



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – May 2019

Centre News

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 email us or talk to the educator in your child's room.

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 and 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.

Pumpkin Educators

June's Calendar of Events

03/06/18 – 14/06/18 – Parent-Teacher interview to see how your child has been progressed.

04th– 05/06/19 – Eid Al Fitr.

08th – 10/06/19 – Shavuot, Jewish Holiday.

09th – Sunday – Pentecost, Christian tradition.

10th - Monday – Queen's Birthday, Centre closed.

16th – Sunday – Trinity Sunday, Christian tradition.

15th – 22/06/19 – Refugee Week.

Clownfish News

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the year. Big welcome to **Leevi** and we hope he can thrive and have fun during his days in Pumpkin.

Physical activities - During the first half of the month, the children were deeply involved in taking care of their physical wellbeing. The children sought out new challenges in physical activities and they celebrated their own efforts and achievements when they were able to finish those obstacles. The educators reciprocated their enthusiasm by providing several obstacles during their play time such as the balancing beam, hula hoop, yoga exercise, bouncy balls, bowling game, basketball, and climbing rock frame. The children were engaged in those activities such as jumping from the balancing beam, rolling down the hoops, running or jumping around the hoops, etc. Furthermore, children were able to demonstrate spatial awareness and orient themselves to move around the environment confidently and safely.



Animals interest - The second interest, that was evident throughout the month was the animals. It started with children brought out their zoo animal's book and animal favourite toys. The discussion about the animals in the zoo started and branched out to the jungle and sea animals. The educators extended on that interest by providing a range of activities such as miniature zoo, mud play, flash cards and drawing on those, excursion, book reading, and animal puzzle. The children showed their competence in recognising the animals, mimicking the sounds, and recalling those animals

when the pictures were showed. The educators scaffolded their learning by responding to the children's effort to communicate, learn and grow. Through these experiences, the children developed their understanding of animals around us through play with enthusiasm and concentration.



Parents inputs have been amazing this month and Clownfish educators would love to give a big thank you for all the contributions to the children's learning. It is wonderful to see those inputs to be embedded into our curriculum 😊.



Parent reminder:

- As the weather has turned cold, please dressed the children warmly.
- Please pack several spare clothes for the children as some experiences can get them messy or wet as well as clothes that suit the unpredictable weather.
- Please remember to bring in a family photo for the family tree which will be displayed in our room to support the children's sense of belonging.
- 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 plans. Example of the information are family weekend, new favourite books or songs, current interests or any exciting news will be appreciated 😊.

Until next month,

Clownfish educators

Jellyfish News



Welcome back to our newsletter! First of all, we would like to give a warm welcome to Aydin! ☺ He May has been full of joy and laughter, children have been showing active participation in various creative art experiences such as dance, movement, and visual art. We also engaged in several interest projects that have developed children's self-expression and new ideas. We are also still working together with families in consistently assisting children with their toilet training.

Mother's Day

I Love you
mom



We started strong this month as Jellyfish children were participating in making their very own Mother's Day gift (a beautiful candle holder!!). Children were offered to engage in different mother themed experience, to promote inclusiveness we also integrated daddy's stories into the learning experiences.



Light board + Colours interests + reconciliation week

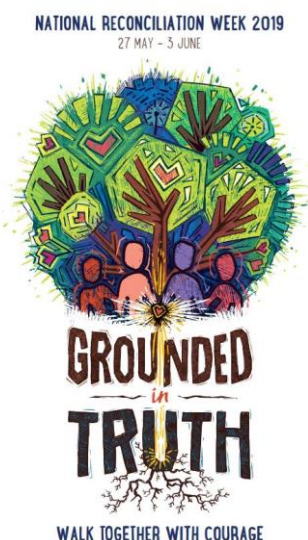
Children have been showing great interests in exploring colours, especially with our new light board. Upon the on-going interest, Jellyfish educators planned and provided a wide range of sensory activities where children were encouraged to explore, experiment, and take appropriate risks in their learning. Playdough experience was a hit throughout the month! We also combined the colours interest with the reconciliation week. To raise the awareness, Miss Stella printed few pictures related to Aboriginal art where children were introduced to the Aboriginal flag's colours and its meaning. We integrated red, yellow, and black colours into various art activities. In addition to the interest and curiosity, children were also introduced to Aboriginal symbols that Aboriginal people use for art and stories.



