



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – June 2016

Centre News

At Pumpkin, educators work in collaborative ways with families to build up a shared picture of each child's learning. All educators here have some kind of system for observing and recording information for individual and group records and use the information to plan their programs. Play is a valued process for children's learning, thinking, imagination, story making and communication. Play provides children with opportunities to express a sense of agency and demonstrate their competence and be leaders in their own learning. Play can provide children with a sense of belonging and being and supports the development of children's individual and social identity.

Children use play to participate in their culture, to develop the literacy of their culture, to order the events in their lives and to share those events with others.

Through play, children develop an understanding of their social worlds. They learn to trust, form attachments, share, negotiate, take turns and resolve conflict.

Our observation for learning is an ongoing process educators use to make judgments about children's learning and how they can respond to support it. This type of observation is formative and happens in each moment and interaction with children.

We have been reducing our writing in our learning stories, but we will still document all these details in our individual observations and project stories. We just finished our training for "Documentation" and we all agreed that we will spend less time in our writing during the day, so we can spend more time interacting with the children.

Staff News

- **Miss Alessandra** is coming back to Pumpkin, she will be our new room leader in the Starfish room.
- **Miss Elly** will be away from the 04th and 05th of July, she will be back on the Wednesday, 06th of July 2016.
- **Miss Sabina** will be away from the Monday, 04th of July and she will be back on the Tuesday, 02nd of August 2016.
- **Miss Pimpini** will be away from the Monday, 04th of July and she will be back on the Tuesday, 19th of July 2016.

- **Miss Stella** will be away from the Tuesday, 05th of July and she will be back on the Monday, 11th of July 2016.

July Calendar of Events

02nd - Saturday – Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Destiny), Muslim tradition.

03 - 10/07/16 - NAIDOC Week – Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth.

06th - Wednesday – Eid-al-Fitr, Muslim tradition.

15th - Friday – Asalha Puja Day – Buddhist – Buddha's first sermon.

31st - Sunday – National tree Day.



Clownfish News

We would like to welcome Lana and Julian to clownfish room! 😊



From 27th of May until 3rd of June we celebrated “National Reconciliation Week”, which the day of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families celebrate the strength and culture of their children. We read a book called “The Echidna and The Shade Tree”, danced along with aboriginal song and we made a traditional aboriginal shaker using some recycle materials that we found in our room.

Hello winter! 😊



Early of this month, clownfish children and educators had an opportunity to decorate the room, we decided to make a winter socks and gloves by using our own hands and foots trace, as a reminder for us to dress appropriately during winter, as the weather outside is getting windy and cold!! 😊



This month we observed lots of strong interest happening among the children, starting from a baby doll role play, chalk drawing, balls, sensory play, climbing frame, balancing beam, and more fine/gross motor activities! We also noticed, Penelope, Jacob, Savannah, Ella, Frankie, Connor, Harry, Noah, James, Claire, and Lily have been enthusiastically practicing their climbing and balancing skill during outdoor play. Alongside the gross motor experience, we also had rice sensory play and cooking experience to enhance their fine motor development! The children loved it! 😊



My feeling...😊 😞!



The Clownfish children have been exploring “feeling” for these past weeks; the children were able to recognize various feeling expressions such as happy, sad, angry, scared, surprised, and silly. When it comes to scared and surprised face, they frankly opened their mouth while saying “oh no!” when it comes to angry face, they stumped their feet and many more. Starting from 20th June to 1st of July, our fortnightly topic will be “My feeling”.

This month we had some good news from the clownfish families; Frankie’s ready to be a big sister, her new baby sister was just born on 8th of June and Savannah also started to walk slowly step by step on 13th of June! Congratulations Frankie and Savannah! We’re so happy to hear it from you!
😊

We would like to say a big thank you for all parents and families that have been supporting us in implementing our daily program through your weekly input. Appreciate it! Looking forward for more of new experiences. 😊

Until next month, Cheers!😊
Clownfish educators

Jellyfish News

A Big Welcome to **Michael** and **Aliyah U!**

Arya has moved to the Lionfish room and is settling well.

Belated Happy birthday to **Ella A**, who turned 2 on the 5th.

