



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter - October 2016

### Centre News

We have emailed out the 2017 Reenrolment form, please return the form to the staff or email it to [Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au](mailto:Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au).

Our centre will be closed for one week, we will be closed from Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 and reopened on Tuesday, the 03<sup>rd</sup> of January 2017.

Our Christmas concert this year will be held on Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 at 3.30 pm. All children and educators have been practicing very hard for their performances. Please make sure you save the date on your diary or phone so you won't miss it ☺



### Incursion

#### Welcome Henny Penny Hatching to our centre!

We were having a **baby chicken incursion!** On Monday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2016, two chicks and lots of hatching eggs arrived and they stayed with us for 11 days! The children were very curious and had been exploring the visitors. They were frequently observing and talking about the chicks spontaneously and had also been enjoying group learnings about them.

"Henny Penny Hatching" acknowledges that the national Early Years Learning Framework has placed specific emphasis on play based learning, but recognises the importance of communication

and language (including literacy and numeracy), as well as social and emotional development. It is within this framework that “Henny Penny Hatching” has prepared activities that will assist young children with learning basic concepts through the following five learning areas.

**Social & Personal Learning:**

- co-operating with others in social situations.
- increasing independence and responsible behaviour.

**Health & Physical Learning:**

- using and extending gross and fine-motor skills when integrating movement and using equipment.

**Language Learning & Communication:**

- using spoken language in various situations.
- using understandings to predict and make meaning of different texts.
- interacting in formal and informal groups settings through activities which include attentive listening.

**Early Mathematical Understanding:**

- investigating and communicating numbers, patterns, quantities, position, order, sequence, movement and direction.

**Active Learning Processes:**

- thinking - generating and discussing ideas, creating plans and solving problems.
- investigating the natural world – sharing understandings about the natural world.
- investigating technology – using technology to explore the natural world.
- investigating a variety of ways to sustain environments.

“Henny Penny Hatching” has been specifically written to assist young children in their formative years, during which they are familiarised with the basics before formal education commences



# November Calendar of Events

**31 – 01/11/15 – Samhain** – Festival marking the end of the Harvest Season.

**01<sup>st</sup> – Saturday – Litha** – Marks the ancient middle of Summer, astronomical beginning of Summer, and the nativity of St. John Baptist.

**03<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday – Melbourne Cup Day**



**06<sup>th</sup> – Friday – World Walk to Work Day.**

**09<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> - National Recycling Week.**

**11<sup>th</sup> – 15/11/15 – Diwali** - Hindu Tradition, Festival of Lights, this festival celebrates knowledge over ignorance. The festival is very colourful, with fireworks and sweets involved and is a great favourite of children.

**11<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Remembrance Day** remember to buy a poppy and wear it to childcare, we will also be making our own poppy's

**15<sup>th</sup> - Saturday – Steve Irwin Day**

**18<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – Parents Meeting at 6.00 pm.**

**30<sup>th</sup> - Monday – Asalha Puja (Dhamma) Day** – Buddhist tradition, celebrated Buddha's first sermon after his Enlightenment.

## **Clownfish News**

Hello and Welcome October! Can you believe it is almost the end of the year? We hope this finds everyone well! There has certainly been a lot happening throughout this month of October. Some of the clownfish children have moved into the toddler room, we are excited to see them develop and learn further 😊 . But other than that, it's been a fun and exciting time welcoming our new friends as well. Big welcome to Jamie!! 😊 We look forward to getting to know you individually over the next few weeks.

### **Introducing Clownfish new sand pit corner!**



Early this month, the clownfish children has been showing a very strong interest towards sensory play and exploring textures during book week last month, we have set up the new sand pit corner which now has become children's all time favorite when they can use their physical skill to dig, sift, build, rub, and sense the sandy texture during the experience. The clownfish children were so excited to get in and out from the sand pit; we also provided more resources to complete their exploration. Miss Stella always reminded the children to share the equipment to each other also taking off shoes and socks before they hop in. This corner supports children's social and communication skill towards each other although they may have separate play space.

### **Egg hatch and chicks!**



On 12<sup>th</sup> of October, The clownfish children were so excited when they're looking at the baby chick actively moving around the inside the box. They kept pointing at the baby chick and screamed excitedly, some of them waving and saying "bye bye chicken". During group time, Miss Stella

showed a poster of baby chick's life cycle that tells us of where the baby chicks grow, change over time, and becoming chickens. Wow how cool is that!:)

Afterwards, Miss Stella demonstrated how to make the baby chick's sound "chirp..chirp.." some of the children copied the voice as the baby chick's sound is very rhythmic, the children weren't bored hearing it. The day after that, we learned how to do a chicken dance too!

### **Looking after the worm farm**



On 25<sup>th</sup> of October, Miss Stella showed the clownfish children the new worm farm outside our room, as soon as Miss Stella opened the worm farm cover; the children seemed so surprised watching the little worm is actively moving. But one of the children bravely fed the worm with her leftover food. Miss Stella reminded the clownfish children to always look after our worm farm; we could feed the worm with vegetable and fruit scraps. But we couldn't feed them citrus food (oranges) or meat.

