



Junior Kindy News

We've certainly been experiencing some cold weather over the past couple of weeks. This has provided us with opportunities for the children in our room, to practise self-help skills like putting on socks, jumpers and blowing nose's. We promote these skills by encouraging them to have a go and it would be great for you at home to encourage this as well.

Our group song time provides a great opportunity to develop concepts of language, rhythm, self-awareness and group identity. The children request their favourites like 5 fat sausages, 5 little monkeys, and my hands are clapping etc.

Some children are also bringing show and tell to daycare, and having the confidence, at mat times to stand up and tell us about what they have brought in. Well done to these children. This is a great opportunity for them to model this skill to their peers who may in turn gain the confidence to do this.

Please remember to view our "What we did today" sheet, which is written up daily to inform you, as parents and caregivers, the events your child has partaken in on the day he/she is here.

Also during the time your child attends the centre, staff complete observations, take photos of them involved in activities and collect other relevant material that your child completes. We have collated these examples and placed them into a clear folder, which is placed beside the sign in sheet. You are most welcome to view your child's folders and we hope it will provide you with an ongoing overview of your child's learning and development while at our centre. Any queries please see Allanah.

Quick reminder also to pack two clearly marked sheets for your child at rest time, shoes, socks, and a warm jumper also, to keep your child warm as the weather is getting colder.

Lastly if your child is feeling unwell, it is best for them, and us to keep them home to recover. See our information page on this topic elsewhere in this newsletter.

Keep warm till next month.....
Allanah, Julia, Leigh.

Kindy News

We have been very busy. We are now using a new programming format which is based on the emerging curriculum and have found the effects more practical at allowing creative ideas. So far we have explored a camping theme which was suggested by a book that Leah brought in for show and tell.

We had lots of fun making a tent in our room where, we made "camping" meals. Sharon made a pretend fire and we talked about how to make a fire and how to act safely around fire. We also discussed temperature concepts, singing songs and of course marshmallows.

Tracey showed the children how to make damper bread and we ate it with honey. Yum!

Recently we had a special treat. Jocelyn's Mum, Ann and her sister, Sarah shared with us a puppet show which depicted a variety of cultures. The puppets were hand crafted using simple materials, creating a stylised effect. They danced to music made by a didgeridoo. We also enjoyed exploring the Aboriginal artefacts; a carved wooden shield and a hunting boomerang. Thank you for this fantastic experience.

We've also been enjoying all things "Hairy Maclary". Senan's interest provided us with this theme. He sang the rhyme and lyrics of the stories and brought in his Hairy Maclary book from home, confidently reciting the words to the rest of the group. We had fun making the characters from the story using boxes and various collage materials and have proudly displayed them in our room.

The Kindy kids have been practising using scissors and have had free choice from the collage trolley to use and create what they choose. We are encouraging new skills and processes as well as imagination, rather than putting an emphasis on the finished product.

Our new theme entails all things to do with cooking. Some ideas are: talking about and using our senses to explore herbs and spices, using and exploring a range of cooking implements, discovering concepts of measurement, full and empty, pouring and filling. We plan to make pizzas, sandwiches, muffins, bread and fruit salad among other things.



If you have any great ideas or recipes you would like to share, you are most welcome.

We have also enjoyed our new class pet, Evie who goes home with a child and a journal to which each family adds an entry describing their home routine and individual family culture. The children are always eager to share Evie's adventures at their house with the rest of the group. So far Evie has been doing lots of exciting things from karate class to swimming.

Thanks Parents for your creativity, time and effort.
Until next time....Bethany, Sharon, Leigh and Tracey.

Junior Kindy News

Wow! This year is flying by. It's hard to believe we're into July already. The group has been forming some great friendships and becoming familiar with friends names to greet them on arrival and say goodbye on leaving. We have welcomed some new friends to our room. Aaron and Sunday have settled in well and our friendly group has made them very welcome. We've also had some friends graduate to the Kindy room, Xy, Jarrah, Jasmine and soon Toby, whilst welcoming Luka from the Toddler room.

Carmen, our relatively new assistant has settled in well and has picked up the room routine readily, also getting to know the children quickly.

We are excited to be working with this great group and the parents, together helping them grow into independent individuals. As part of this we have introduced a self-help area which has spoons, plates, cups, bowls and a dirty dishes bucket. The children have become familiar with this area and are using it well.

Mat time is popular at present where the children are singing along to favourite songs as well as participating in the hand and finger actions to them. We have used the magnetic board with a song called 5 Balloons during which the group experienced colour recognition and counting as well as having fun with the magnetic props. Another favourite activity is making fresh playdough. The children enjoy taking turns pouring the ingredients then watching it change colour as they mix it up followed by manipulating the warm dough.

