Welcome to the sixth edition of the GCNC Neuroprotective Newsletter for 2017. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please contact: Nadine.griffiths@health.nsw.gov.au

Early reading has been found to matter, with reading books beginning in early infancy found to boost vocabulary and reading skills four years later. A recent paper found that high quality reading experiences can predict early reading skills. High Quality reading is seen as:

- having conversations during reading i.e. discussing in more depth the photos or pictures;
- and acting out/discussing emotions of the characters in stories

Whilst the number and quality of books read are strongly linked to later emergent skills such as name writing.

Have you encouraged a family to read to their baby today?

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/05/170504083146.htm

The concept of staff as visitors in the Neonatal Unit

Staff refer to families as visiting neonatal units. Yet for families their baby has a bed and a place here, so does this not make the neonatal setting their space/home and us (health care professionals) the visitors?

An article from 2016 identified:

- Parents will wait to be told when how they can participate in care
- Parents face judgment from staff who criticize them from not doing more
- Yet the knowledge, experience and support parents receive from staff is central to decreasing their fear, increasing confidence, and preparing them to take their infant home

How can we help to empower parents in the NICU?


Developmental Neuroprotective Care

A two-part paper published in May and endorsed by numerous North American Professional bodies explored Developmental Neuroprotective Care. The papers graded the available literature supporting DC practices and recommended institutional implementation of guidelines that follow a PDSA cycle and include:

- Forming a leadership team
- Identifying developmental specialists
- A training/education plan
- Core components of care that are readily identified and practiced
- Evaluating/auditing interventions
- Ensuring sustainability


On the Socials...

We will be posting on Facebook and Instagram to provide updates on our work as a NIDCAP Training Centre. Find us at ‘Australasian NIDCAP Centre’ or NIDCAP Australia. We are working on a website as well!

Reading with infants has a lasting literacy effect

In the first week of July we will be introducing to the unit Family Support Volunteers (FSV). The FSV’s will work in HDU providing assistance to families by helping to comfort/support their infants or distract siblings.

Keep an eye out in the coming weeks or information promoting the program!

Developmental focus