Another month has finished and we survived one month of winter, two more cold months to go! Please remember to always dress up your child appropriately and some spare clothes in their bag.

Though we didn't get more chance for outdoor play this month due to weather changes, the children still enjoyed lots of indoor play.

Building and constructing, singing and dancing, book reading and physical activities were just some of the children's favourites this month.



On the 1st, the children enjoyed playing with playdough. Starfish made some fresh playdough the day before and we're so lucky to have some of them. Ms Rebecca made more to share with our room.

Playdough kept the children busy for a long time. The children had lots of fun playing. **Selena** was seen making an ice cream using the cutter and happily offered it to Ms Sabina.

Mason was spotted so busy rolling, kneading and cutting the dough into different shapes.

Daisy was trying to make a ball by rolling the dough between her palms. **Archer, Muhid, Renee, Gino,** and **Ella** also had fun playing with the dough, making different shapes with the cutters.



Munch and Move is now part of our daily activities each day. To help burn some energy and to keep the children warm on cold days. They all love dancing and hopping. There are lots of giggles and laughter everytime we turn on the computer for munch and move.





Pretend game is just one of the children's favourites. They were always seen playing in the home corner or having a role play in the sand pit or having a pretend picnic. On the 09th, we had a discussion about visiting a doctor for check-up as



many are getting sick on winter season. Almost everyone said that they have been to a doctor for check-up and most of them could recall their doctor visit. To extend on the children's interest in pretend/dramatic play and their learning about doctor's work as well, we decided to have a role



play with 'medical emergency theme.' The children played cooperatively, taking turns with the role of the doctor and patient. It was fun watching them so busy attending to the pretend patients, some lying down on the floor and some sitting on the chair. It was amazing how they were all familiar with the routine check-up during doctor's visit. They were seen placing the stethoscope over their ears to check their patients breathing, checking their temperature by placing the thermometer under the armpit, checking the blood pressure with sphygmomanometer and checking the ears with the otoscope.



The children followed and extended their interests with enthusiasm, curiosity and concentration. They used the resources to investigate, take part, assemble, invent and construct. They showed their creativity, building and constructing with foam blocks, tongcai connecting blocks, connecting shapes and mega blocks.

Muhid and **Isaiah** created towers, bracelets, crowns and many more with tongcai connecting blocks. **Bryson**, **Ella** and **Renee** were seen trying to connect various shapes and sizes of connecting magnetic shapes in a long line. They asked Ms Chun to hold them and they kept on adding some more pieces at the bottom, waiting if it would stick or would fall down, depending on their weight.

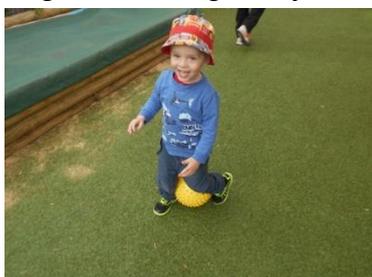
Michael, **Seth**, **Ella**, **Mason** and **Renee** were spotted stacking same shapes together, making towers, creating hexagon shapes and building houses.



Ella and the rest were also busy building various stuffs, while **Archer** had different way of playing with the foam blocks. He stacked three pieces of blocks to be used as a target and with a big block, he would hit his



target, shouting, "Yey" each time to celebrate his success.



On the 21st, Playing with balls kept the children busy during outdoor play. They were able to play with balls in various ways. **Archer** was



seen trying to walk with ball between his legs. **Seth** and **Sophie** played pass the ball, as well as **Isaiah** and **Aliyah U**. While **Ben** tried to balance with the ball on his tummy, **Daisy** watched and laughed at him, then tried to copy what he was doing. **Mason** kicked the ball, while **Muhid** ran after it to retrieve and give back to Mason. **Michael** was spotted kicking the ball around and chasing after it.

We're still learning letters and numbers, as well as weather and days of the week, which are all part of our daily group time.

