



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – May 2015

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 that 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 can email us.

The Learning outcomes from Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) describe 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 learning opportunities.

The principles and pedagogical practices identified in EYLF guide us 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 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.

Please find attached our Parent-Teacher Interview's sheet. If you can't make it to the meeting, please return this sheet to us.

Thank you.

Staff News

Miss Corina Powell will join Pumpkin's team from the week 15th of June 2015, she will take on the role as the room leader in the Clownfish room (nursery). Miss Corina completed the Diploma in Children's Services in 2010 and has been working in the early childhood sector since 2004. At the moment Miss Corina will be working on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

June's Calendar of Events

01st – 05/06/15 – Parent-Teacher interview to see how your child has been progressing

15th – 21/06/15 – Refugee Week

26th - Friday - Cooking Experience – Making Dumplings.

26th – Friday – Red Nose Day.

Clownfish News

We welcomed two new members to our Clownfish group; Frankie and Theo, but sadly, we have to wave goodbye to Michael who will soon go back to China.

We started the first two weeks talking about the children's favourite toys. We learnt about their interests and what they loved to play with when they were at home. Nadal loves to play with toy hammer; Amelia likes to jump with her mini trampoline; Isaiah likes to sit all day in his chalkboard table and chairs; Mason with his animal puzzles; Steven loves his Mickey Mouse doll and his duck pillow; and Archer likes to pretend riding the motorbike with his trike. To extend on our topic about toys, Ms. Pimpini talked and showed to children how to make a toy car using recycled materials. Aside from making their own toy car, we also helped them make their own puzzles. We asked them to draw on pieces of paper and we cut them into shapes for our puzzles.



To prepare for Mother's Day, Ms. Pimpini talked to the children about how to celebrate the day and we sang the songs 'Family Love Song', "One and one I love my Mummy, Two and two I love my Daddy..." After that, Ms. Pimpini helped them make an artwork for all the special Mums in the Clownfish Room. The children were all excited to have their hands painted and printed on the paper. Some of them were tickled by the stroke of the brush on their palm.



This month aside from a lot of singing, dancing and book reading, the children also engaged in various activities and are working on their physical, social as well as language skills. They are starting to be interested in pretend play, making some conversations using sign language and babbling. Most of our babies are becoming more mobile now, trying to stand on their feet with the aid of equipment, while some can make a few small steps while holding onto something. The bigger ones on the other hand are getting more and more interested in engaging with challenging activities like climbing, hopping and jumping off from the ledge and landing on their two feet.



To be aware of their environment, one morning we introduced to them 'Worm Farm'. We talked to them how worms could help make the plants grow healthier. After two weeks we re- introduced the worm farm to them but this time we let them help in feeding the worms. They seemed to enjoy this wonderful experience.



As you may notice, we started to build our family tree. We would like to request your cooperation regarding this by bringing in your family photo to help us complete our tree. This may help the children to develop the sense of belonging. Thank you to all families who already gave us their photos.

Until next month,
Clownfish Educators

Jellyfish News

Happy birthday to Heloise, Eli, Francisca, Noah and Isabella! And a big welcome to William, Skye and Xavier B!

The Letterland interest continued this month after London showed an interest towards Letterland stencils. When offered, most children got excited to work on a stencil of their name's initial letter. It seems that the alphabet/Letterland interest that started in February is still going strong! The children also worked on letter collages this month.



The children celebrated Mother's day by discussing some ideas about what to do on the day to make it special for mum, by creating special flower pots for their mothers and by reading books about mothers.



In the beginning of the month, we learnt about each other's bedtime routines. As a group, we discovered similarities and differences between the children's routines. Through the bedtime topic, we extended the interest to learning about dental hygiene, teeth brushing before bed and dentists (who they are, what they do).



After finding out that Eli went to the Wildlife Park to celebrate his birthday, we explored a book with pictures of the animals he saw there. The children loved exploring the photos and learning facts about the animals. We discovered that Australia's largest butterfly is the Cairns Birdwing and that

some butterflies get so big that they look like birds! The children felt confused about the lizard picture, guessing that it was a snake or a frog. Aiden correctly identified it as a lizard and we went on to learn about the bearded dragon. They also felt confused about the ant picture, mistaking it for a spider. We learnt that ants can lift things much, much heavier than them. Exploring the koala, kangaroo and crocodile pictures were the most exciting parts of the learning for the children. The children recalled what they learnt about koalas last month and enjoyed the experience of feeling a furry koala in Eli's book.

One day, Peyton shared about her experience of collecting an egg from her aunt's chicken. We extended her experience to learning about which types of foods are provided to us from animals. We talked about chickens, pigs and cows.

