



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – July 2019

Illness and infectious disease

The health and safety of all children is a major concern for us. Parents and families are asked to keep their sick children home until they are well. This is particularly important if your child has had a fever, infectious disease, diarrhoea, or been vomiting within the past 24 hours. If your child is unwell while at day care, we will ask you to collect them. If your child has been sick with an infectious disease, you will be required to provide a medical certificate (clearance letter) confirming that your child is well enough to attend childcare.

Many illnesses, while not fitting exclusion criteria, can transmit disease to other children in care. Please refer to our 'Infectious Diseases Policy' (we also attached this policy in this Newsletter). Please advise Pumpkin educators on arrival verbally or in writing of any symptoms requiring administration of medication to their child in the past **48 hours** and the cause of the symptoms if known. This advice must be provided the first time the child attends after the medication has been administered.

Kind regards,

Pumpkin Educators

August Calendar of Events

03rd – Friday – Jeans for Genes Day.

04th – Saturday – National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (NAICD).

06th – Monday – New South Wales Bank Holiday.

06th – 12/08/19 – Dental Health Week Australia

09th – Thursday - International Day for World Indigenous People.

11th – 19/08/19 – National Science Week, Theme: Future Earth.

12th – 18/08/19 – Keep Australia Beautiful Week.

19th - 26/08/19 – Children's Book Week.

24th – Friday – Daffodil Day.

26th - Sunday- **Raksha Bandhan** – Hindu tradition, celebrates the love between brothers and sisters. Sisters will tie a rakhi thread on their brother's wrist as a form of protection against evil spirits.

21st - 25/08/19 – Eid Al Adha – Islamic tradition.



Clownfish News

Welcome to the seventh newsletter of the year! Throughout the month, the children have broadened their understanding, made new discovery and strengthen the bonds with their peers and with educators. Moreover, all educators encouraged the children to interact and convey their ideas using verbal language 😊

Colour interest

The interest about colour have continued since last month throughout the first half of the month. The educators have prepared a lot of activities to extend on that such as rainbow painting with tools or on their hands, water colour, colour mixing, as well as video on how to say the name of the colour in different languages to build on their knowledge and language that the children speak at home. The children have been very engaging in the experience and confidently expressed their knowledge in English or their home language or through non-verbal expression.



NAIDOC Week

The Clownfish children enjoyed celebrating NAIDOC Week, where we commemorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture, and achievements. To raise their awareness, we started with introducing the Aboriginal flag, and explaining the symbolic meaning behind it. Black represents the Aboriginal people of Australia, Yellow circle represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector, and Red represent the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies and Aboriginal

peoples' spiritual relation to the land (Harold Thomas, 1971). Children were exposed into few Dreamtime stories that the educators extended into activities such as sensory plays with natural resources in our surroundings. Moreover, they participated in painting activity using the cultural colours as well as in making the flags using biscuits.



Animals interest

It is back again! The animals' interest was still very evident in the children's play as they always asked for the animals' box. To extend on that, we made animals' boards with re-use tissues lids, incorporated blocks in the play, used shared book experiences and videos to broaden our understanding about the animals around us, used play dough, paint and physical activities to make our own jungle. Through these activities, the children made new challenges and discovery as well as expressed their imagination and creativity.



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 time,

Clownfish educators

Jellyfish News

Welcome to Jellyfish July newsletter! It is getting cold here. We hope everyone enjoyed school holiday break. This month Jellyfish children again have been showing great capacity in developing their toilet training. Jellyfish children have involved in various interest projects throughout the month that develop their ability to create, negotiate, imagine, and exchange roles.

Create, build, and play!

Construction interests have been going on strongly among children, children were seen exercising their fine motor and cognitive skills throughout various constructive learning activities. Jellyfish children were participating in a variety of rich and meaningful inquiry-based experiences using various recycled materials, natural materials, and construction tools. Moreover, we also added some sensory activities throughout the interest project like making and painting a cardboard box house, playdough exploration, sand experience, and other sensory activities. Jellyfish children also had an opportunity to play 'London bridge' games with Miss Stella and Miss Sabina, that required two individuals to join their hands high to form a bridge and letting others to march under the bridge while singing London bridge song. In addition, the investigation also being furthered by children's and educators' attempt in discussing height using some mathematical languages. Amazing exploration Jellyfish! 😊



Role play interest projects

Alongside the construction interests, several dramatic play scenes were being captured by educators. Jellyfish children have been reaching out for assistance when they tried to put dress up on or other dramatic play resources. Due to several birthday celebrations happened throughout the month, Miss Stella extended the baby role play interest by setting up a pretend birthday party for children in furthering their imaginative play. We also had some children just having their little sister/brother, we talked about how to be gentle towards them and demonstrated some positive gestures during group time. In addition, fairies, princesses, and superheroes interests were also present in children's role play experience. The interests were being extended upon as Jellyfish educators provided a wide range of activities to further the learning, this project have developed children's capacities to investigate ideas, negotiate roles, and collaborate.

Babies and birthday role play



Fairies and superheroes interests



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, the July the Lionfish children have really enjoyed learning about Healthy Eating, talking about healthy food and sometimes foods at mealtimes and also reminding the children that are bringing lunch boxes to bring healthy things to eat and also nut free items. It is mostly the Starfish children as they are going to school next year.

We have also continued to enjoy lots of physical activities, especially during outdoor play, as the weather has continued to be fine. We have also been practising our pedalling and bike riding skills in the top playground area, making sure that we wear our helmets and practising our self-help skills by learning to put them on ourselves and even helping each other when we are having difficulty doing it. We added the large plastic cars to this area and also used tape to create roads and a crossing. The children also set up a petrol station in the cubbyhouse using a piece of hose pipe which has been a great success. We have been talking about road safety and creating our own road signs using recycled cardboard and a variety of materials. This has led to a lot of role-playing different scenarios.



