



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

7 O'Connell Avenue & 286 Beauchamp Road
Matraville 2036
Phone: 02 9311 0044 & 9661 9521
Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au

Newsletter – May 2018

Centre News

We celebrated Mother's Day by making something beautiful for mum. The Starfish and Lionfish children planted special seeds for their mums, they also made some beautiful flowers and decorations to be given to their mums. The other rooms also created special gifts for their mothers. On Friday afternoon, 8th of May 2015, we had our Mother's day afternoon tea in our room with our beautiful mums. Thank you to the mums who could attend it.

EYLF (Our Program)

Thanks to all the parents and families who have booked their names in for the Parent-Teacher interview this year. If you can't make it, please feel free to have a look at your child's portfolio and if you have questions, please talk to your child's educator or Miss Elly.

The Learning outcomes from Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) describes the ways children's learning can be observed. At Pumpkin, we refer to these outcomes as part of the process of interpreting observations and documenting the learning we share with families, children and each other. We also refer to the learning outcomes when planning and evaluating our programs as a way of ensuring that we are creating meaningful and effective child-focused learning opportunities.

The principles and pedagogical practices which are identified in EYLF guide our practices by emphasising that our approaches and systems should:

- Include parents' and children's perspectives and goals;
- Depict the unique strengths, interests, knowledge and learning journeys of each child;
- Use a variety of different ways to record an interpret assessment information to honour high expectations, diversity and growing cultural competence.

The diversity in family life means that children experience belonging, being and becoming in many different ways. They bring their diverse experiences, perspectives, expectations, knowledge and skills to children's learning.

The themes from EYLF, Belonging, Being and Becoming provide a way of thinking, talking and writing about our programs and what children are achieving. These three themes of Belonging, Being and Becoming offer a way of helping us keep the children's experience of our programs the focus of what we see, document and plan. They help us see beyond what's on the surface of our

own concerns and agendas to the deeper levels of what it might be like to be ‘this child’ and ‘this family’ in ‘this program’.

Belonging

The dimension of belonging is the aspect of our work that focuses on children’s connection in key relationships in their lives – within their families, cultural contexts, and communities. This dimension is a central focus because it is through the experience of belonging, that children form positive identities and a resilient sense of who they are and what can they do. Through parent input and News topic, our programs will connect children’s experience with their inner worlds of creativity, curiosity, thoughts, feeling and desires, leading to deep level of engagement and involvement.

Being

The dimension of being is the aspect of our work that focuses on children’s unique ways of engaging in the world around them. This dimension is central because it is through developing an understanding of each child’s ‘way of being’ and the ideas/skills and talents they are using to learn, that we can create programs that children experience as great places to be ‘them’. We build an image of all children as rich and competent in their own sphere of ‘knowing’.

Becoming

The dimension of becoming is the aspect of our work that focuses on supporting the changes that are occurring in children’s relationships, knowledge, skills and abilities as they engage in our programs. This dimension is central because it is through understanding the changes emerging in children’s learning that we can plan programs that are not only great places for children to be them as they are now, but also that offer satisfying possibilities for who they are becoming.

At Pumpkin we believe that Educators’ practices and the relationships they form with children and families have a significant effect on children’s involvement and success in learning. Children thrive when families and educators work together in partnership to support young children’s learning. Children’s early learning influences their life chances. Wellbeing and a strong sense of connection, optimism and engagement enable children to develop a positive attitude to learning.

(Belonging, Being & Becoming The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia page 7 & 9)

June's Calendar of Events

Month of June – Parent-Teacher interview to see how your child has been progressed.

10th - Sunday – Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Destiny), Muslim tradition.

11th - Monday – Queen's Birthday, Centre closed.

14th – 15/06/18 – Eid Al Fitr.

17th – 23/06/18 – Refugee Week.



Clownfish News

A big welcome to Ava and Sophie into our Clownfish room.

CELEBRATION



Mother's Day afternoon tea: Thank you to all mothers and Grandmothers who have attended our Mother's Day afternoon tea, we and the children greatly appreciate and enjoyed your company. Thank you to all educators who helped, prepared and made it happen on that special day.



Happy birthday to Ailsie P, who turned one this May.

In the month of **May**, Children were asked to bring in their **favourite toys** for news topic. Alyssa brought in her favourite toy, Teletubbies doll to share with her friend. Erin and Xavier Mathie brought in their news, they shared about their favourite toys, Erin's Favourite toy is "Snooky" cheese cloth and Varity bunny and Xavier likes soft toys. Both have a baby doll, Erin's one is Lucy and Xavier's is Luke. Extending from this, the Clownfish children confidently expressed their identity through dramatic play with dolls, mini prams and social play.



