



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – April 2019

Centre News

As winter is approaching fast, please make sure you dress your child in warm clothes and bring a jacket or jumper just in case they need it when they play outside.

Please also bring some spare clothes for your child for changing if needed.

We are going to have our "Parent-Teacher interview" in the first month of June, the booking sheet will be available by middle of this month.

Easter Hat Parade

Thank you to all the families and friends who have joined us for our Easter hat parade and egg hunt:)



Clownfish News



Welcome to the fourth newsletter of the year. Big welcome to **Aleah** and hope she can have fun during her days in Pumpkin.



April has been the month where we celebrated **Easter** and **Anzac Day**. To celebrate those days, the children have been involved in several activities such as making Easter bonnets and poppies for Anzac Day. Moreover, we had the chance to participate in the Easter parade along with the older kids where they were engaged in singing, marching and even hunting for Easter eggs. The children were able to self-regulate their behavior and confident when dealing with new and spontaneous occasion.



Well done children 😊



Butterflies were one of the activities that the children were interested in this month. It all started when the children found a beautiful butterfly in our garden and they were fascinated by it. The educators extended their interest with various activities from songs, book and art and craft activities.



Through this interest, the children learnt about the life cycles of butterflies and the different colours that butterflies can have.





The children showed their enthusiasm by participating in every activity, asking to being read to and singing the song.

Role play has been evident in the children's play this month. The children have been using resources to support their play such as kitchen toys, baby dolls, musical instruments, and medical equipment. They have been showing their independence in their play where they could use the props to imagine by themselves or looking for their peers to imagine together.

As we have been seeing many days where the sun shone brightly in the morning, the children had the chances to explore the playground and do physical activities such as the slides, climbing frames and balancing beams. Finger crossed for beautiful weather next month!

Parents reminder:

- Please pack spare clothes for the children as some experiences can get them messy or wet as clothes that suit the unpredictable weather
- Please send us your family photo to complete our family tree
- Family input is very important for children's learning and development. Please share with us any information we could use and include into children's learning. It could be the family weekend, favourite book or song, current interest or any interesting news will be appreciated 😊

Until next month,

Clownfish educators

Jellyfish News



We would like to welcome Ace and Miss Theresinni (we can call her 'Miss Sinni') to our room! Miss Stella, Miss Maylene, Miss Rozina, and Miss Sabina (Jellyfish educators) are looking forward to work together with her in providing high quality service for children and families ☺ The month of April has been full of fun staying healthy and active. The Jellyfish children engaged with different projects that allowed them to use their creative arts and imagination. We offered children with opportunities and challenges where they can feel confident to do things, at the same time scaffold their learning.

Jellyfish educators and children would love to give a big thank you to all families who came to support and visit our Easter celebration on the 17th of April. ☺



Continuation of minibeast interest



Firstly, we would love to share the extensions of the mini beast learning, as it was continued at the beginning of the month. The children were seen revisiting the garden and showing an increased curiosity in exploring and discovering who lives in the garden. Due to the wet weather, children were asked to use magnifying glasses to explore relationships with other living/non-living things as well as to observe and respond to change in their natural environment.

Shapes and sensory play



The shape learning was also evident throughout the month, as the children began to show understanding of concept of print. They were heard noticing various shapes throughout their play experience, Jellyfish educators actively join in and incorporate shapes-related activities into children's indoor and outdoor experiences. Firstly, educators incorporate sand into their learning, children were asked to use their fingers to form shapes or letters. The interest was also extended as educators offered scissors for them to follow the shapes line while at the same time practice their fine motor skills. The interest was extended as children were seen revisiting their imagination and interest towards playdough, we then combined it with the animal's interest. Miss Stella and Miss Maylene provided animal playdough corner for children to further their exploration and comments. We promoted children's learning by discussing foot prints and shapes from different animals.

Easter



Prior to our Easter celebration, Jellyfish children had an opportunity to read different stories of Easter as well as engaged in various sensory play that allowed the children to practice scooping, to count, and to sense textures. During our Easter celebration, children came with their very own Easter hats and baskets. We also enjoyed the Easter musical parade, where all families came to watch and support their child.

