



Welcome

Each of our MercyCare Early Learning Centres are a reflection of the families that walk through the doors each day. They reflect the individual needs and interests of each child, family and the surrounding community. That's why we go by the mantra, "What matters to you, matters to us".

We understand that placing your little one in child care is hard. That's why we take the time to get to know you and your child. We want to understand your home routines, what matters to your family and the individual qualities and strengths that makes your child special, so we can embrace and build on this.

We have wonderful programs at our Early Learning Centres based on MercyCare values, some of which you can read about in these pages. Our Eco Warriors

program teach an early love and care for the environment, while also engaging children in Aboriginal culture.

We know our biggest asset is our people. Our staff are family. Many of them have been with us for years, creating special bonds with children and families. They are passionate professionals that care deeply about the children entrusted in their care each day.

Rosina Smith
MercyCare Early Learning Manager

Our Philosophy

Our philosophy of care ensures your children are valued and active participants in their own lives; that they have an equal opportunity and their voices are heard.

In addition to providing positive learning and development experiences, our centres strive to be an extension of your home. We provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment and work in partnership with you to meet your children's needs.

Through our programs we support your children with an understanding of themselves, their community and the world around them. This includes teaching them about the environment, being involved in nature, recognising the unique role of Australia's First Peoples and celebrating multicultural Australia.

Our centres ensures that your children receive a rich variety of experiences, which are fun, engaging and educational, building their confidence and independence as they grow, develop and find their space in the world.

Did you know?

We have Early Learning Centres in these locations.

For more info about each centre, visit childcare.mercycare.com.au

- Ballajura
- Banksia Grove
- Bassendean
- Bedford
- Bennett Springs
- Ellenbrook
- Heathridge
- Kelmscott
- Landsdale
- Merriwa
- Newman College
- Seville Grove
- Thornlie
- Wembley



Our next generation of junior eco warriors

Have you heard about our Eco Warrior program?

At each of MercyCare's Early Learning Centres, our educators set out to engage children in a series of fun, educational eco-friendly activities that demonstrate how every little action can make a big difference.

The idea was originally sparked by MercyCare Early Learning Manager Rosina Smith, whose son Tate began to show an interest in the environment by picking up rubbish during their regular walks to the park.

From recognising her son's desire for a cleaner environment, Rosina realised there is great potential to share eco-conscious habits with other little minds across MercyCare's Early Learning Centres.

Since its conception, the Eco Warrior program has become a popular fixture at our centres, with children showing great enthusiasm in contributing to a cleaner, greener future.

Through a series of hands on, interactive activities, children learn all about sustainable, environmentally-friendly practices that range from involving them in managing compost, worm farms and vegetable patches, upcycling materials during craft activities, doing regular spot clean ups in the community.

Some of our centres have even taken measures to teach children about energy usage and how to reduce electricity costs by "thinking green".

Educators at our Heathridge centre have been championing our Eco Warrior mindset, having recently attended a course run by Little Green Steps WA, which taught them all about being mindful of energy usage and reducing electricity costs by "thinking green."

You may even notice some 'think green' stickers near power switches at Heathridge, which aims to encourage children to be more mindful of energy usage.

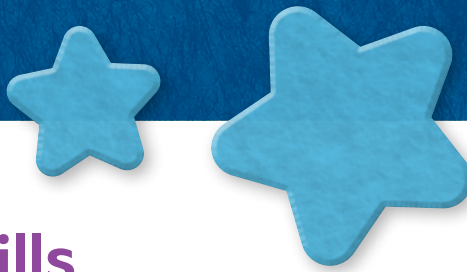


At our Thornlie centre, educators have worked with children to analyse electricity bills to see how power usage can be reduced, while at our Wembley centre, each fortnight the educators and children take a walk around the centre and collect rubbish in an effort to keep the area tidy.

All of our centres have environmentally responsible or sustainable programs in place and work to divert as much as waste as possible from landfill.

It's hoped that by raising an army of junior eco-conscious warriors who can apply the same environmentally-friendly practises at home and in the community, we can help contribute to a greener, cleaner future.





Building new skills

Wembley centre manager Lisa Houlihan mastered the art of candle-making a few years ago and recently shared her skills with refugee and migrant women.

The workshop was to help equip women with new skills they could use to sell goods at local markets.

“The women came to the centre after hours. I taught them how to make a candle on the night and then gave them take-home packs to make another as well,” Lisa said

In preparation for the event, little helpers divided and weighed the candle wax – a fun activity that also taught the children some early maths skills.

“They helped me do up little packs and even weighed the wax, and they loved it,” she said.



Our Mini Chefs

Our weekly MiniChef sessions are a hit with children because they're super fun, a little messy and very hands-on, but they are also extremely educational and introduce children to several learning subjects, such as maths and science.

As they follow their recipes, children practice counting, weighing and measuring.

They learn about different forms – about liquids, solids, how some ingredients melt or change colour and form and the effect of heat or cold temperatures.

They also learn how to follow instructions, take turns and work together.

Throughout the activity, they not only learn about healthy eating, but they practise their motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination.

On another level, we know that sharing food brings people together – families, friends and entire communities. Our MiniChef program enables us to learn from our wonderfully diverse families.

By making different recipes every week, children learn about new foods and flavours from different cultures.

We love to celebrate culturally significant days and events through our MiniChef program.

If you or your child has a favourite family recipe that you'd like to share with your MercyCare early learning team, we'd love to hear from you. Feel free to come and have a chat with our friendly early learning centre staff.





Our artists

In a fantastic community collaboration, MercyCare Bennett Springs Early Learning Centre partnered with Sacred India Gallery and environmental event group, Eco Gecko to educate the children about multicultural arts and the importance of environmental preservation.

About 20 Kindy children learned new painting techniques from Indian and Aboriginal cultures and used them to decorate various native animal shapes.

The animals they painted are indigenous to the Bennett Springs local area, with many species known to inhabit the nearby Whiteman Park.

MercyCare Bennett Springs Early Learning Centre Manager Jacenta Booth said the Eco Shapes workshops were a fantastic opportunity for children to harness their creative minds, learn new art techniques and develop their interest in local eco-systems.

“Our workshops aimed to drive for change and encouraged children to learn about culture, conservation and the local environment,” Jacenta said.

“This project is important as we can teach our children not only about the sharing of our culture through art but wildlife conservation; preserving and

protecting animals, plants and their habitats.

“It is important that we ensure future generations can enjoy our natural world and the incredible species that live within.”

Staff at Bennett Springs Early Learning Centre come from a number of cultural backgrounds, with at least seven languages spoken between them.

The centre is a reflection of the wonderfully diverse community it is part of.

“We have so many multicultural families at our centre and I think it’s really important to share one another’s cultures,” Jacenta said.

“It makes people feel welcome and supported.”

The children’s art works will be displayed at Sacred India Gallery, 76 Dulwich St, Bennett Springs – as well as the early learning centre.

What else is happening at MercyCare?



At the recent Western Australian Multicultural Awards, MercyCare received the highly regarded Community Organisation Award, recognising our work with people who come from diverse, multicultural backgrounds.



We have new courses for young people who have been through challenging life issues to hone their mentoring and peer support skills to help others and form a pathway to a future career.



Harman Park joined the MercyCare family last year and provides opportunities for seniors and those living with a disability to socialise and connect in the City of Belmont.

Stay connected

Join our Facebook family and stay in touch with everything that is happening across all of our centres.

We also have regular news articles and blogs available in our Story Corner online.

mercycare.com.au/child-care/story-corner