

NEWSLETTER

Term 1 2024

Auslan Version <https://yeerongpillyecdp.eq.edu.au/calendar-and-news/newsletters>

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a lovely to start to the year, welcoming all our children and families back to the ECDP after the summer school holidays. We extend a very warm welcome to our new families commencing this year.



Yeerongpilly ECDP Private Facebook Group - How to join?
Enter 'YECDP Facebook Group' into the search bar of your device. You can request to join and will be asked to answer a few basic questions to screen requests for approval. Please ensure you answer all 4 questions, including agreeing to the group rules. If you have any problems joining please see Melissa or your child's teacher.



YECDP Facebook Group

Private group · 129 members



Joined ▼

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Files

Reels

We would also like to introduce all our Department of Education (DoE) and Deaf Connect staff based at Yeerongpilly Early Childhood Development Program (YECDP) in 2024. It is wonderful to have such a unique team working together to support the families and children at the centre. We also have a few new faces this year.

Monday - Wednesday Individual Sessions, Playgroups and Group Programs	
<i>YECDP Office</i> Melissa Homann (Acting Head of Specialist Education Services and Teacher of the Deaf) Nea Miotti (Administration Officer) Brenda Lopez-Carroll (Administration Officer) Lindy McReaddie (Educational Assistant)	<i>Deaf Connect Office</i> Kristen Mason (Deaf Connect General Manager) Janelle Gleeson (Team Lead) Alex Bell (Support Planner) Toni Allen (Admin Assistant)
<i>Teachers</i> Caroline Gresham (Teacher of the Deaf) Natara Mitchell (Teacher of the Deaf) Lynda West (Teacher of the Deaf) Brayton Lynham (Teacher of the Deaf) Liz Smith (Teacher of the Deaf) Rachel Brindal (Teacher of the Deaf) Pauline Andringa (Teacher of the Deaf) Sheridan Howell (Teacher of the Deaf)	<i>Therapists</i> Lea Ser (Psychologist) KJ Stockwell (Occupational Therapist) Prue Irwin (Physiotherapist) Jayne Whiting (Physiotherapist) Sally Wells (SLP Clinical Manager & Speech Pathologist) Julie Jensen (Speech Pathologist) Mia McLay (Speech Pathologist) Andrea Pollock (Speech Pathologist) Amanda Brain (Occupational Therapist) Di Gibson (Speech Pathologist)
<i>Tuesday / Wednesday Group Program</i> Pauline Andringa (Teacher of the Deaf) Bridget Moynihan (Educational Assistant) Lizzie Ambrose (Educational Interpreter) Phillipa Fuamatu (Educational Interpreter)	
<i>Teacher Aides</i> Sarah Buchanan (Auslan Language Model) Michelle Boyd (Educational Interpreter) Bridget Moynihan (Educational Assistant)	
<i>UEL Toowong Bilingual Bicultural Kindy Outreach</i> Rachel Brindal (Teacher of the Deaf) Camelle Hurley (Auslan Language Model) Briony Weddell (Educational Interpreter)	

Thursday - Friday Group Program	
<p>ECDP Office Melissa Homann (Acting Head of Specialist Education Services) Gillian Jones (Guidance Officer) Nea Miotti (Administration Officer) Lindy McReaddie (Educational Assistant)</p> <p>State-wide Early Intervention Outreach Lynda West (Teacher of the Deaf) Michelle Boyd (Educational Interpreter) Sheridan Howell (Teacher of the Deaf)</p> <p>Support Teacher Evelyn Heape</p> <p>DoE Speech Language Pathologist Sara King-Koi (starting week 6)</p>	<p>Group 1 Bilingual Bicultural Pedagogy Pauline Andringa (Teacher of the Deaf) Rachel Brindal (Teacher of the Deaf) Vikki Brown (Auslan Language Model) Camelle Hurley (Auslan Language Model) Deborah Winspear (Educational Interpreter)</p>
	<p>Group 2 Brayton Lynham (Teacher of the Deaf) Sheree Van Der Zalm (Educational Assistant) Lavi Taylor (Educational Assistant)</p>
<p>Deaf Connect Office Kristen Mason (Deaf Connect General Manager) Janelle Gleeson (Team Lead) Alex Bell (Support Planner) Toni Allen (Admin Assistant)</p> <p>Therapists Lea Ser (Psychologist) Amanda Brain (Occupational Therapist) Imogene Isles (Occupational Therapist) KJ Stockwell (Occupational Therapist) Jayne Whiting (Physiotherapist) Sally Wells (SLP Clinical Manager & Speech Pathologist) Ashlee Everist (Speech Pathologist) Julie Jensen (Speech Pathologist) Mia McLay (Speech Pathologist) Kate Gaukroger (Occupational Therapist) Andrea Pollock (Speech Pathologist) Felicity Rasmussen (Speech Pathologist)</p>	<p>Group 3 Liz Smith (Teacher of the Deaf) Bridget Moynihan (Educational Assistant) Lizzie Ambrose (Educational Interpreter) Nadine Haupt (Auslan Language Model)</p>
	<p>Group 4 Natara Mitchell (Teacher of the Deaf) Cat Vasquez (Educational Interpreter) Tia O'Boyle (Educational Interpreter) Cleo Harwood (Auslan Language Model)</p>
	<p>Group 5 Caroline Gresham (Teacher of the Deaf) Phillipa Fuamatu (Educational Interpreter) Melissa Kennewell (Auslan Language Model) Jakob Shepherd (Educational Assistant) Jemma Wood (Educational Interpreter)</p>