Anzac Day on the 25th April 2019



We reminded the children about the Anzac Day where it is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that broadly commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders who served and died in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. Children were exposed to the inspirational Anzac story from media and were instructed to spell "ANZAC" and "POPPY". Some children were also free to participate in the poppy flower finger painting. Jellyfish children also found a red flower in the garden that look like poppy flower.

Teddy bear picnic on the 30th April 2019



as today the pre-school room went for excursion, Erin and Xavier requested to have a teddy bear picnic too at Jellyfish room! Miss Stella decided to promote and provide opportunities for children to participate in a little excursion to our big playground (2.1; 1.1). Prior to the experience, Miss

Stella talked with children about their ideas regarding picnic, Georgia contributed her ideas by suggesting, Jellyfish children also actively engaged with the 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?' story during group time and picnic time. Miss Stella also introduced a 'sleeping bear' games where the children were required to respond to the instruction and express their understand of what have being said to them. Jellyfish children and educators engaged in enjoyable interaction throughout the picnic time, we also had a chance to do a bear hunt, Miss Rozina was hiding all bears in the garden and allowing the children to use their imagination and creativity to find the bear! Some of the Jellyfish children were seen continuing the interest in the kitchen corner and benches, they were exploring different roles while pretending and expressing imagination

Until next months,

Jellyfish educators 😊

Lionfish News

The Lionfish children have continued their interest in letters, learning to recognise them as well as make their sounds and practise writing them. They have continued to practise their writing using their laminated writing sheets and we have been looking at our Letterland book at group times, recognising things that start with each letter. Miss Nicole brought us in her 'Ants in the apple' CD so we can practise the sounds of each letter. Patrick also brought some sight words in to share that he has been learning at home with his brother.



The Lionfish children have also continued to show a great interest in role play this month, confidently expressing their identity through dramatic play. They have used various resources as props to re-enact various scenarios. They have used the dress ups in their play as they pretend to be Princesses, Drs, mermaids, different family members, ice cream sellers, bus/train drivers and passengers, monsters, robots and a variety of super heroes, as well as mums and dads.



The Lionfish children have also continued to use their imaginations and be very creative with a variety of blocks and building resources. They have used the mega blocks to make houses and towers and the mobilo to make bey blades, cars, trains and aeroplanes.



They have also shown a great interest in cars, whether it be using them in a garage or finding different surfaces to test how far and fast they can go. They have also used the large trucks in the playground and in the sandpit.



They Lionfish children have enjoyed participating in a variety of games this month, including ones that they have made up with the Starfish. They have made up their own versions of Duck, duck goose and Doggie, doggie as well as participating in ball games, parachute games and a leap frog game.



The Lionfish children have also been participating in a variety of art'n'craft as we prepared for Easter at the end of the month. We made Easter hats, eggs, baskets and cards using a variety of recycled materials. On 17th April, we had our Easter parade and Easter egg hunt using the hats and baskets the children had made. Some of the children also brought in their own hats that they had made at home.



We had an excursion on the last day of the month to the local park that some of the Lionfish and Starfish children participated in. Leading up to the excursion, there was a lot of planning, we talked about rules and safety so that we were well prepared. Everyone had a great time and it was a great success. Thank you to the Lionfish and Starfish parents who came along to help.

We also talked about Anzac Day in the lead up, listening to stories and making arts'n'crafts and creating poppies, using recycled corks and paints. As well as talking about the soldiers involved in Anzac Day, we talked about all the different animals and the roles they took.



Until next month,

Lionfish Educators 😊

Starfish News

Parent Notices:

- Please ensure all your child's belongings are clearly labelled. This including water bottles, clothing, hats and bed sheets.
- Please children are taking their own belongings home. We have had a few water bottles taken home by accident in the past few weeks.
- Please ensure that your child has a jumper/jacket as the weather is now starting to cool down.
- Please remember to remove all items from your child locker space/bag each week. This including loose paper, books and toys.



Jumping Game and Obstacle Course... Through out the month of April the Starfish have requested the safety mats to be put out. After assisting their educators in bringing them out and connecting them, the Starfish engaged in their own jumping game, for which they created themselves. On the safety mats they have been



observed marking the numbers one to five (sometimes more) down with chalk.

