan and the first thing for us to consider is the needs of our existing families.

There will no doubt be much for you to consider and this is especially important if you are deciding on whether to send your child to school.

We are always here to assist you so please chat to Sophie or our Pre School team if you have any queries.

Thank you  
Anita



## KEEPY UPPY

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

You have seen it on Bluey, and you have probably played your own version of balloon ball before but, did you know actively trying to keep a balloon off the floor counts for some serious active minutes. Simply blow up a balloon and keep it from touching the floor, get as tricky as you like.