

TRIKKI KIDZ EARLY LEARNING GROUP

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams”
– Eleanor Roosevelt



ON *this* MONTH

AT TRIKKI KIDZ

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|
| Barooga Preschool Graduation 6 pm ----- | 4 |
| Yarrowonga Kindergarten Graduation 6 pm ----- | 9 |
| Cobram Kindergarten Graduation 6 pm ----- | 11 |

2024 SERVICE CLOSURE DATES (DECEMBER)

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| Trikki Kidz Barooga 5.30 pm (Fri) ----- | 20 |
| Trikki Kidz Cobram & Yarrowonga 6 pm (Fri) ----- | 20 |

AROUND THE COUNTRY

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| International Day of People with Disabilities ----- | 3 |
| Human Rights Day ----- | 10 |
| Christmas Day ----- | 25 |
| New Year's Day ----- | 31 |

2025 SERVICE RE-OPENING DATE (JANUARY)

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---|
| Trikki Kidz Barooga 7.30 am (Thur) ----- | 2 |
| Trikki Kidz Cobram & Yarrowonga 7 am (Thur) ----- | 2 |

PREPARING FOR BUSHFIRES OR GRASSFIRES

Early childhood services must assess all possible risks as part of their emergency management requirements, including the risk of bushfires and grassfires.

The Department assesses early childhood services each year for their bushfire and grassfire risk based on their location:

- Those at the highest risk of fire (risk categories 0, 1, 2 and 3) are placed on the department's [Bushfire At-Risk Register \(BARR\) list](#).
- Services assessed to be at risk of grassfire are placed on the [Category 4 list](#).

Trikki Kidz Yarrowonga was recently advised that it was being placed on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and Category 4 list in 2024-2025.

Services placed on the BARR and Category 4 list have additional requirements imposed as conditions on their service approval, including having an Emergency Management Plan (EMP) to guide and document emergency management arrangements and not being allowed to operate on any day declared as having a “Catastrophic” Fire Danger Rating in the district the service is located.

Anyone requiring further information or who would like to view our EMP, please see Trudy or Courtney.





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 its 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. **Learn 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
- 125 g 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, 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 jokatenutrition.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 that the entire family can enjoy. 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

Dirt Girl's Nature Detective Academy is an invitation for kids to switch on their senses. From seeds to trees, butterflies to chickens, clouds to rainbows, Dirt Girl 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 children 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, such as swimming pools, spas, bathtubs, rivers, creeks and oceans, dams and lakes

Children also drown in less obvious locations, such as nappy buckets, toilets, water tanks, water features, fish ponds, and 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 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 self-closing and self-latching gate. Remember never to 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 also 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 to 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 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 Defibrillator (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, 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 the shortest? How many cubes are 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. However, 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 daily with a friend, you're more likely to continue progressing 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 who 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 a 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.

A Gentle Reminder for the Holidays

Matching pyjamas don't make a magical Christmas
Perfect decorations can't replace the warmth of a happy home.

A messy kitchen means memories were made.
It's okay if traditions are simple—they're yours, and that's enough.

There's no 'perfect parent' at Christmas, only one who loves.

Years from now, they'll remember the hugs, laughter, and love - not the gifts.

Your presence will always outshine any present.

Let kindness, connection, and joy be your guide this season.

MHM MENTAL HEALTH MOVEMENT

Trikki Kidz management would like to wish all children, families, educators, and staff a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We wish all school-aged children the very best as they continue their learning journeys at 'big' school.

We look forward to welcoming everyone else back in 2025 for another fabulous year.

5 Minute MOVES

The after-dinner walk

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

It may take a little more than 5 minutes, but it is 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 and check out your local Christmas Light displays.