



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter – April 2020

### Infection prevention and control precautions reminders

Dear Pumpkin families,

Please help us to continue to apply infection prevention and control precautions by keeping your child home if he or she is unwell. We ask you to refrain from bringing your child to Pumpkin if he or she is unwell. For example, if your child has any cold or flu symptoms (such as fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose or shortness of breath).

If your child becomes unwell during their time at Pumpkin, we will contact you and ask you to collect them as soon as possible (within the hour). Your child will then need a clearance letter from a doctor upon returning to our service.

We would also like to remind you of the current restrictions on entry into our service, the following visitors should not be permitted to enter the facility:

- Exclusion of unwell children, visitors and staff
- Those who have returned from overseas in the last 14 days.
- Those who have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days (a contact is defined as anyone who has been in contact with a known case, including the 24 hours before the case became symptomatic)
- Additionally, we continue to request that only staff and children enter the classrooms at this time to respect the social distancing advice. Please continue to pick up/drop off your child in front of their classrooms. ***If you arrive at the service and the children are playing outside, please stay behind the gate, we will bring your child in or out.***

Thank you for your support!

Kind regards,

Elly Tjanterik

# May Calender of Event

- 23/04/20 – 23/05/20 – Ramadan begins, Muslim tradition.
- 03 – 09/05/20– International Composting Awareness Week.
- 08<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Mother's Day afternoon tea at 3.15 pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Sunday– Mother's Day
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday – The Walk to School Day
- 11 – 12/05/20 – Lag B'Omer, Jewish tradition
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday – Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Destiny), Muslim tradition
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Thursday– Ascension Day, Christian tradition
- 23 – 24/05/20 – Eid Al Fitr
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday – National Sorry Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Thursday – Australia's Biggest Morning tea
- 28 – 30/05/20 – Shavuot, Jewish Holiday
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Sunday – Pentecost, Christian tradition



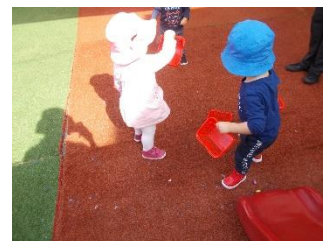
# Clownfish News

Welcome to April's Newsletter! The weather has been amazing these months with sunny weather for most of the days and occasional rain. This month, we had few celebrations such as Easter and Anzac Day as well as emerging interests from the children during their free play!

## Easter



This time, the children participated in Easter Egg hunt in our own playground. Firstly, some children made their basket with the Jellyfish children from recycled materials and pom-poms as decoration. Afterwards, the children that did not have the



basket had the opportunity to make one after the hunting. The educators provided various resources and the children were encouraged to draw on their basket. Back to the hunting game, it was exciting to see how the children carried the mini basket that were available. They searched the ground with enthusiasm and even tried to taste it 😊 What a fun celebration!

## Anzac Day



For Anzac Day this year, the educators raised the children's awareness through series of activities. They talked about the significance of Anzac Day and the poppy flowers. Red paint, red poppy has become a symbol of war remembrance the world over. People in many countries wear the poppy to remember those who died in war or who still serve in the armed

forces. Then, the children painted their own poppy flower with enthusiasm and concentration.

## Construction



Construction was another interest that evident in their play. At this stage, the children loved to explore and build as they are developing range of disposition for learning (imagination, creativity, concentration, etc), skills and processes through

experimenting, problem solving, enquiry and investigating. The



educators provided open-ended resources such as mega blocks, soft brick blocks, Lego blocks, etc). They made long connectors with the blocks and even made cube that can be helmet!

### Free play



During this time, the children were encouraged to follow their interests through available resources that educators put out. Through independent play, the children learnt how to be self-reliant, imaginative, building their confidence as well as identity.



But worry not, the educators always around to supervise and be their knowledgeable others that help the children when asked.

### Mother's Day-activity



Clownfish children have started on their Mother's Day activities. The Staff took the initiative to kick off the fast approaching Mother's Day event. We invited the children to participate in having their handprint trace on the



piece of paper, then decorate them with flowers. They all participated, engaged in their artwork and were cooperative, they listened, followed through and understood what is being said to them. We will be continuing to make more of children's artwork and decorations for this special event as the day's approaches for Mother's Day.



