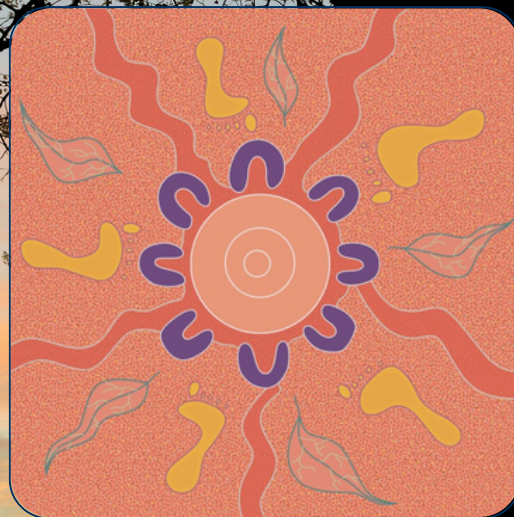




Village News



Artwork by Ngunnawal Art

THIS ISSUE

▶ Early Learning Matters Forum

The Forum reaffirmed a simple but powerful truth: early learning matters, and so does the work of educators, parents, and community partners across the early years sector.

▶ ADHD Pathways and Practice

Supporting families of children with ADHD remains a strong priority for Village. We are introducing the ADHD Pathways Map (Post-Diagnosis).

▶ Play Focus Area

The Play Working Group continue to strengthen its role in promoting inclusive and accessible play across Belconnen. Members reflected on the success of the Early Learning Matters Forum, noting the value of networking and cross-service collaboration it generated.

▶ Outreach Focus Area

The Outreach Working Group focused on making services easier for families to find and use. The survey, Identifying Gaps in Early Years Services is live and gathering responses to inform new priorities and next steps.

▶ Connections Focus Area

The Oral Health workshop emphasised on how early habits shape lifelong dental health and provided demonstrations and tools to support children's oral care from birth.

A season of Connection and Learning

The last quarter has been one of connection, learning and action for Village. From a major forum to small workshops, families, educators, and local organisations came together to share knowledge and co-design resources. Each event adds to our shared vision: that every child in Belconnen thrives, physically healthy, emotionally resilient, socially connected, and fully prepared for lifelong learning.

Early Learning Matters Forum

On 29 July, Village in collaboration with the Play Working Group and the Early Years Community of Practice, hosted the Early Learning Matters Forum as part of the national Early Learning Matters Week.



Early Learning Matters Forum



More than 70 participants attended, including representatives from government, non-government organisations, and Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) centres. Together they created a space for insight, reflection, and shared purpose.

A diverse panel of presenters, including the AEDC team, Imagination Library Kippax team, Little Hands Occupational Therapy, the Preschool Pathways Program, and a senior educator from CIT shared hands-on approaches and fresh perspectives. Discussions highlighted both the depth of knowledge and the strong commitment across our community.

This does not happen by accident. It happens when people come together with purpose, care, and community in mind. That spirit defines Village's role in the community and is why the forum was such a success.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with the Forum rated 4.75 out of 5. Attendees valued the relevance of the sessions, smooth organisation, and opportunities to connect. Many left inspired to share ideas with colleagues and apply new approaches in their work. Several described the Forum as "fantastic" and a "a joy to attend," while also suggesting more time for reflection and movement breaks.

[Presentation slides and resources](#)





ADHD Pathways and Practice

ADHD Pathways Map (Post-Diagnosis)



Supporting families of children with ADHD remains a strong priority for Village. We are introducing the **ADHD Pathways Map (Post-Diagnosis)**, co-designed by ADHD Action Group members to help families and professionals navigate services with greater clarity and confidence.

In 2023, the ADHD Action Group surveyed families across the ACT to better understand the needs of families with ADHD. Findings revealed a challenging, often overwhelming journey, with many unsure of the next steps or how to access services.

In response, the first ADHD Pathways Map was developed to guide families before diagnosis – where to go and when to seek guidance, and how to prepare. The new map continues that journey, outlining the steps after diagnosis, how to find the right services, and how to navigate daily life, school, healthcare, and family wellbeing.

It is not a clinical tool, or a checklist. It is a guide informed by lived experience and local services, showing how mutually reinforcing activities across schools, health, and community services can enable families feel more confident and connected.