### **Clownfish Halloween Celebration**



Pumpkin has decided to celebrate an early Halloween party! Which is on 27<sup>th</sup> of October, Thursday. Several days before the celebration Clownfish educators and children decided to decorate our room into a slight spooky look. We tried to create a spider web hang on the entrance and ceiling as well as bats, to complete the spooky looks. The clownfish children did a skeleton hand painting with Miss Pimpini assistance.

## **Clownfish Parent Reminder**

Quite a few children have been developing some nappy/heat rash lately due to the unstable weather. We encourage everyone to pack some form of nappy cream for the children in case of any nappy rash. This enables us to treat the rash before it becomes any worse or begins to leave your child in discomfort.

We have noticed lately how strong the communication between our families and educators in Clownfish room. We want to thank all the parents and families for keeping their communication so high. It makes our jobs as educators so much easier and we want you to know that we appreciate it.

Until next month,  
Clownfish educators  
Cheers! 😊

# Jellyfish News

A Big Welcome to Eduardo, Evie and Arabella!

Belated Happy Birthday to Zachary, Evie and Michael☺



November Birthday Celebrants:

Isaiah- 03rd

Muhid- 10<sup>th</sup>

Mason- 21<sup>st</sup>



What a beautiful month to explore outdoors! The children enjoyed lots of fun outdoor activities this month, including their favourite water play. Thanks to Ms Elly who bought a new set of water trough for our room, complete with water play toys. Not only the children had fun playing, they also learned to water our garden using the watering cans.



On the 14<sup>th</sup>, the children wanted to open the water trough but because it was a cold day, we agreed that we are going to have water play on warmer days. We thought that watering our garden with watering cans would be a good alternative



for water play, and indeed, it was a big hit. Everyone was excited to try, each one waiting for his/her turn.



11<sup>th</sup> was a day packed with fun and learning. Imagine how exciting it was to learn and observe the life cycle of chicken. Ms Elly hired a set up for chicken hatching experience for our 'incursion'. Two eggs hatched on



the day of delivery, followed by another one the next day. The children were all excited to watch the tiny chicks inside the glass cage. They saw the feeders inside, one for the food and one for the water. We also looked at the chart showing the life cycle of chicken. We also

talked about what chickens eat and our discussion ended up with what the children like to eat.





To extend the children's interest in food, we talked about healthy eating. Ms Criselda showed to them the Australian Guide to Healthy



Eating chart. We learned that there are five food groups that we have to include in our everyday diet, and they are grains, vegetables and legumes, fruits, milk and dairy products, meat, poultry, fish and eggs. We also learned about sometimes food like sweets, biscuits, lollies and fizzy drinks.

### **It's Halloween!**

We decorated our room with spider collage made by the children for Halloween. It was so nice to watch them trying their best to stick the pieces on the paper independently☺

On the 28<sup>th</sup> we had Halloween Dress-Up and the children turned up with their favourite Halloween costumes.



### **Reminder:**

- The weather is getting warmer now. Please pack appropriate spare clothing and blanket in your child's bag according to weather conditions and please refrain from dressing up your child in singlet/sleeveless top.
- Please be advised that during warmer weather, we're going to have lots of water play. Please make sure that your child has spare clothes in their bag to change after playing

To our new families:

Please send us or bring in your family photo to be added to our family tree. Thank you.

Until next month,

Jellyfish and Sunfish Educators

# Lionfish Newsletter

The Lionfish children have been really interested in playing with the cars, trains and tracks this month. On the 4th, When we came outside, the lionfish showed great cooperation as they worked together to assemble the train



track, even adding trees and signs.

On the 11th, some of the Lionfish sat together in the top playground, working together to assemble the track. When it was completed, they chose several

trains, lining them up on the track. The Lionfish chose cars and explored the track, pushing the cars along. Some other Lionfish also chose cars from the box and pushed them up the hill, letting them go and watching as they rolled back towards them.



The children have also shown a great interest in role playing. On the 4th, some of the Lionfish boys played a game of Power Rangers under the fort. They took on different roles and Miss Tracey reminded them that we need to be “Gentle Superheroes!”

We are always practising our sharing skills. On the 4th, some of the Lionfish moved to the sand pit to have a play together. The Lionfish played with the sand sifter. They were very good sharers asking “Can I have a turn please? Sharing is caring”, and the other

Lionfish handing it over to thier friends. Some of the Lionfish pretended to be shopkeepers “I’m the shopkeeper and I’m making a cup of tea for you Miss Charlotte”. They served the tea nice and hot, “drink it all up”, they said.

The Lionfish have enjoyed playing games together this month. On the 11th, the Lionfish children enjoyed playing a matching game that Miss Tracey brought out to extend on their interest in pets and animals. They developed their ability of visual recall and their vocabulary as they matched the animals with their babies. They learnt some new words like kid, calf and kit

as they matched the cards. They practised their counting skills as they added up how many matches they had.