Thank you to all families for your inputs and participation in our news topic every fortnight☺



Until next month,

Jellyfish Educators☺

Lionfish News

This month we celebrated Reconciliation week to honour the original custodians of our land. On the 1st, after morning tea we set up some inside activities. Miss Rebecca had kindly made us some sand dough to use in the Aboriginal colours: red, black and yellow. Miss Tracey



added some small sticks, banksia cones and small pine cones for the children to experiment with. They used their hands to shape the dough

into different shapes and then added sticks and cones. They also used the banksia cones to make imprints in the dough. Xavi said, "I'm making a platypus...I like platypus!" Ariella spent a long time adding sticks and small cones. She proudly showed her work and said, "Look an Echidna!" Jamal

and Eli used their sticks as candles, pretending to make cakes. They even pretended to blow the candles out! Elina made imprints in her playdough, then added sticks.



We also celebrated Reconciliation week by watching a few dreaming stories about the way the platypus was made, and why the frog lived near water. Hart, Xavi, Minka and Sofia commented, "they're are not ducks they're platypuses" when the picture of the animal in the nest came up. We continue on the

idea of aboriginal art and animal with the children with a book called "bush bash!" The group revisited their number and counting skills, and learnt more about different animals at the same time.



On the 2nd, after morning tea, when we came outside, the Lionfish continued to do their Aboriginal dot painting of different animals that Miss Catherine drew. Koby spent a long time doing his painting, using lots of different coloured dots. Rohin used the cotton bud to do long strokes on his fish. As he painted using blue he said, "Fish...blue!" Nadia also spent a long time doing her painting, starting with pink. She said, "It's my favourite colour!" She then used blue, showing great concentration as she kept in the lines!



On the 6th, the Lionfish children were eager to participate in a variety of physical activities after all the rain on the weekend! Sofia was dancing along to the Wiggles music on the ipad, putting her hands up in front of her and jumping up and down pretending to be a kangaroo! Ethan was running around the yard as fast as he could. When he went



past Miss Tracey he said, "Look, I'm running very, very fast!" After a while, Sofia and Eli joined William, who was jumping up and down on one of the spongy mats. They all started jumping together, laughing as they fell over. Raffi (Starfish) also joined them and they continued their game. William said, "I can jump really high...watch me!" as he jumped in the air.

One of our news topics this month was keeping fit and healthy. This led to great discussions and learning about healthy eating and good exercise. We talked about healthy eating by looking at the Healthy Food Pyramid together. We looked at the different levels and talked about how much of each food is healthy to eat. Miss Tracey asked the children what their favourite healthy foods were. This is what they said : Eli : banana, Jamal : banana, Ethan : chicken, bananas and blueberries, Sofia : pears, Koby : orange, Aiden : strawberries and blueberries, Ariella : mandarin, strawberries and chicken, Xavi : mandarin, William : mandarin and bananas, Jayden ; strawberries, apple and blueberries and Minka : bananas. We will continue talking about this topic over the next couple of weeks.



On the 14th, when we came outside, after morning tea, Miss Tracey set up a craft activity for the Lionfish children to participate in for their Letterland 'j'. They were given the choice of a different jungle animal template which they had to decorate using different patterned paper. Eli chose a lion and carefully spread the glue on top, then used different patterned paper. Aiden, Minka and Ariella all chose giraffes to decorate. Aiden said, "I like giraffes, I



saw them at the zoo!" Xavi and Koby chose snakes to decorate. Xavi said, "I like snakes...they're my favourite!" Jayden chose an elephant and showed great concentration as he decorated it. William said, "Can I have a monkey...I like monkeys the best!"The children really enjoyed looking through the different patterned paper and selecting different ones to decorate their animal.



The children continue to enjoy getting active outside, and in particular, building obstacle courses to challenge themselves. During morning outdoor play on the 16th, the children again explored the small obstacle course, working together to construct the course just the way they wanted to. They tried the plastic ramps different ways until they were in the right place. First they made two lines and Nadia and Xavi walked across the small course while



Seraya and Harrison walked across the longer course. They then worked together to make the course into one line. Nadia said, "Let's put this one there!" as she pointed to one of the red cones. When they had finished, they lined up at one end and followed each other across. When they became unbalanced they would hold their hands out to steady themselves. Eli and Jayden joined the line too and waited patiently for their turn. When Eli had finished the course, he jumped off the end and shouted, "I did it!" When Koby arrived, he joined the end of the line so he could have a turn too. Afterwards, Xavi and Nadia decided to change how they moved across the course and crawled, pretending to be cats.