Families can access the map in two ways:

- ✓ **Quick Guide Poster**  – for easy reference and everyday use
- ✓ **Interactive Version**  – with detailed information, tools, and links

The pathways maps reflect the needs identified in the ADHD survey and will continue to evolve with families' voices at the centre.

Supporting Children with ADHD Workshop

Looking ahead, Village is partnering with Noah's Ark to deliver an Allied Health Workshop, "Supporting Children with ADHD" on 30 October. The workshop will help families, carers, and educators better understand ADHD and its impact on daily life, with a focus on strengths, wellbeing, and strategies that enable children to thrive.

With more than 90% of seats already booked, registrations should only be made if attendance is certain. Where multiple seats are reserved, attendee details are requested in advance to assist planning and coordination.

PRESENTERS

- ✓ **Alanna Jinks**
Speech Pathologist
- ✓ **Fran Price**
Psychologist
- ✓ **Harley Valerius**
Occupational Therapist

WHEN AND WHERE

-  **Thursday**
30 October 2025
-  **9:30 am – 12:30 pm**
-  **UnitingCare Kippax**
130 Hardwick Cres, Holt



Scan the QR code
or

REGISTER HERE 





Play Focus Area



The Play Working Group (WG) continue to strengthen its role in promoting inclusive and accessible play across Belconnen. Members reflected on the success of the Early Learning Matters Forum, noting the value of networking and cross-service collaboration it generated.

The WG is also focusing on re-engaging members, seeking suggestions for organisations to approach and exploring how parents and carers might join to broaden perspectives. Feedback is being collected on meeting times to ensure participation remains strong.

With two new members:

- ✓ **Prism Early Intervention**
- ✓ **Game On**

the group has increased its collective capacity to create play opportunities for children and families across Belconnen.

PlayFest by Playgroup ACT



- Friday, 24 October 2025**
- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**
- Casey Community Recreation Park
Minty Grove, Casey 2913**

Welcoming new members to the Play WG

Prism Early Intervention

Prism provides compassionate play-based behavioural support tailored to each child. Individualised plans address key areas of development, including language, play, social interaction, and behaviour. Sessions are delivered at home, in childcare, or at school to support children where they learn best. Prism's team works closely with families to foster positive behaviours, strengthen communication, and create secure environments where children can thrive.

Game On

Game On is a free pop-up community program designed to get primary school aged children and their families moving, connecting, and having fun. Through sport and recreation activities, each event encourages active play, skill building, and social connection in a safe and inclusive space. By partnering with local organisations, Game On makes physical activity accessible and engaging for all, while strengthening community participation and wellbeing.

New Project Ideas

Members discussed emerging ideas such as creating family-friendly resources on play-based learning and intentionality and supporting parents and carers to engage children with books and build early literacy skills. Other possibilities included inclusive playgroups, intergenerational programs with grandparents, and translating resources for families from non-English speaking backgrounds.



Outreach Focus Area



Outreach



The Outreach Working Group focused on making services easier for families to find and use. The survey, *Identifying Gaps in Early Years Services* is live and gathering responses to inform new priorities and next steps.

Survey to Identify Service Gaps in Early Years Sector



The Outreach WG is gathering insights from those who work closely with children and families. Your experience helps us understand where gaps exist and why some families face barriers in accessing early years services.

Your feedback will inform future outreach initiatives and strengthen our collective advocacy, ensuring families receive the right support.

Have your say

Community Events

Two community events are in the early proposal phase:

-  Carers Week event on 15 October.
-  International Day of People with Disability on 3 December.

Both will provide families with welcoming spaces to connect and avail services.

Alongside these events, members are also preparing school holiday day programs with ACT Libraries, discussing home interaction resource packs, and exploring schools as community hubs. A new partnership with Navitas will deliver free English and Digital Literacy classes into schools, with collaboration already being explored with local schools. Each initiative works towards the shared goal, ensuring families can access the right services, in the right place, at the right time.

Imagination Library Kippax Program

The Imagination Library Kippax program continues to expand, with 169 children enrolled and 35 graduates. New families joining each month. The Forum provided a platform to relaunch the program, raising its profile and sparking new interest across the sector.