Outreach to Kindergartens and Child Care Centres

Our Teachers of the Deaf can provide information and support to the child care centre or kindergarten your child attends. This is typically via email or phone calls and includes sharing a selection of resources including child specific information, handouts, online *Understanding Hearing Loss* presentation, children's books with Deaf and hard of hearing characters and a variety of Auslan resources.

We also have an 'outreach' week once a term. During this week teachers will be provided with time to offer outreach to children aged 3 to 5 years attending a child care centre or kindergarten. Our aim will be for your child's teacher (3 - 5 years) to visit their mainstream setting at least once a year, in addition to the support provided throughout the year.

The outreach weeks/days in 2024 will be:

Term 1 - week 6 - Monday 26/2 to Wednesday 28/2

Term 2 - week 7 - Monday 27/5 to Wednesday 29/5

Term 3 - week 6 - Monday 12/8 to Tuesday 13/8

Term 4 - week 3 - Monday 14/10 to Wednesday 16/10

During these weeks there will be NO individual sessions, however playgroups and the two-day group program continue as normal.

Playgroups 2024

Our Baby and Toddler playgroups are held on alternative Tuesday mornings from 9:15am to 11:15am and are offered in conjunction with individual sessions for children aged 0 to 3 years. These playgroups provide an opportunity for meeting and networking with other families and specialised staff including Teacher of the Deaf, Speech Pathologist, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Auslan Language Model, Educational Interpreter and Parent Mentor.

Auslan playgroup will continue every Monday from 9:15am to 11am. The goal of the Auslan playgroup is to provide families who currently attend individual sessions, Tuesday playgroup or the two-day group program at YECDP with additional support to develop their Auslan skills.

If you have any questions about the playgroups please talk to your child's teacher or just come along and try them.

Check our website for playgroup dates <https://yeerongpillyecdp.eq.edu.au/calendar-and-news/events-calendar>

Family Auslan Classes

Family Auslan classes offer a flexible format to practice and develop your signing skills. Please feel free to join one or both classes when you can. Regular attendance is recommended to support the development of Auslan skills.

Auslan family classes will start 15th / 16th February this term.

- Thursdays 1:30pm to 2pm (Staffroom)
- Fridays 9:00am to 9:30am (Staffroom)

Parent Handbook

Available on our website

<https://yeerongpillyecdp.eq.edu.au/SupportAndResources/FormsAndDocuments/Documents/Parent%20Handbook%202023.pdf>

Hearing Australia Visits 2024

An audiologist from Hearing Australia visits the ECDP on the first Friday of the month during school terms, from 9am to 12pm. They also visit on a Tuesday during playgroup four times a year. The audiologist is available to take impressions for moulds, set up Wireless Communication Devices (WCD), check hearing aids, and answer questions. For more information, please talk to your child's teacher. The remaining dates for 2024 are below:

Friday Group Program Visits	Tuesday Visits
March 1	February 20
May 3	May 21
June 7	July 23
August 2	October 15
September 6	
October 4	
November 1	
December 6	

Medication Policy

If your child requires medication while attending our group program it is vital that the following steps are followed:

1. *Administration of medication at school record sheet* must be completed by the parent/carer for routine/short-term medication. This form is available from your child's teacher.
2. Both prescription medication and over the counter medication must have a pharmacy label with the name of the prescribing health practitioner, child's name and dosage.
3. Medication must be given to a staff member to be stored out of the reach of the children.

If medication is required for emergency situations (e.g. Anaphylaxis, Asthma, etc.), please talk to Melissa or your child's teacher about the procedure and requirements, including an Action Plan from your child's doctor.

Nut Policy

Please avoid sending nuts/nut products in your child's lunch box

We have children and adults who attend Yeerongpilly ECDP with **severe allergies to nuts** and are at risk of an anaphylactic reaction. If your child does bring items with nuts to the ECDP please advise your child's teacher so we can minimise the risk of exposure for the children with allergies.

School Transport Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities.

Under this scheme, all students who attend an ECDP are eligible for a Conveyance Allowance paid directly to the parent/carer to assist with the travel costs between home and school. The allowance is calculated based on the distance to your nearest specialised ECDP (this may not be Yeerongpilly ECDP). The Conveyance Allowance is paid twice a year in July and December, directly into the parent's nominated bank account.

If your child regularly attends the centre weekly, including individual sessions and playgroup, or group program, and you would like an application submitted for 2024 please contact the office.



We look forward to an exciting year ahead
All the staff at Yeerongpilly ECDP