Music and movement

Staying active project is still going on strongly throughout this month, Jellyfish educators have been arranging the learning spaces with various physical experiences that would challenge their ability to problem solve, make decision, and take risks. Towards the end of the month, musical interest was also evident throughout their play experience. It started from several children initiating to engage in music and dance experience, 'row row your boat' song was a hit! They have been singing it throughout their indoor and outdoor experiences, Jellyfish educators decided to scaffold

the learning by providing them a wide range of musical resources, instruments, and dramatic play activities.



Parent reminder:

- Please pack few undies and pull up nappies if your child is in toilet training.
- Please share your family photos if you have not done so.
- Please pack 1-2 jumpers/long sleeves/jackets as we are approaching cold days.
- Please label/name your child's belongings to avoid misplacement.

Until next months,

Jellyfish educators

Lionfish News

During the month of May, the Lionfish children have shown a great interest in role-playing experiences. Whether it be in the home corner area both inside and outside or in the sandpit. They have role-played families, looking for treasure, selling ice-creams, cooking and working on construction sites using the large trucks.



They have also continued to enjoy exploring the garden in the beautiful Autumn weather that we have been having. They have discovered butterflies, caterpillars, spiders and ants. We even made an insect spray for our plants using natural ingredients after discovering they were being eaten by caterpillars.



They have also enjoyed participating in a variety of gross-motor activities including ball games, obstacle courses and a teddy bear toss game. They have been practising their kicking, throwing and catching skills as they have invented games together. They have also practised their turn taking skills as they wait patiently and let their friends have a turn.



They have also enjoyed a variety of art'n'craft experiences that have come from the children's interests 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. We have also been practising our cutting skills, learning to hold the scissors correctly and to cut out a variety of things.



The Lionfish children have also enjoyed construction, using their imaginations and creativity and a variety of blocks including mega blocks, duplo and mobilo. They have built towers, houses, zoos, cars, trucks and helicopters.



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 textas, paints and collage and making bath salt/ body scrub in recycled jars for our Mother's Day presents. Some Mothers also joined us for a special afternoon tea.



The Lionfish children have also continued their interest in literacy including books, letters and words. They are all keen to practise their writing, especially their names, letters, numbers and also some sight words. They also love listening to books, particularly 'The Bear Hunt' which they all love re-enacting. 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. We created a giant whale, a starfish and a canoe using feet painting and a variety of collage materials.



Until next month,

Lionfish Educators ☺

Starfish News

Parent Reminders:

- With the changing weather please ensure your child has a jumper/jacket and that spare clothes are weather appropriate.
- Please ensure all your child's belongings are clearly labelled
- Half yearly interviews are coming up (3rd of May-7th of June) Starfish educators look forward to speaking with you about your child's progress, please fill in the time that you will be available for a chat.

Excursion... On the 30th of April the day of our Teddy Bear's picnic finally arrived. There was much excitement in with the morning with the Starfish showing their peers and educators their special teddies and soft toys. During our walk the Starfish discussed and were shown road signs, flowers and numbers on houses. Upon reaching the park the Starfish and Lionfish joined together to have our morning tea picnic. Together we played the parachute game and sang '*Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear*'. Our next stop was the playground equipment where the Starfish waited for their turn and assisted each other on the equipment. The Starfish even got to play teddy bear toss. Before heading

back to Pumpkin the Starfish gave their teddies a cuddle while listening to story of '*The Bear went Over the Mountain*' being read. While walking back to Pumpkin the Starfish were overheard reflecting and discussing their

favourite part of the teddy bears picnic. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to help and to the parents and children who don't attend on Tuesday but met us at the park.