Village and collaborating partners are exploring new fundraising opportunities, including a Christmas campaign donation desk. These efforts aim to sustain the program and extend the joy of books to even more children across Belconnen.

Every book delivered is more than a gift. It is a step towards literacy equity, stronger parent-child relationships, and a community where every child has the best possible start to life.

Welcoming new WG members

Navitas Skilled Futures (NSF) delivers government-funded adult education and skills training programs, including the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP), Basic Digital Literacy, and other Foundation Skills initiatives. NSF supports the development of language, literacy, numeracy, digital skills, and workforce readiness for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, helping individuals thrive in work, education, and life.



Connections Focus Area



Connections



On 5th August, 13 families joined the Oral Health workshop, delivered by Canberra Health Services. The presenter emphasised on how early habits shape lifelong dental health and provided demonstrations and tools to support children's oral care from birth. Families valued the chance to ask questions and interact in a small-group setting, making oral health information easy to understand.

Workshop resources [🔗](#)

Early Years Community of Practice

The Community of Practice members met on 21 August to refine session formats to better support busy ECECs, while maintaining professional growth. Future topics include *behaviour guidance*, *educator wellbeing*, *inclusions*, and *intergenerational play*.

Local ECECs have expressed interest in hosting upcoming sessions, ensuring the CoP remains grounded in the realities of early years practice.

These efforts show the strength of networks, families connecting trusted services, and services joining hands to build a streamlined early years system.

Village's online presence continues to be a vital way for families, services, and collaborating partners to access resources. Between July and September, more than 1,000 active users visited the website, generating over 5,200 page views and 1,570 sessions.

This was not passive browsing: with 280 downloads and over 1,590 engagement actions, users were actively drawing on Village resources. Each click, a parent printing a guide, an educator sharing a resource with colleagues, or a partner organisation adapting shared tools.

The data shows that collaboration extends beyond workshops and forums, continuing online as resources are accessed and ideas are carried forward into everyday practice.

Ideas on the Horizon

Several projects are in development, including:

- ✓ School holiday programs in local Libraries
- ✓ Co-designing resources to strengthen collaboration between families, educators, and services.

Each of these projects will be shaped with inputs from collaborating partners and community voices.

Communications & Reach

Village's email campaigns also remain a strong engagement tool. Across five campaigns, emails were opened 1,794 times, reflecting not only reach but repeat engagement. This is clear evidence of **Open and Continuous Communication**, a core element of Collective Impact.





Village Resources



Child Development Resource Pack

A community centered, collaboratively designed child development resources for families and services. These resources were developed in response to a need identified by the community through our extensive engagement across the early years sector.

<https://belconnenvillage.org.au/child-development-resources/>

[Click here to download](#)



School Transitions Resource Pack

The Transitions Campaign provides information about the public-school enrolment process, priority enrolment areas, local public schools and resources on preschool pathways, transitions, Koori preschool, supports for parents, disability information, financial and resource assistance and learning supports.

<https://belconnenvillage.org.au/transitions-campaign/>

[Click here to download](#)



Early Years Resource Pack

This pack contains resources produced by Village and partner organisations including the Education Directorate and Community Services Directorate, Australian Early Development Census team. The resources aim to support children and families before formal schooling in areas of child development and transitioning to school. They have been collated for Early Childhood Education and Care Services.

<https://belconnenvillage.org.au/early-years-resources/>

[Click here to download](#)



Our Partners

Acknowledgement of country

A Village for Every Child would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work, the Ngunnawal people. We pay our respects and celebrate their ongoing cultural traditions and contributions to this region. We also acknowledge elders, past and present, as well as the children because they are our future.

Village is proud to have partnered with Yerrabi Yurwang Child & Family Aboriginal Corporation to deliver the Commonwealth Government's Connected Beginnings Program 2022–2023. We deeply value the opportunity to work closely with Yerrabi Yurwang to support the self-determination of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. We look forward to continuing our partnership.

Acknowledgement of participating organisations

The collective achievements of Village would not have been possible without the continued commitment and in-kind contributions from all the people and organisations, including our funders who are proud to have been part of creating the conditions for children to thrive in Belconnen.

