Working Together for 3 Year Olds

e-Newsletter

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WT3 Vision: confident and creative three year olds, thriving in strong, connected communities.

Working Together for 3 Year Olds (WT3) has had a productive month and we are thrilled to report that as at Easter 85% of the 55 WT3 funded places have been taken up by eligible children. Our service partners are sharing positive and inspiring stories from children and their families.

There are still a few places available in Blackmans Bay, Kingston and Glenorchy. Please contact participating education and care services if you know an eligible family who may benefit from this opportunity.

If you want to continue to receive the WT3 e-Newsletter, please opt-in by emailing WT3@education.tas.gov.au.

Thank you for your interest in, and support of WT3.

Local Enabling Groups

Five Local Enabling Group (LEG) meetings have now been set up across the state in each of the pilot locations (Devonport, Launceston, Derwent Valley, Kingborough and Glenorchy).

Each LEG has around 10-15 members which includes families, educators and early years teachers, principals, and representative from local services in the community such as Baptcare, Child Health and Parenting Service and Early Childhood Intervention Service.

LEG meetings involved members getting to know each other; understanding the aim and vision of WT3 and the role they will play in its development. Members reflect on activities and provide feedback and ideas to shape WT3 and ensure it is scalable and sustainable for 2020 and beyond.

For the first meeting, each LEG provided some general reflections on the WT3 opportunity to date and critically reflected on the WT3 enrolment form which is being tested during the pilot.

Parents and carers have shared their experiences of the first weeks of WT3 and the changes they have seen in their children’s confidence, independence and social skills.

“He goes and gets his shoes on and his backpack and is excited to go to what he calls his ‘school’ and see his friends.” (Parent)

As the pilot progresses, the LEGs will continue to critically reflect on different aspects and experiences within WT3 and inform how it will look in 2020 and beyond.
Emma Callanan, Centre Director at Goodstart in Blackmans Bay says the Learning Circles provided an opportunity for them to share strategies they are using with a WT3 family who has English as an addition language.

“We shared our experience on enrolling this family which included offering them the option of meeting in a place they were comfortable, then when they chose to come to the centre we set up a quiet place. This was important for them so they could go through the enrolment process with their case worker and educator; feeling comfortable and supported.

“The mother was worried about the child’s limited English but we talked about how children have strong language acquisition skills and we will be using a range of tools including visual cards to support communication,” Emma said.

Team members from Benjafield Child Care Centre in Glenorchy shared their approaches for using interpreters from the Commonwealth Translating and Interpreting Service hotline (1800 131 450).

Hayley noted that educators appreciated the opportunity to engage in critical reflection with professionals from other services.

“This process can be daunting, however I was impressed by the generosity everyone showed in the ways they shared their ideas for working with families from diverse backgrounds,” Hayley said.

WT3 Learning Circles

WT3 includes professional learning opportunities for service partners to continue to build their capacity and further develop skills for working with a range of families.

WT3’s Early Years Consultant, Hayley Perkins is leading Learning Circles fortnightly for services partners involved in the 2019 pilot. The first Learning Circle focused on enrolments and relationship building, with families. Participants shared ideas about the enrolment process through this state-wide network that connects online. Learning Circles build on the evidence that one of the most valuable strategies educators can use to upskill is critical reflection and sharing practices.

To do this: “We engaged in critical reflection in our Learning Circle which allowed educators to learn valuable ideas particularly from Goodstart Blackmans Bay team members on their inclusive strategies,” Hayley said.

Monthly WT3 Webinars

On the second Thursday of the month WT3 hosts a 30 minute webinar from 10am. These include a short presentation on a popular topic, followed by an update and Q&A. If you missed our first webinar – click to access the recording: Parents’ Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) – why and how we are using it in the WT3 pilot.

The next webinar will be on Thursday, 9 May at 2:00pm ‘2020 and beyond – considerations for the future WT3 funding model’ with guest specialists from Deloitte Access Economics. Please email WT3@education.tas.gov.au if you want to register to join the webinar, send any questions for the Q&A and also suggest a future webinar topic.
What families are telling us

WT3 values the input from families in shaping the initiative as they are the experts on their lives. We are already hearing positive feedback about the impact WT3 is having on families and their children.

A grandmother says this opportunity for her grandson has been life changing. Her grandson is so excited to go and has made lots of new friends.

And a father who wanted his daughter to go to the local early learning centre but he couldn’t afford it. Now he is seeing her thrive as a result of being able to access the WT3 opportunity.

“The little one was always wanting to play with other kids her age, but didn’t really get a chance before WT3. Since enrolling she’s been loving spending time and playing with other kids.” (Parent)

“They made these necklaces for family - and Pop’s has his on ever since. She gets a real kick out of it, a real buzz. And seeing how happy and proud she is – it’s just so good.” (Grandparent)

Strong Families Safe Kids

The Six Domains of Child and Youth Wellbeing

- Being loved and safe
- Having material basics
- Being healthy
- Learning
- Participating
- Having a positive sense of culture and identity

Working Together for 3 Year Olds vision is aligned with the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework which commits all parts of Tasmania’s state service, and others, to a shared responsibility for the wellbeing of children and young people.

Communities Tasmania developed the Framework along with the Child and Family Wellbeing Assessment Tool for people working with children to assess the wellbeing of young people and their families and identify areas where additional support may be required.

They also developed the Strong Families, Safe Kids Service Directory which is for government and non-government service providers to use to find services that support children, young people and families.

WT3 has listed our service partners in the Directory which includes information on hundreds of services for children and young people across Tasmania.

To find services or add a listing can go to the Strong Families Safe Kids website.

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