Giant exercise ball was also introduced to the children. Miss Stella showed them two gym balls. The children were amazed by the size of the ball, they almost as big as their bodies. They couldn't wait to play with the balls outside. We also had some time comparing which ball is bigger/smaller during outdoor play, the children effectively engaged in ball activity.

The Clownfish children have also enjoyed and continued to show great interest in **music, instruments and dancing**. They have confidently responded back and engaged in non-verbal and verbal conversations, they also extended their own interests into what they could see, hear, touch and feel.



Shapes, books and drawing were one of the main interest in the month of May. Clownfish children were read books about shapes, investigate about shapes and shapes recognition. They were shown shapes collages and flash cards.



Until next month,
Clownfish Educators.

Jellyfish News

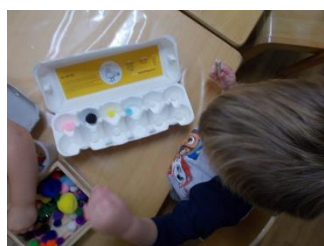


What a busy couple of months we had, who can believe we are in May already! The time is surely flying by. Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you for all parents/families who have always be very supportive in

terms of sending us inputs, suggestions, and recycled materials to further assist us in implementing program and curriculum. We would love to thank all beautiful mums who came to our mother's day afternoon tea on the 11th. We would also like to welcome our new Jellyfish friends to our room, Flynn and Tiarna! We hope you enjoy your time with us. ☺



Shapes - In the month of May, the Jellyfish children have been busy developing their understanding of the key concepts of patterns. The children have been using patterns throughout their play and investigation. This project started when the children showed a great interest towards ball, that led them into a shape discussion. Pattern can be found almost everywhere in their play experience. The children have enjoyed noticing and naming shapes, colours, and numbers. On the 11th, the children proudly identified some resources inside the room which have a circle shape such as "Circle table!", "Circle clock!", "Circle bin", and many more shape recognition. They were actively contributed their ideas and thoughts throughout this project. The children also experienced various type of shape arts with a range of art materials. Throughout this project, the children were encouraged to form a circle during group discussion as well. On the 16th, the children had an opportunity to explore and engage in shape puzzles using iPad. Firstly, Miss Stella demonstrated how to solve the puzzle using the technology, then the children were required to use their sensory capabilities to solve the puzzle. On the 17th, they were also involved in play dough experience to further their investigation towards shapes.





“What is in your mind?”- this project have been highly caught the children’s attention throughout the week! On the beginning of week the 21st, The children were asked to express their ideas to be part of their art works. Throughout the week the children have expressed various thoughts such as butterfly, spider, and monster! On the 24th, they also had an opportunity to explore their neighbourhood with Miss Stella and Miss Sabina, they had sometime to touch and feel the rain, said goodbye to the truck and cars, and also observed their nature environment. Furthermore, children were asked to express their thought during group discussion what



they have observed outside. Good exploration Jellyfish!

Sleeping bunnies’ song has been on repeat daily. The children were seen exercised their physical skill through jumping and skipping. Through this song, the children notice and recognise the pattern of sleeping and waking up! Please jump to this link if you want to see how the song sounds like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHcFQ9gaMF4>



Parent reminders:

- Please dress the children in appropriate warm clothing due to the cooler and windy weather.
- Please bring your family photos, if you haven’t done so.
- Parent-teacher interview will be held on the **11th to 15th of June**. Don’t forget to fill out the form when you sign the children in/out. We will be discussing the children’s development and further goals that we need to work on. Miss Stella will be doing the Wednesday to Friday ‘s interview. Miss Maylene and Miss Yuki will be doing Monday and Tuesday ‘s interview.

Until next time,

Jellyfish educators

Lionfish News

During the month of May, the Lionfish children have shown a great interest in cooking experiences. Whether it be in the home corner area both inside and outside or in the sandpit. They have created their own dinner parties and picnics as well as using the trays that Miss Nicole brought in for them to use. They have made pizzas, cakes and a variety of other foods. We have extended this interest, making chocolate coconut balls for Mother's Day and some biscuits. We also made icing and decorated some biscuits for Harry's last day and made some rice bubble slice using a recipe from Mason's mum. We will continue this interest so if you have any easy recipes you'd like to share, please send them in.