Our group has adopted two fish who have been named Big Fish and Little Fish. The children love to observe them swimming in the tank and have been taking turns to feed them. In conjunction with this we have created our own big and little fish through collage, filling them up with foam to make a fish tank display around the real one. The children have found this an exciting experience and proudly show parents their display and their new 'pets'.

We have introduced a sign-in book for the children to 'sign' when they arrive. This makes them feel important as we recognise their independence and their contribution to the group.

Until next time... Jade, Carmen and Tracey.

Toddler News

The last couple of months has been very busy in the Toddler room. We (Allanah and Teagan) have settled in and so have our new children, Ruby, Thomas, Maya E, Charli, Chloe, Luke, Isabel and Maya W. Well done to the children and the Mums and Dads; it's sometimes a difficult process. Our older Toddlers are all doing well with their toilet training; Kaitlin, Sophie and Kavya. Luka has moved to the Junior Kindy room and we hope he has lots of fun in there.

A popular song in our room is Row Your Boat and the children have been having lots of fun playing in the blow up boat and coloured balls, singing this song:

Row, row, row your boat

Gently down the stream

If you see a crocodile

Don't forget to scream

Ahhhhhh!! (that's their favourite part). A song book will be coming home soon so you can sing along with your child.

Congratulations to Lettie's family on the birth of a new baby brother! Also expecting additions to their families soon are Harrison and Elliot.

We are starting up a class photo board so if you could bring in a family photo this would be greatly appreciated. This will help the children to make a link between home and here.



The children's portfolios of their learning development are next to the sign-in sheet for you to view at your leisure.

Please remember to pack in your child's bag some spare clothes, sheets, a cover and a hat.

Keep smiling!! Allanah and Teagan.

Kindergarten News

Welcome

What a wonderful month we've had with some new friends joining us; welcome to James, Mack, Zach, Riley and Bodhi.

We've been learning our colours and I've been pleasantly surprised at how quickly the children have grasped them. A variety of fun activities to learn and reinforce colour recognition has been used, including colour cards, twister scam and using colour themes in our artwork. We are currently in the process of arranging the display of our artwork in the room so please bare with us as the room looks a little bare as we gather together the individual works of our busy children.

Due to the request of our friend Tanika, the Kindys and Preschoolers will be having a Teddy Bear Picnic. This will be happening after the school holidays on the 23rd July so please bring in your favourite teddy and lots of treats and fun games will be provided.

Remember our fun Pirate Party which is arriving on July 16th. We will be preparing for this by making pirate hats and treasure maps which will be used on the day to find special treasure.

A self-help area has recently been introduced to encourage independence. The children each have their own cup with their name on it which also helps with name (and colour) recognition. This has been working extremely well.

Children in the early childhood years chiefly learn through play so it is very important to have a balance between set activities and free play. It is also important for them to be self directed and able to make choices about their play and learning, guided by their teachers. This makes it more meaningful and relevant.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask myself or Candice.

Until next time...Melissa and Candice

Hi from the Kindergarten Room...

Firstly, we'd like to take the opportunity to welcome our new friends into the room. Welcome to Daniel, Elle, Kane and Sacha who have made the transition from the top centre. We look forward to getting to know each other and working in partnership with you as parents. Lately, we have been having fun exploring the characters of the program Letterland. To date, we have learnt about Annie Apple, Bouncy Ben, Clever Cat and Dippy Duck. Next, we shall be learning about F for Fireman Fred as we prepare for our visit from the Fire Brigade on Wednesday the 3rd of June. Please ensure that you have signed a permission form for this visit.

Have you received your copy of the Letterland song lyrics, placed in your child's pocket? If not, please see staff. Recently we enjoyed a visit from Jason who performed for us the 'Didge for Kids'. Jason displayed his talent on the didgeridoo as the children participated in his interactive show. The children seemed to enjoy this experience immensely and to extend on this we shall be incorporating more music and movement into the program, as well as more multicultural experiences. We shall be celebrating 'NAIDOC Week' from the 6th to the 10th of July. NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contributions of Indigenous Australian in various fields. The theme for NAIDOC week in 2009 is Honouring Our Elders, Nurturing Our Youth. Many exciting activities and experiences shall be planned to promote children's understanding of the culture and inclusion – acceptance of all!

Please remember your input into the program is welcome! Since the program is derived from children's interests and individual needs, input from you as the child's primary carers is key; therefore please do not hesitate to approach staff.

Have a great month!.....Julz, Caitlyn & Kirsty