On the 12th, some of the Lionfish were keen to show Miss Charlotte the new chickens in the Starfish room that arrived on the Monday. "More hatched last night", "they're so cute.. That one is sleeping", they said. The children explained the life cycle to Miss Charlotte,



"here they start in the egg, and then they hatch like this, and then they come out and they grow into a mummy or daddy chicken..." they said using the poster to explain what happens. "They're chirping really loudly", "they're hungry", "they can eat that seed".



The imaginative games continued this month, in particular with the girls. During outdoor play on the 13th, the girls played mummies and babies together. "We need to take the baby out of the trolley now and into the car... Lets go for a drive", they said sitting on the long ladder part of the climbing frames. "This is the big castle", said one Lionfish sitting in the triangular shapes climbing frame. "Come into the car", they would say to their friends and the baby. They hopped in the car and pretended to drive somewhere on holiday. "I need to go to the bathroom", "can you look after baby while I'm gone? He's going to sleep now.. I'll be back in a minute to take him to bed".



The Lionfish children's interest in role-play continued on the 17th. The Lionfish went on a shopping expedition. They walked around the yard together= pushing the trolley, collecting different things to buy. When we came inside, after morning tea, they continued with their pretend play, this time in the home corner area. They had a dinner party. At the table,



some other Lionfish were busy on her computer. She said, "I've got lots of work to do!" More Lionfish joined her, bringing over cups, plates and food to have a dinner party too!



On Thursday the 27th, Pumpkin had a Halloween party to celebrate with all the children. The children came to kindy dressed up in their costumes and we did many fun Halloween themed things together! For news many children asked to show off their costumes. Then, we went outside for a play. When we came outside, after morning tea, Miss Tracey and Miss Rebecca painted the children's faces, asking them what they



wanted. After play time, we came inside the Starfish room to listen to some Halloween themed books with Miss Charlotte while the other educators set up for the Halloween lolly hunt outside. The children went outside on their lolly search after that. When they found something, they collected it in the baskets that we made the day before. When all the lollies had been found, we sat under the shade of the tree to make sure everyone had some . We also watched a Halloween stories on youtube when we came upstairs. The Lionfish children noticed that some of the children in the story had outfits like theirs. The children really enjoyed our Halloween Dress up day!

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators :)

# Starfish Newsletter



We started the month discovering the places our peers' have travelled to and exploring the Australia and the world map! Additionally, we learnt facts about different countries through 'World Explorer' cards collected from community supermarkets and brought in by the educators and children. The children made their own representations of countries and of the world map too. They put together a friend's puzzle of the Australia map and enjoyed exploring it. Mid-month, we noticed a friend's beautiful dress for photo day and that led to us learning about traditional Indonesian clothing, Batik. We finished the month learning about places much closer to home, places the children visit in our community such as churches, parks, playgroups and dancing studios.



The children have continued to rehearse for the end-of-year concert this month and are getting very good at singing the songs and doing the actions they came up with. At the end of last month,



they started creating props for the performance and have continued working on them this month. As the weather has been getting warmer, the children have been enjoying water play and lots of



sandpit plays this month.

On the 10<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed Henny Penny Hatching to our centre! Two chicks and lots of hatching eggs arrived and stayed with us for 11 days! The children were very curious and enjoyed exploring the visitors. They engaged in lots of group learnings about them and even had opportunities to handle chicks! They engaged in discussions about the



incubator, keeping the eggs warm and handling and care of chicks. It was very interesting to see chicks hatching! Additionally, they researched online to learn how to distinguish male and female chicks after the children were under the impression that all baby chicks were “boys”. They also explored the life cycle of a chicken and learnt facts such as that a chick takes about 21 days to hatch. The children took on caring roles as they raked the chicks’ pen, refilled their water and food and transferred newborn chicks from the incubator to the pen. The children combined their enjoyment of playdough with the chicken learning and made very cute playdough chicks! After the 11 days, the children said goodbye to the chickens and a big welcome to two of them who are now residents of Pumpkin! It will be great to see them growing and becoming hens and then exploring the process of them laying eggs!



The children started discussing the costumes they were going to wear for Halloween and came up with lots of ideas to decorate our room in a spooky way. They worked on those ideas and our room became super spooky for Halloween! Their favourite was using grapefruit to make pumpkin prints.



When a peer brought in a spider she found at home, the children got to research it online and found lots of interesting facts about wolf spiders. Their representations of the wolf spider in drawings also became part of our spooky decorations! A week later, a child found a spider in the playground and did the right thing by telling an educator about it. That initiated a group discussion about keeping safe near creepy-crawlies.



On the 27<sup>th</sup>, we had a Halloween party with a Monster hunt – a suggestion from a child! The children had a great time searching for monsters and scary lollies around the playground. They also enjoyed getting their faces painted!



Until next month,  
Starfish educators