Teddy Bear Toss... In April the Starfish collaborated with Miss Rebecca to create their own teddy bear toss game for our teddy bears picnic. Through out May the teddy bear toss game has been set up from our grapefruit tree. The Starfish have frequently asked for soft toys so they can engage with the

game. The Starfish have been observed implementing pro-social behaviours as they wait their turn and share when then attempt to throw their soft toy through the teddy bears tummy.





Dramatic Play...Through out May the Starfish have been observed expressing their imaginations and creativity through dramatic play. The Starfish have been requesting various resources including baby dolls, trolleys and home corner resources to be brought out. Through engaging with these resources and with each other the Starfish have role-played being mums, dads, going camping, cooking, fairies and even face painting using the music walls xylophone as a colour palette.



Construction and Mobilos...Continuing on from last month the Starfish have once again being using resources including but not limited to the mobilos and Lego to create,assemble and invent. The Starfish have created various items and have demonstrated a sense of accomplish and pride showing their peers and educators. When constructing the Starfish have referenced back to and furthered their mathematical knowledge. This being through discussing addition and subtraction in order to make their creation taller or shorter and also comparing heights of their creations against their own heights. The Starfish have also cooperated and collaborated to create their own obstacle courses on various occasions.



Ball Games... Most days in May the Starfish have engaged in ball games. These games including kicking and throwing using the soccer net and basketball hoop as well as games created by the Starfish. A favourite game created by the Starfish would be the "Goalie Game". This requires a Starfish peer or educator being the goalie and attempting to stop the other Starfish children in kicking the ball into the net. To extend upon this interest we used cones to create a drill where the Starfish need to manoeuvre around them before kicking the ball into the net. The Starfish have also physically demonstrated their increase knowledge, abilities skills through joining soccer and football teams.





Art and Craft... The Starfish have worked with their educators to explore and implement various art and craft techniques and methods. It is great to see these techniques and methods being based upon Starfish's (and Lionfish) creations they have shared for news. The Starfish have used their hands to make various animals; hand traced and coloured, made sand monsters and used egg cartons to make caterpillars. The Starfish were also provided with the opportunity to use the pipettes as interest was shown when using them for our Mother's Day surprise.



Literacy... Each afternoon the Starfish are encouraged to practise their name writing and numbers using their name writing sheets.

There has been improvement seen from all children. To further this



the Starfish have practised writing sight words using sight word cards and sight words which a peer brought it. We have



continued word webbing and even explored the first letter in our first name and surname through a cutting experience.



Mother's Day... Earlier in the month the Starfish collaborated with their educators to make a special Mother's Day present to reflect how the Starfish love and appreciate their mothers. The Starfish assisted to make

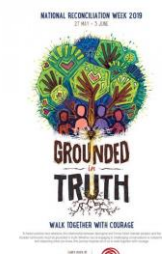


their own lavender body scrub. When doing so assisting to measure, pour and mix the ingredients. There was mix reviews on the smell of the lavender.



The Starfish decorated their own special card using

various resources before writing a special message inside. There was a special mothers day afternoon tea where mothers were incited to share afternoon tea with their mothers. Thank you to the Mother's who came.



Reconciliation Week... On the 27th of May until the 3rd of June it was Reconciliation week with this year's theme being Grounded in Truth, Walk Together with Courage. Working together with their

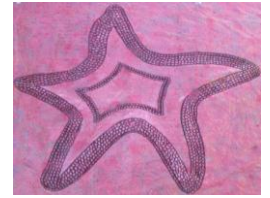


educators the Starfish explored this theme and used the dreamtime story of "A





Whales Awakening” as a basis (Which included a starfish). The Starfish listened to the dreamtime story and explored the illustrations. When doing so discussing fairness and the actions and reasoning to them of each animal. Using art and craft the Starfish



used their feet and paint to decorate a whale and starfish while also using mix media to create a canoe and paddle. Through using red, yellow and black paint the Starfish created a boarder for the whale and starfish artwork using dots and handprints. The Starfish were shown various Indigenous symbols and provided with the opportunity to practise some using oil pastels and cardboard tubes (Which a Starfish friend brought in for us to use- Thank you.) These artworks are hanging in the Starfish room, come have a look!

Until Next Time,

Starfish Educators 😊😊