After climbing on the climbing frames, the children have been seen turn taking -to see who could jump off the furthest. When doing so, expressing great excitement and enthusiasm when challenging their skills. Showing an interest in seeing how far they have jumped and if they have

jumped further then previously. The Starfish have also collaborated to create countless obstacle course using the stepping-stones, planks and balancing boards. There are always discussions as to where each item should go and



helping one-another when moving them to the desired location. The Starfish engaged their gross motor skills as they jumped, balanced and walked through the obstacle



course. There has also been the creation of a shark game on the obstacle course.

This entails one peer being the shark who tries to 'snap up' (pretending to eat them) the others leg when wiggling on their tummy. This creates lots of laughter, giggles and smiles, as the Starfish attempt to not be snapped by the shark while

on the obstacle course.



Group Games... While outside the Starfish have been observed asking their fellow peers if they would like to join in on large group games. This has been enhanced also through asking their educators to join in. The Starfish have engaged within the games of 'duck duck goose', 'doggy doggy where's your bone', 'the Grinch' game (Another Starfish original), 'bowling' and various ball games. It is great to see the Starfish asking their fellow peers to join in on play, as well as collaborating and laughing together.



Literacy... A great improvement from all the Starfish has been seen in regards to their name writing- great work Starfish! Every afternoon the Starfish are encouraged to practise their names and numbers on their personalised name writing sheets. Once done the Starfish proudly show



their educators with a big smile, taking on the advice given to them and any assistance to help them in their growing autonomy based on their hand grasp/grip and also structure of their letters/numbers. This month we have once again been using the pro-wise board to engage within various educational games. For example; the Starfish have practised correct letter formation by tracing letters to music and practised their letter knowledge by finding letters verbalised and took photos of them too. In smaller groups the Starfish have engaged with a



leapfrog device. The Starfish use the pen to read each word, discover illustrations on the page and play games. The Starfish have also looked at sight words as result of child news, collaborated to complete find-a-words from a book a child brought in for news and used sand trays to practise their words.



Mobilos... While inside the Starfish express their creativity and imagination when using the mobilos to create, assemble and build. This interest lead to bringing the mobilos outside to be further engaged within. The Starfish have been observed



assisting each other to create, taking off pieces for each other and playing together to with their creations. Some of the creations we have had are; various trucks, trains, cars, transformers, beyblades, robots, phones and houses.



Excursion... In April the Starfish were introduced to our excursion for later in the month. There was excitement; happiness and interest created when informed that we were going to have a teddy's bear picnic at Heffron Park. Each day the educators were asked if they were going on the excursion



today. Through out the month there were countless discussions as to what we were doing, where we were going, how we were getting there, what the starfish needed to bring with always a focus on safety. The



Starfish assisted educators to decide on games they wanted to play while at the picnic and even practised them while outside.



Easter... Thank you to all the families and friends who joined us for our Easter hat parade and Easter egg hunt. In late March the Starfish began the discussion with educators about Easter. The Starfish brought in various books dealing with Easter and listened to them being read. Through out the month the Starfish worked with their educators to complete various Easter theme crafts. The Starfish created their own wax resistant eggs, sun catchers, marble painted an egg shape and even dyed their own egg. The Starfish also create their own Easter hat and Easter baskets using recycled materials for the upcoming Easter hat parade. When doing so it was suggested by the Starfish that their educators wear an Easter hat too and made the educators one each (Thank you Starfish). On the day of the parade the Starfish were excited to show off their hats and baskets and of course find some yummy Easter eggs hidden in our playground by our very own Easter Bunny. It was great to see the Starfish sharing the eggs they found with others who didn't find as many and with family members who came to show their support.





ANZAC Day...The Starfish firstly read two books- *A Mother's Eye* and *Lest We Forget*. This led the way to further discussions about the meaning of ANZAC Day and how red poppies represented the diggers/soldiers that fought and passed along with learning more about the purple poppies and how they represent the animals that were involved in the War. To further this the Starfish also combined various art methods to create their own field of red and purple poppies.

Until Next Time,

Starfish Educators ☺☺