They have also continued to enjoy exploring the garden in the beautiful Autumn weather that we have been having. They have discovered spiders and ants, which led to further investigating on the computer and a discussion about not touching things without asking an adult. They have also continued to care for our garden, helping to water it each day and our worms, making sure we feed them and remembering what they can and can't eat when recycling their fruit scraps.



They have also enjoyed a variety of art'n'craft experiences using a variety of recycled materials which have been brought in by different families, as well as coloured sand (which they helped make) and a variety of natural and collage materials. They have learnt how to do paper mache, making several dinosaurs as well as exploring a variety of mediums while painting and drawing.



We have also continued to talk to the children about keeping themselves and their friends safe at Pumpkin and following the rules. To help them with winding down, we had a complimentary yoga class for the children which the children all enjoyed.



Leading up to Mother's Day, the children participated in a variety of arts'n'crafts activities such as making Mother's Day cards using stamps, paints and collage and decorating pots for our plants for our Mother's Day presents. We also did a cooking experience, making chocolate, coconut balls which were very yummy! Some Mothers also joined us for a special afternoon tea.



During the last week of May, we talked about National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week. We looked at different aspects of Aboriginal Culture including art, music, musical instruments and Dreamtime Stories. The Lionfish children especially enjoyed creating their own interpretations of Aboriginal paintings using red, black, yellow and other natural colours after Miss Rebecca showed them some Aboriginal art for inspiration. We painted on different natural surfaces, including bark and rocks.



Until next month,
Lionfish Educators ☺

Starfish News

Welcome to Starfish May Newsletter! We've had an eventful month thus far with many children returning from their **holidays** and openly discussing about their experiences whilst away with their families with their peers and teachers, participating enthusiastically during our news group-times and then joining in on learning extensions and reciprocal discussions to further their knowledge as well as extending their experiences through demonstrations and role-play; *"It's like a Ferris wheel but it goes up and down, the boat goes up and down."*, *"I went to the Sunshine Coast and stayed at the hotel"*, *"We went on a boat"*, *"I was drawing up there!"*, *"Why do you like your holiday?"*, *"I saw some people surfing at the beach on my holiday, so I wanted to show them what I saw."*, *"We're going for a surf!"* *"When the water goes fast, it's dangerous!"*

Arts & Crafts interests have been evident this month, with Starfish joining in collaboration with their younger Lionfish peers in using recycled materials and resources provided to explore their creativity and imaginations to create a Paper Mache Dinosaur on the 1st of May,

the children used the egg cartons and box donated by a few of our children, large rolls of paper donated by a parent and also some hand-paper rolls. The children thoroughly enjoyed directing the assembly of the Dinosaur as they watched the hot-glue gun form the shape of their Dinosaur. It was wonderful to see the children negotiating on what type of Dinosaur that wished to create and openly communicating this to their teacher; *"I want it to be a bigger one! With the spike club on the end!"*, *"I want spikes too!"*, *"Look, I can see my box!"*, *"We will use this for the body"*, *"Head! Head!"*

On the 2nd and 3rd of May, Starfish were introduced to 'Paper Mache', shown an example created by their teacher of a large Shark. Sparking conversation with the class about what it was made from; *"Cardboard?"*, *"Paper!"*, *"That's Paper-Mache!"*, *"Is there a Balloon in there?"*

The children were informed of the process of making a paper mache sculpture, were reminded of the examples



created within the classroom and were excited to give it a try for themselves with their Dinosaur. Using their fine-motor to scrunch, tear and rip paper, Starfish then decorated it using an array of colours, for which they were seen exploring their senses as they used their hands to apply the gooey mixture and then explore their ideas alongside one-another making new colours as well as recognising the letters/words on the torn paper; *"I'm painting its tail, "Look I can see the bumps! I'm going to do the legs!", "I'm painting the spikes!", "I love Dinosaurs! I want to make another one too!", "Look I see letters! Let's read this!"* Sand Art was initiated by one of our students for which we extended through teaching the technique to the class, using coloured sand provided by their teacher as well as some coloured sand created and dyed by the children earlier in the year. The children enjoyed using the natural and man-made materials to create their underwater pictures, excited to see the sand sticking to where they had applied their glue and were able to mirror the methods shown to through the demonstrations. On the 8th May, drawing was initiated by the children as they helped acquire the texters and paper, setting it up underneath the grapefruit tree on the picnic table, creating beautiful pictures of their families, rainbows and butterflies. On the 17th Starfish and their younger peers were involved in some painting with Miss Nicole, selecting their own animals and paint colours and making animal prints. Verbalizing their experiences and discussing the sizes of the footprints as the children responded to their prints; *"Elephants are big!", "Turtles feet are small!", "Look Miss Nicole, Footprints!"*