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators :)

Starfish News



Welcome to our Starfish Newsletter for the Month of June, we have been very busy this Month in exploring our creativity, our community, furthering our knowledge of our Country and its Indigenous people as well as showing much curiosity and interests in regards to our recent topic 'Winter'.



As we know, last Month we celebrated Reconciliation Day through discussions and research on the computers. Due to their levels of interests when shown the imagery of the cave paintings and readings mentioning iconic Australian Animals and dream time stories, the children were eager to continue their learnings of the Aboriginal people. Starfish participated in a variety of experiences with their teachers, focusing primarily on the imagery and Symbolism. Face Painting was offered to the children by Miss Yuki using Red, Black & Yellow colours, depicting Traditional Aboriginal Symbols and Patterns found within the dream-time. The children chose Waterholes/Water symbols, Animal Tracks/Prints, Flora, Insects/Honey Ants. After having their faces painted, many of the children were noted using the Bamboo sticks to play along to the Aboriginal Traditional music and dance as well as the Contemporary music from the well-known Aboriginal band 'Yothu Yindi'. Starfish also attempted to resemble various Australian Animals, such as the Emu, Kangaroo and Echidna through creative movements.



Our Student Miss Anna introduced Aboriginal Symbolism to the children through 'Dot Painting' using silhouettes of the children's feet and arranged in a way to re-create the shape of Australia, with a title "We Walk Together". The children had the chance to be involved in 'Traditional Rock Painting' with a variety of prints/markings and imagery, they were asked to pick a rock and a Symbol that they liked and do their best to paint it using the earthy colours provided. Our children were also given the chance to make their own Echidna using twigs and air drying clay and they looked excellent!!



~Rainbow Snake Group Project~

Starfish children requested to create their version of the 'Rainbow Snake', based on one of their class storybooks. The children collaborated in choosing the front cover of their story for inspiration, as they helped in designing the body and using mixed and recycled media to decorate. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were working on the Rainbow Snake for over a week, using Cheerio's to represent waterholes, Cotton threading that had been manipulated in a way to represent the water that the Rainbow Snake drank and the children wanted to keep the same colouration going on their design and so referred to the front cover to complete their decorations. It looks great children!



Quick Sand, Solid or Liquid??



Starfish really enjoy playing the game stuck in the mud during their free-play time and so to extend on their interests and knowledge of why we would get stuck in the mud, Miss Rebecca introduced the topic of 'Quick-Sand'. The children watched some short videos and did some research on the:



computer and i-pads, where they learned that Quick-Sand can be found in all sorts of environments, beaches, jungles/bush and even deserts. The video's demonstrated the dangers of the substance and how movements will determine how quickly one will sink or get stuck. Starfish were intrigued to learn of the ways that one can get out of the quick sand safely and were extremely excited to commence their Quick sand Science activity. Experimenting with the idea of liquids and solids hands on was a lot of fun, the children were able to create the questionable substance using only two main ingredients (Corn flour + Water) and chose two colours to add to the batches. The children added the Corn Flour and water to the bowl and were amazed to see how it reacted, as the Quick-Sand was very runny and the children were asked "Is it a Solid or a Liquid"? They automatically responded by saying "Liquid". Miss Rebecca nodded and then said "How about I use a knife to try and cut it"? The children looked on shocked and confused as they watched her proceed to 'attempt' to cut the mix. Eye brows were raised and the children were amazed to see that it was acting more like a solid now, quite difficult to cut/slice and when asked "Can you try and pick it up"? The children attempted and struggled, as the mix had solidified and so the hypothesising started as the children were torn between both Solid and Liquid. It was explained that making quick/forceful movements would cause the mix to harden, while slowing their movements down would have the opposite effect. Manipulating the green and pink Quick-Sand with their fingers, the children were encouraged to poke, prod, cut, handle and most importantly PLAY with it.



While their peers were having their turns in the sensory science experience, the others were given the i-pads to further their knowledge. This was a fun science activity and the children requested to make a few batches throughout the week, where they used a variety of animals and dinosaurs to role-play with in the Quick-Sand. We will definitely do this again!



Igloos, Ice-Burgs & Snow-Dough ...