The Lionfish children have continued showing a great interest in letters and letter writing so we have been providing them with a variety of activities to extend on this interest, including personalised writing sheets, writing books, practising on the whiteboard, numeracy sheets, letter recognition, sounding out our letters as well as practising recognising rhyming words during story times. They are doing a great job, practising their first names and their surnames!

We also celebrated Naidoc week this month, following the theme : "Honouring our Elders and nurturing our youth'. We looked at information on the computer and learnt about our Indigenous culture. We also participated in a variety of activities, including painting, art'n'craft, music, listening to Dreamtime stories and dancing which the children really enjoyed. We explored our local community and collected natural materials to use in our art and craft. We used these materials to make brushes to paint with as well. Our Favourite dreamtime story was 'The Rainbow Serpent' and we all worked together to create our own rainbow serpent.



The Lionfish children have also continued to enjoy a variety of ball games, practising their throwing, catching, kicking and bouncing skills. We continued to use the soccer net and basketball net and also used the bouncy balls to bounce around the yard. We also created our own golf course using project blocks, ping pong ball and pool noodles as clubs. The children have really enjoyed all these physical activities.



Just a reminder to make sure all your child's belongings are labelled as some of them have lots of jumpers and coats due to the cold weather in the morning. Also your children's water bottles need to be clearly labelled as a lot of children have the same ones.

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators ☺

Starfish News

Parents Notices:

- Please clearly label all your child's belonging including bottles, hats, jumpers and bed sheets.
- Please ensure your child has a sun hat each day. If they do need to borrow a spare hat, please ensure it gets returned at the end of the day.
- If you still have your child's folder from the parent teacher interviews please return it.
- Thank you to all the families who donated for the special yoga class fundraising for the Children's cancer institute.



NAIDOC Week... This year for NAIDOC week the Starfish used the dreamtime story of the Rainbow Serpent to explore the theme. Together we read the story, watch it in video, discussed its meaning and retold in various ways. This led us to go on our own nature walk in our community to collect and discuss various flora and natural resources. With the resources collected we made natural paintbrushes and used these to paint bark in the colours of the Aboriginal Flag. Also used collected pinecones, acacia berries and banksia seedpods to do marble painting using the colours from the Torres Strait Islander Flag.



Before using these colours together we explored the different flags, their colours and the meaning. After looking further at various Aboriginal artworks and particular



methods used the Starfish and educators each created a square of a rainbow serpent which was then put together to create our Rainbow Serpent hanging in our room today. The Starfish also painted eucalyptus leaves using the dot technique and used bottle lids donated by families to create their own rainbow



serpent. Miss Rebecca introduced the Starfish to some weaving methods and then together the Starfish used natural resources to weave our humpy.



Games.... While inside this month the Starfish have been requesting various games to be brought down including the Frozen memory game. While outside

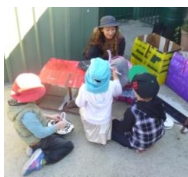


the Starfish

continue to enjoy their goalie game and are frequently including each other and educators when



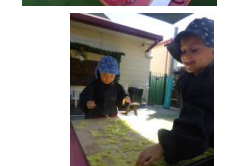
playing it. During this month we have had a large number of coloured ping pong balls donated by a family (Thank you, again). The Starfish have asked to play with them and have been observed using them on the water wall and creating their own marble run. The Starfish have also created their own game using the ping-pong balls with the hula-hoops. This requires the Starfish to take turns to throw the ping-pong either into or through the hula-hoops. The Starfish having have also investigated ways they can spin hula-hulas including on their bodies, hand, arms and feet. We used pool noodles, wooden blocks and ping-pong balls to create our mini golf course as an extension of a child's news.



Cars and Bikes... Earlier this month the Starfish noticed some cars not being used in the Clownfish playground. With some assistance from their educators they were brought over and the bikes were also brought out. While using their gross motor skills to push and ride the bikes and cars around the Starfish were observed role-playing filling them up with petrol. This was extended through the use of the hose connected into the cubby house to be the petrol station and petrol pump. While riding around the Starfish used the hose to pretend, they were filling up the cars and bikes and began calling out for petrol. Throughout the month the Starfish have been

requesting the bikes, cars and hose to be brought out and have been observed continuing with this dramatic play. We extended through using masking tape to create a road, pedestrian crossing and parking spots. Also used some recycled materials to make our own handheld traffic lights. On Tuesday the 16th we went on a mini excursion to Miss Nicole's car. Together we explored different sections up close and discussed their use.

This led the Starfish working collaboratively with each other and their educators to create and decorate four cars using recycles materials. The Starfish have used these cars within their play outside. Throughout the month the Starfish used the decoupage technique to make various road signs. Once complete these signs where then introduced into the car and bike play.





Dramatic Play... Throughout July the Starfish have expressed an interest in dramatic play. The Starfish have used wooden logs with coloured paper to create a fire and pretend they were camping (even roasted marshmallows). Using the colours mega blocks the Starfish created their own ice-cream shop and used the sandpit to cook various foods for their educators. We have various mums, dads and baby role-playing using dolls and toys brought in from home. The Starfish pretended they were driving using the climbing frame and even had cats and dogs on the car too. Throughout the month the Starfish have also been requesting the dress ups. Towards the end of the month we have had countless discussions and news about the Woolworths ooshies and Coles mini shops figurines. This led to us creating our own pumpkin shop, where the Starfish were taking turns to use baskets to buy fruits and vegetables and being the cashier. While paying the Starfish decided to use leaves as money.



Until Next Time,

Starfish Educators 😊😊