Recycling has been a focus as our children often bring in and contribute to our class recycling bin, using these within their arts and crafts as well as in the garden. The children have enjoyed exploring their outdoor garden environment, following their interests in feeding the worm farm their scraps from meal-times along with handling the worms. Starfish have also been observing and checking the growth

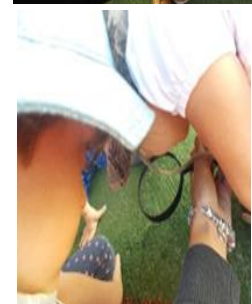


and changes that had occurred with the plants already established in the garden-beds as well as seeds that they had planted. The children used their senses to explore the texture of the Pumpkin growing in their garden pot, using their sense of sight and hearing to observe the insects and arachnids living and hiding within the plants and shrubs. The children were able to engage in learning discussions about what they discovered and interacted with, to further their understanding and knowledge; *"The Pumpkin is really big now!", "It's Bumpy Now", "Spider!"* On the 7th May, Starfish made the discovery of some



ants under the climbing frame, turning into an Ant Hunt, exploring the whole yard. Later researching with Miss Rebecca is learning more about the species found in our outdoor playground and community on the class computer as well as their anatomy and behaviours. Starfish were able to mimic the ant's antennae's and mandibles using their hands and were then provided with magnifying

glasses to observe the ants more closely. On the 16th there was a discovery of an insect, mistaken for a worm by one of the children, through engaging in learning relationships with Miss Tracy and Miss Rebecca along with some research on the 17th in the afternoon using the class computer, the children learned that they'd found a 'Millipede' and could compare the differences between a Centipede and Millipede. Responding to the insect found in their environment as well as the imagery, the children exchanged their thoughts, opinions and knowledge; *"Look I found a worm!",*



"I don't like centipedes because they are poisonous.", "It's got a round head!", "It's got thousands of legs!", "Can they bite you?", "I've seen one of those at my home!", "It looks like a Caterpillar!"



Mother's Day Cooking and Crafts - Starfish joined in with their Lionfish peers to create some Mother's Day surprise treats! Working co-operatively to create 'Chocolate Coconut Balls', successfully doubling the measurements of the ingredients engaged in simple addition, using their senses to explore the scents of the coconut, condensed milk and cocoa, Starfish were then given the chance to taste test; *"I'm going to eat them!", "They smell sooo good", "Mmmm", "Yummm!", "I*



hope Mummy shares hers with me!", "That smells like chocolate!", "I love chocolate!", "Mmm"

Starfish were also excited to commence their cards and gifts, provided with a variety of decorations and materials, the children were able to further their independence in decorating using a stamping technique with flowers, hearts and messages of love on them before drawing and colouring them in. Starfish were then encouraged to free-hand write their messages to their mums; *"I Love you", "Mum, you make me smile", "I love your hugs!", "Happy Mummy's Day"*



Seeing as the children have demonstrated interest in **seed planting**, join in on the care and maintenance of our garden beds and plants, they were very excited to gift a plant for their mums, with personalised hand painted pots. Exploring their understanding and verbalising their knowledge of colours, the children were able to use their creativity and discover new colours and were then excitedly observed placing stickers and other decorations onto their pots. After their pots had dried, the children were



given the chance to add the soil, sow the plant clippings and then water them to ensure quick root growth. Verbalising their enthusiasm; *"Can I help you?", "I want to put more plants in", "My Mum's going to love it!", "We need to water them!"* On Friday 11th Starfish held their afternoon tea for their Mums, giving the children the opportunity to bond with, praise and celebrate their Mum's...