One of our class topics, 'Winter' lead onto a discussion about Antarctica. Miss Cory introduced a reading of the World Atlas which sparked their curiosity After learning where it was on the map and shown a video containing imagery and video footage of the freezing landscapes, with massive Ice-Burgs, Igloos as well as the Northern Lights/Arora, the children were fascinated.



To further their interests in Ice-Burgs, they were given the chance to experiment with ways of re-creating their own Winter landscape.



Using cotton balls, small Ice-cubes and larger ones to make Mountains, Snowmen, Igloos, Ice-Burgs and even Ice-Skating rinks, as they used their imaginations to role-play with small plastic figurines as they skated across the surface. We had some great attempts however the ice kept falling from the top of our Igloos and were melting quickly. Starfish were also given some salt to sprinkle onto to melt a few of the special Ice-Burgs that Miss Yuki made, as she had added some Dinosaurs for the children to excavate and little tools for the children to use..



“Wow...It’s melting”!

The children continued their Igloo creating as they moved on into the sand-pit and were using their hands to create Igloos with the help of Miss Rebecca's demonstrations, as she showed the children how they could use one of the spades to create an opening/door. Starfish transferred the knowledge they had seen and were able to create some very cool Igloos, some had two doors, some children had dug underground Igloos and even ones with chimney's. The children thoroughly enjoy sensory play and so were provided with two experiences requiring them to use their fine-motor to make Cloud-Dough aka 'Snow-Dough' as the children called it, which is extremely light, fluffy and fun to construct with and also some shaving cream to enable to children to create winter imagery with during their free-play time.



'j' + 'J' for Jelly...

Starfish children were eager to start their cooking experience with Miss Rebecca, as they had enjoyed making the shower jellies for Mother's Day and had made mention that they like eating Jelly. So we decided to create two batches of natural jelly, made from Apple Juice and Blackcurrant Juice. The children used their senses to explore the ingredients as they were able to name the juices and fruit in the recipe and mentioned how "yummy", "delicious" and "sweet" the fruit smelled. Each child had the opportunity to help add the ingredients and stir the mix. Using gloves we added the jelly into the moulds provided as the children then helped add in the mixed Blueberries, Blackberries, Strawberries and Grapes. We made a big Jelly Log and some smaller bite sized servings and they turned out great!



Texture Sensory Board...

Starfish extended on their experiences at the Australian Museum, as they delved into the world of Texture. As the children had the chance to touch, pat and stroke some of the animals/reptiles at the museum, they were given a chance to create their own texture sensory board. Using a vast variety of textures, materials, cardboard strips and some PVA Glue, Miss Rebecca demonstrated how to make their boards. Explaining that if they run their fingers across each texture they will realise each surface is different. The children did this and were able to describe their textures saying words like; 'Bumpy', 'Roughy', 'Pokey', 'Shiny', 'Smooth', 'Furry' and "Feel like feathers". They look really effective and children enjoyed making their Texture Boards.





Arora's / Northern Lights
Craft & Experiment...

Starfish excitedly collected jars with lids from their homes for this craft experiment, as they had shown interest in the beautiful colours that can be seen in Antarctica. The children created their own personalised landscape for their jar. So we provided cut outs of homes in varied sizes and styles, trees, moons/suns, as well as mountains and circles, as the children requested that they make snowmen. Once they had assembled and glued their images on to their jar and they had dried, it was time to do the Arora. Each child used independence and increased in confidence as they poured the water into their jar and added the two colours of dye. This was aimed at having the children discuss and observe the colours flowing in the water and eventually merging and entwining, similar to what that had witnessed in the video. The children used pro-social skills and helped their fellow peers to hold the jar and steady the jug. When the colours were being added to the water the children studied the blobs carefully as they then dispersed and noticed that that their Arora's eventually blended and they ended up with a new colour in their jar. To finish this off, the children were given the chance to add some glitter to their jars to resemble stars.



Welcome...

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Tashdid and Max for joining us here in our Starfish classroom, who are settling in quite well and making friends with fellow peers.



Until Next Month
Cheers from Starfish Educators

Starfish would like to also say a big farewell to Miss Cory, we wish you well in your future endeavours.