Until next time,

Clownfish educators.

# Jellyfish News

**A big welcome to our friends Milla and Hazel!**

**Easter Hunt and Hat Parade** – The children were very busy at the start of the month celebrating Easter. They made their own Easter egg basket to be used for our Easter egg hunt. The children

used recycled toilet paper roll, pom-poms, Easter stickers, and scrap paper for their baskets. The children also engaged in a scavenger hunt as preparation for the Easter Egg hunt. They did a scavenger hunt around the playground and each child

got their own magnifying glasses. Miss Fenny encouraged them to look for flowers and leaves around them and the children were excited to do it. The Jellyfish children also made bunny ears craft to wear during the hunt.

**The nature interest continues further** – The children have continued to show an interest towards nature starting from the very first day of the month, when they tasted ripe passionfruit from our garden! And the children loved the tasting experience! The next day, they explored snails, also found from our garden. They enjoyed looking closely, observing their eyes, the way

they move and counting them. The children have also been enjoying finding nature items in our playground and bringing them to their play, such as using passionfruit in a reciprocal rolling game. Since we love our gardens

and the produce we get from them, the children have also been reminded to look after the gardens by watering all the plants and can initiate the activity themselves also. The children often join in very excitedly, running to grab a watering can.





**My lunchbox!** – Milla and Hazel started bringing in their lunchboxes first. Miss Alex encouraged the girls to show them to their peers, as an example of what to bring in their own lunchboxes. We could see a delicious looking sandwich, cheese, biscuits, yoghurt, fruit and veggies in their lunchboxes. Yummy, yummy! The children have been enjoying bringing in their lunchboxes, talking about and showing what



they brought in each day. The lunchboxes has also led us to learning experiences as we have engaged in discussions about healthy food, differentiating between treats such as Easter eggs and lunchbox food, such as sandwiches. **Reminder: Please make sure grapes are cut in half (if sending grapes). Thank you!**



**Free News Topic** – The children have enjoyed our free news topic as the shared many of their favourite things from home. We got to explore each other's medals, soft toys, fire trucks,



**Zoom live session** – We connected with our friend Christian and his mum Vero via a zoom session this month! It was great to

see them and catch up (even if virtually!). Christian excitedly showed us many of his toys and books. His peers showed their things back and came close to the camera to say hello.



**Rainbow trail!** – The Jellyfish children joined in the rainbow trail that has been taking place around our community. The teachers have noticed that children have created rainbow pictures and stuck



them in their windows (to be found by other children during walks during this time of isolation). Miss Alex then created a rainbow as an example and the children made their own representation of a rainbow. They loved seeing the

results on our front door, pointing out their own creations! They have been encouraged to find rainbows around the community during walks or when in the car and take photos to share with us!



**Literacy (and numeracy) fun!** – The Jellyfish children often transition to washing hands by exploring alphabet flashcards and are now familiar with their own initial letters and sounds, as well as some of their friends! Miss Alex has now started writing their names on the white board as a new way for the transition. They like sounding out each letter of their name and counting the amount of letters they have in them.



Another favourite thing to do is to spot each other's names throughout the day and to wipe the board clean! The children have started to join in and write their own letters next to Miss Alex's examples. Additionally, the children enjoyed letter and number stamping this month. Our literacy interest has been expanding into a numeracy interest also and the children have also been working on writing their numbers! It is great to see the Jellyfish children beginning to understand key literacy and numeracy concepts such as concepts of prints and the ways texts are structured!



**Anzac Day** – To mark Anzac Day, Miss Pimpini introduced the history of Anzac Day to the children, through a YouTube video and discussion. The group learnt about the poppy flower, deciding to then create their own flowers! Whilst the children were working on their painting, they engaged in a short discussion with



educators about the meaning and symbol of the poppy flowers. We learnt that we were using red paint as it has become a symbol of war remembrance the world over.

Until next month,  
Jellyfish Educators

# Lionfish & Starfish News

## Parent Notices

- Please ensure all your child's belongings are clearly labelled.
- Please remember if you arrive late and there are children in the playground to wait till an Educator comes and collects your child.