Towards the middle of the month, we explored each other's favourite restaurants, favourite meals and drinks at those restaurants. The learning about restaurants extended to learning about chefs, their uniforms, about restaurant kitchens, restaurant meals and preparation of those meals. Within our restaurant learning, we discovered sushi. We learnt that Sushi trains serve sushi, a Japanese food made of rice combined with many other ingredients, such as chicken and avocado eat. We searched online for different kinds of sushi and had our own sushi train here! We used pencils as chopsticks and could see how they are a bit tricky to use. We pretended to dip our sushi rolls in soy sauce, drink miso soup and discussed what ingredients we were eating, such as raw fish.

One morning, the children explored our garden, noticing the growing tomatoes. They identified green and ones. As a group, everyone counted tomatoes. After talking about the different coloured tomatoes, the children engaged in a painting experiment. Choosing their preferred colours, the children mixed them on paper plates, as they watched what colour the mix was becoming. It was very exciting being surprised with new colours!

Until next month,

Jellyfish/Sunfish Educators

Lionfish News

The children are always keen to bring in things from home to show their friends for news. They have been particularly good with following the new topics this month. The first week's news topic was "My Favourite Book" and a lot of the Lionfish children remembered to bring their favourite book in!

Olivia brought in a book called "That's Not My Princess!" She stood in front of the group showing her friends her book. She said "Mummy reads my book before I go to bed.....it's my favourite!" She showed her friends the different textured material in the book. Abigail brought in her book called "Small Sheep, Big City", about Shaun the Sheep. Abigail's mum told Miss Tracey that she'd seen the Movie, and afterwards saw the book so she wanted to get it. Abigail told her friends, "I liked the movie!"



Vibha brought in two books to share with her friends. One was about "Dora" and the other one about "Shapes". As we looked through the Dora book, Vibha named the characters. "There's Dora.....and Boots." We usually tried to read their books later on in the day so that all the Lionfish could enjoy their friend's favourite books!

For Letterland, we introduced the letters h, and i. We would read the story to them, introduced the character, and then looked to see if we could find all the objects in the picture starting with that letter. The Lionfish children did a great job! For h, the children thought up lots of words on their own, for example, Sally – hat, Kayla- helicopter, Abigail – house, Siena – hen, Olivia – horse. We tried to teach them some new h, and i, words. We also practised making the h, and i, sounds together.

The children have been very eager to check out our garden outside. On the 4th, Stella, Abigail and Olivia were curious to see how much our garden and the plants in it have grown, after all the rain we've had! Olivia said "Look Miss Tracey, that plant is really big!" We talked about how plants need water and sunshine to grow bigger.

We have even been planting ourselves this month. With Mother's day coming up, the children decided to plant their own seeds for their mums. They each has a turn, and then made sure to check them each day (the Lionfish know that plants need sun and water to grow properly.) After we had grown these, the Lionfish were still eager to plant more.

We extended this on the 11th, by planting some more! We used clear cups, wrapped some wet cotton wool around the cup and planted beans in between.



After seeing Kayla in her sleeping beauty dress up for news, on the 19th, the children wanted to play dress ups, so we took them outside for all the children to use. We had the big bad wolf, Miss Piggy, Mermaid, Princesses and even a Cowboy! Yee Ha the children twirled around in their dresses and chased the cowboy around the playground until everyone was so tired they fell to the ground!

Since, the children have asked for the dress-ups most days. On the 27th, the Lionfish asked for the dress-ups to be put out. Abi and Olivia both said, "I want to be aurora!" Sienna said, "I want this

blue dress..." Vibha said, "I want to be a fairy..." They all chose their dresses and put them on. They ran around the playground together, chasing one another. Lysia would call her friends over, "Princesses... Princesses!

Come here!" Kayla said, "Who wants to be a mermaid?" And Sienna responded, "Samantha wants to!" Abi waited very patiently for Olivia to be finished with the Aurora dress. Olivia took it off herself and gave Abi a turn.. They both hugged each other for being good friends. They were very good sharers today!



We talked about feelings this month. We read a few books about different feelings and talked about different situations where we might feel these emotions. On the 21st, Miss Leanne took advantage of the beautiful weather and set up the painting easel for the children to paint faces of feelings, most were happy faces, a few sad, cranky and a rainbow face! They were all very proud of their paintings.

To celebrate National Reconciliation Week, we watched a video on Aboriginal Children singing a song "black, red and yellow" red being earth, black the sky and yellow the sun" we sang and did the actions together. We also watched a corroboree some of the lion fish children noticed that the children in the video had paint and dots on them and said they looked funny! But also asked if they could paint themselves, so while we were outside the children had their feet painted for a

piece of artwork we are doing. They also watched some children dancing pretending to be emus and kangaroos hunting for their food.



We welcomed our new friend Isabella from the Jellyfish Room on the 26th! Sienna, Abigail and Olivia were very welcoming this morning, making sure that Isabella was involved in their game of 'Ring-a-Ring-a-Roses! "They held her hand and guided her into a circle to play with them. After a while some of the other children joined in too!