Starfish children involving Cooking up a kitchen as well sinks, stoves utensils and food



have shown much interest in engaging in experiences imaginative **role-play and dramatic-play**. storm in the classroom 'Home-Corner' as the outdoor areas set up with kitchen and a large assortment of pots, pans, items. Their cooking interests haven't only



been observed within these areas, though also within the sand-pit area where the children have been able to delve into sensory play while they explore and respond to the environment. On the 9th May, Miss Nicole provided Starfish with an array of new pots and pans to add to their role-playing and they were put to great use in the sand-pit, where the children demonstrated their abilities to use the trays to cook their food and serve their plates on, along with assembling legos to make a big 'cake', role-playing. Using their imaginations and creating roles for one-another, the children have offered up yummy lollypops, pizza, cakes, cup-cakes, coffee, juice, pasta and lots of healthy foods offered up and served in picnics and cafes set up by the children; *"Yes, we're making the food."*, *"Let's have a picnic!"*, *"I'm making pizzas!"*, *"I'm making a birthday cake!"*, *"There's lots in it! Two pizzas one for you and one for me!"* Starfish were eager to join in more cooking experiences after creating the 'Chocolate Coconut Balls' for Mother's Day, discussing their own experiences from home cooking through sharing of news, *"We cook marshmallow sponge cakes. You need an oven, some flour, some salt, some eggs and some butter."* Along with exploring new recipes and tantalising their sense of smell, taste, touch and feel. Furthering their understanding of the ingredients in the cupboards, measurement and simple addition in doubling the batches along with exploring the garden-beds in search for spearmint to create Peppermint and Spearmint Playdoh along with making Shredded-Coconut Playdoh batch using the left-over coconut from the previous cook; *"It looks like Snow!"*, *"That smells like my Daddy's chewing gum!"*, *"That smells like Toothpaste!"*, *"Mmmm"*



To give the children an idea of **Yoga** and learning how to 'wind down' after a busy play session, Starfish were involved in some creative movement and calming exercises with their teacher on the 4th May. Using their

imaginations and physical skills to manipulate their

bodies as they pretended to be trees, stretching up high, with their branches, wriggling their leaves and swaying from side to side with their trunks. The children were then able to choose moves for their peers to then mirror and did a wonderful job at mimicking each-other and further their gross-

stamina. On the 14th May, the children Dinosaurs and after doing a little bit of research by typing on the keyboard on the class computer,



motor, balance and demonstrated interest in



to find out the name of the dinosaur our peer had shown us in class, they were excited to participate in some Dino-Yoga. Joining Miss Rebecca and Miss Tracy in using their imaginations, creative movement and physical skills to pretend being the Dinosaurs; 'Tyrannosaurus', 'Brachiosaurus', 'Ankylosaurs' and also the 'Barapasaurus'. On the 16th Starfish children were provided with the safety mats and music on the iPhone, the children demonstrated enthusiasm in joining in on piecing together the mats as well as choosing songs for which they wanted to sing along to and dance; "Can we listen to Thomas!", "I want the Troll song!", "What about Twinkle Twinkle?", "ABC's". Showing that they could reference to their memory of familiar songs/nursery rhymes and accepting a little singing assistance from Miss Rebecca as well as copying the actions. Starfish and their younger peers were visited by a Yoga instructor on the 17th May, learning new breathing techniques in assisting in calming their bodies and their minds as well as using creative movements to depict various stretches and animal poses, including the Giraffe, Puppy and Snake.



National Sorry Day-National Sorry Day is a day to remember the removal of Aboriginal children from their families. A chance for all Australians to recognise the pain thousands of Aboriginal people went through. The children affected are now known as the Stolen Generations. The first 'Sorry Day' in 1998 was marked by hundreds of activities around the country.

Starfish children joined in on recognising this important date as they engaged in learning and play experiences with their teachers about the significance of 'National Sorry Day'. Watching videos on the class computer based on a dream-time story told by the Aboriginal people. Including 'Tideline the Frog' and 'How the Echidna got its spikes', which then lead to a group discussion based on the children's understanding of what they saw and heard; "*I know! That's a Frog!*", "*He's drinking all of the water up!*", "*Tickle Tickle*", "*That's a lot of water!*" Starfish explored the sounds of various Australian animals as they listened to music on the class computer of Aboriginal Men using traditional instruments including the 'Digeridoo' & 'Clapsticks'. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening and could recognise the sounds of the Kookaburra and Dingo. While listening to the music, Starfish were also watching and showing interest in their dress attire, recognising the grass skirts (Spinifex grass/Pandanus leaves), the body painting as well as wearing Rijis. Starfish learned of the roles of the men and women as Hunter & Gatherers as well as the importance of the symbols found within the Aboriginal Flag through discussion and watching a video based on the Aboriginal colours and their meanings. Starfish were informed on the history of the Aboriginal people and were amazed that their culture is over 50,000 years old.

Till next month,

Starfish Educators ☺