**Easter celebrations ...** During the month of April, we celebrated Easter with the children, doing a variety of arts and crafts including decorating Easter eggs, marble painting rabbits, making our own bunny ears and decorating Easter cups for our Easter egg hunt. The Lionfish and Starfish children really enjoyed these activities. We also listened to some Easter stories and sang some Easter songs together. Even though, we couldn't



invite the parents to our Easter hunt, the children enjoyed searching the garden to find the eggs the Easter bunny had left.



## Anzac Day...

As we were approaching the end of the month, we talked about Anzac Day, listening to some stories and videos on the internet and talking about why it is such an important day. We have made our own wreaths to put up at home and also worked together to make a large wreath using recycled materials to hang up in our room. We have also made our own Australian flags to use at home. After listening to the story, 'Anzac Ted',



we made our own bear using recycled materials.

**Construction...** The interest of construction has continued throughout the month of April. While outside the Starfish and Lionfish have continued to use the mega blocks to build and create. While inside the Starfish and Lionfish have continued to use the mobilio and the junior engineer kit to construct cars, planes, trams, laser guns and ladders. The magnetic shape blocks have continued to be popular. They were used to build houses and towers as well as testing our





mathematical skills when comparing our heights against our constructions. The children have also utilised our wooden people in their constructions. Lego has also continued to be popular too with the children using their imaginations and creativity and working individually or in small groups.



**Gross Motor Games...** While outside this month the Starfish and Lionfish have continued using their gross motor skills. The Starfish and Lionfish have continued to collaborate and cooperate to make their obstacle courses using our different equipment. Once done demonstrating pro-social behaviours through lining up and taking turns to move through the course. The Starfish and Lionfish have continued to assist educators to bring out the basketball



hoop, soccer nets and balls. When doing so including their peers and educators in various ball games.



**Cars and Trucks...** The Lionfish and Starfish children have continued their interest in cars and trucks, especially during indoor play. They have used the cars on tracks that they have made as well as on the garage ramps. They

have also enjoyed exploring the large trucks, pushing them around the mats inside.



**Exploring our natural environment ...** The Starfish and Lionfish have also continued to look within the garden beds for insects, bugs and animals. We have found snails, insects and even small lizards that the Lionfish

and Starfish children have enjoyed observing in their natural environments. We have also continued to help care for our garden, helping to water the plants with our watering cans and recycled water from our rainwater tank.



**Drawing....** While both indoor and outdoor the Starfish and Lionfish have continued to draw. Using texters, pencils and other resources the Starfish and Lionfish have expressed her imagination and creativity.



They have drawn their family members, rainbows, ponds and fire engines. They have also enjoyed using the pavement chalk to draw in the playground. We have also been encouraging them to practise writing their names on their drawings.

**Literacy and Numeracy...** Each afternoon the Starfish and Lionfish have been encouraged to continue with the practising of writing their first and surname as well as the numeral one to ten. Miss Nicole has also printed out some more challenging sheets for the children who choose to do them.



**Zoom...** With the current times we are now zooming our friends who are staying at home on Wednesday at 2:30pm. The link to join us has been emailed to families, if you have not received it please e-mail/talk to Starfish and Lionfish educators. Thank you to all children and parents who have joined us. It has been great to see and hear from everyone. Please remember if your child is at staying at home you can still e-mail news/photos in to share with their peers. Once shared with the group we send back some questions.

**Keeping Us Healthy...** In current times the Starfish and Lionfish have collaborated with their educators regarding how we can keep healthy. We have continued to read numerous books dealing with how to wash our hands, when and why and continued to remind the children about practising good hygiene. As a result, Starfish and Lionfish wash their hands more regularly throughout the day. We have continued to discuss the importance of not touching each other and trying to stay away from others. Educators are still setting tables for mealtimes and serving all food. Educators are also cleaning surfaces and resources throughout the day. The children have also started bringing their own food. Thank you to all the parents that are doing such a great job packing healthy lunches. The children are enjoying practising their self-help skills as they open and close lunch boxes and open what they have inside.

Until Next Time,

Starfish and Lionfish Educators 😊 😊