Until next month,
Lionfish Educators

Starfish News

Welcome to our May Newsletter

This month in the Starfish the children have been very busy. We welcomed a new friend to the room and the children made her feel part of the group .Welcome Tara and welcome back Miss Catherine!

To start off our month Miss Catherine returned from her holiday in Perth and upon her return, we had a discussion on the topic of holidays and her time spent away. Jasmine mentioned that she too was going on holiday with her mum. Miss Catherine brought in some photos and postcards of her holiday to show the children and they were eager to make their own. Providing travel magazines, glue paper and scissors, the children created a series of postcards and collages whilst furthering their knowledge of the world around them and their cutting/ fine motor skills.

To increase awareness of international composting week, the children in were eager to start their secret Mother's day gifts. The educators had planned for the children to sew and plant their sunflower seeds in time for them to sprout on Mother's Day. The children spent time around the worm farm as we discussed the importance of composting, the children used the soil, and fertilizer to sew their seeds. Once they had all planted their seeds, the children then used the 'juice' from the worm farm to water the soil. Starfish also fed their left over food scraps to the worms and were extremely careful not to put anything acidic in, before we commenced with our next activity.

We started off our Mother's Day celebrating with a group discussion during our news group. We asked the children to tell us what they loved most about their Mums. Starfish were looking forward to creating their Mother's Day crafts and spent their time making beautiful cards and 'Best Mum ' badges. The children were not only successfully able to maintain their nurturing duties and care for their seeds, that their sunflower seeds had started sprouting. How exciting!!

The children finished off their decorating of the punnets and couldn't wait to give their gifts to their Mums.

'HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY'!!

Our Letter land group times have been very beneficial to Starfish. We have been focussing on the letters 'h' for Harry Hat-man and 'l' for 'lmpy Ink '. The children are becoming more familiar with words and imagery associated with the letters and are overall improving on their knowledge of the alphabet, their upper and lower case letters in both visual and written forms. We participate in these groups daily, listening to the songs about the letters 'h' and 'l', we have also participated in free-hand writing of the letters of letter land on the white board. Starfish are also improving on their name recognition, writing their names and practicing their numeracy also.

To extend on last month's cooking experience, Starfish have learned how to make fresh Orange juice and have even had the opportunity to make their own babyccinos and serve them to their friends. Our topic of 'Restaurants' and our favourite foods, had the children wanting to make home corner into a café. By using recycled cardboard, the children worked together as a team to create menus, a sign and even painted pictures of their favourite foods that they wished to serve in their café. Star fish role played being the chef, waiter and customers and had a blast cooking up a storm.

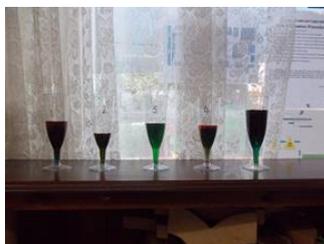


Starfish have been learning about health and the importance of dental hygiene. The educators played a video explaining how to brush our teeth and how to maintain healthy gums. We also discussed this topic in news and afterwards, the children role played being at the dentist. Starfish educators implemented activities and craft associated with dental hygiene, for which the children demonstrated thorough knowledge in correct tooth brushing techniques.

The children also discussed the topic of doctors and answered questions relating to why do we see a doctor and what doctors do. The children confidently shared their knowledge of doctors and were noted setting up a doctor's surgery outside during free play as they played with the stethoscope and other equipment. Whilst we were on the topic of doctors, the children showed an interest in the human skeletal system, asking questions about different bones. To extend their knowledge the children listened to the educators read 100 facts about the human body and the children were shown the different bones in our body. To further this topic we are making pasta skeleton crafts with starfish.

This month we are celebrating National Sorry Day and the educators read a handout to the children to familiarise them with the Aboriginal Culture and Australia's history. The children participated in a reading of the rainbow snake from the dreamtime and wanted to create their own by pasting bright coloured paper in the shape of a snake. We also recognise Reconciliation week and have abundance of activities and crafts to celebrate. The starfish have thus far created Boomerangs, Rain sticks and Didgeridoos and used the traditional dot-painting technique to apply Aboriginal colours. The children have watched a couple of videos depicting Aboriginal traditional dance and they have participated in a reading and discussion about the differences of the Torres Strait Island flag and Aboriginal flag and what the colours represent.

The starfish also participated in their first science experiment regarding sugar density called Rainbow in a cup. The children participated in a discussion with the educators about what density means and we compared our rainbows to the other groups and hypothesised why they were all different. The children portrayed pro social behaviours appropriate to the experiment and handled the dye droppers and cups with care and respect. Starfish loved making their very own rainbows- Well done!



Until next Month! Starfish Educators.