



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

7 O'Connell Avenue & 286 Beauchamp Road
Matraville 2036

Phone: 02 9311 0044 & 9661 9521

Management@pumpkinldcc.com.au

Newsletter – June 2017

Centre News

We are going to celebrate the NAIDOC week on the first week of July. Australians regard NAIDOC week as a time to commemorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements – an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and society. NAIDOC week is also a time to reflect on how opportunity and the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples lag behind that of the broader population. *We embrace with pride, admiration and awe these great and ancient cultures we are truly blessed to have among us, cultures that provide a unique, uninterrupted human thread linking our Australian continent to the most ancient prehistory of our planet (Rudd, 2008).*

Cultural competence as it relates to developing relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures brings together those knowledges, behaviours, attitudes and policies that are required to engage, build and maintain relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in all settings to effect positive change in early childhood education. Cultural competence is much more than awareness of cultural differences. It is the ability to understand, respect and communicate with, and effectively interact with people across cultures.



July Calendar of Events

02 - 09/07/17 - NAIDOC Week – Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth.

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

28th - Friday – **National tree Day.**

31st – 01/08/17 – Tisha B'Av – Jewish Tradition, on this day Jewish people fast in order to remember the sufferings of the Jewish people throughout history.



Clownfish News



Hello everyone! We are happy to welcome winter! On the 13th we came up with a question of “What should we wear during winter?” After some discussion about the winter outfit, we continued the discussion by tracing one of the children’s body and drew some winter outfit on top of the large sheet of butcher paper. We then worked together in naming and colouring the entire item. On the 14th we’re making an snowy island of Australia with a cotton ball and turquoise paint colour. Earlier this month, The Clownfish children also worked together in exploring the life cycle of butterfly which turned up to be a continuous art activities for a week!



In the month of June, we’re still focusing on the on-going role-play project and the benefit of having a pretend play in their learning environment. We had a lot of combined class with the big children. As they grow older, their social exploration is also growing; they tend to be more interactive and imaginative about the world they live in.

We noticed the children have been involved in a small/large group play throughout the experience while discovering and exploring some dramatic play resources such as dress up corner, baby

dolls, soft toys, toy animals, cooking set, and many more to explore more ideas, concepts, and emotion.



Based on our observation, the children have been seeking out and stepping up to the challenges during their outdoor physical activities, especially with the little ones. We are constantly surprised by the children's eagerness, persistence, and abilities. It is reminding us to always have high expectations and provide more opportunities for them to challenge and extend their abilities further. During outdoors play, we have been raising the height of the plank of obstacle course as well as some combination of equipment that require the children to use a range of complex motor skills.



Towards end of the month, the children were impressively showing their increasing cognitive skill in recognizing some primary colours and starting a counting sequence while reading a book and exploring some resources in the room. Amazing!



Lastly, we would like to thank all parents/families for providing invaluable assistance during parent and teacher interview, It was fantastic to catch up to share the children's interest, long term goals, and more information about them. If you haven't returned the children's observation yet, please do so as we still need to continue the documentation until the end of the year.

Until next month,
Clownfish educators

Jellyfish News



July Birthday Celebrants:

Novo- 2nd

Celine- 15th

Frankie- 19th

Jaziah- 19th

Noah- 20th

Lana- 24TH

Belated happy birthday to Harry who turned three on 26th June 2017.

A warm welcome to our new children and families who joined us this month. Christian and Lana have moved from the Clownfish room, and we also had Jasfer who just joined us last week.

The children showed a lot of interests this month, from counting to shapes, foods, learning about traffic lights, pretend play and lots more.



Red Light, Green Light

While riding the cars on the 31st of May, the children were seen in every direction, causing traffic jam. Miss Criselda decided to introduce to them the red and green light signal. Miss Criselda explained to them that red means stop and the green means go. We then practiced using the red and green Lego pieces. If it was green, they were allowed to go and if it was red, they need to stop. We also tried it while they were lining up in the mini slide. If it was red, they had to wait and if it was green, they could jump down.

In the morning of the 01st of June, Miss Criselda made a coloured paper plates with stick holder. While making them, Miss Criselda explained to the children that we're going to make a 'stop' and 'go' signs to use for our play. "Red is stop, and green is go," one of the children was heard saying.



Painting and Collage

From the 7th to 9th of June, the children enjoyed collage and painting experience.





The children were asked to shred the coloured paper into pieces with their fingers, and after that, they were given a piece of paper each and some glue to stick the shredded papers. The



activity kept the children busy for almost an hour, shredding and sticking. They then asked for some glitters to sprinkle on their work.



To continue on the children's interest in art, we set up a painting experience for them on the 8th. We prepared children's favourite colours that they have mentioned during our news time and instead of using brushes, we provided some cotton buds. The children did an amazing painting, with various strokes and patterns. Everyone participated and they definitely showed their creative sides, a lot of talented artists in the making.

On the 9th, we decided to stay inside until the sun came up. To keep the children busy, Miss Sabina came out with another free art activity that allowed the children to use their fine motor and creative skill. Miss Sabina demonstrated how to use the heart-shaped sponge to paint, and also mentioned some colours that the children would explore.



Healthy Eating

For a whole week, we talked about healthy eating. We looked at the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating, and from there, we learned some



foods that we have to eat more and the foods that we have to eat in moderation. We talked about the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables, as well as meat, fish, egg and chicken. After the discussion, we collected some pretend foods from the



home corner, and the learning continued by helping the children to sort out the foods into healthy and sometimes food baskets.

The next day, we asked the children for their favourite veggies and on the

22nd, we had 'green salad making experience.' The children helped in collecting some more veggies from our garden to add to our salad. They picked some parsley, spring onions and mint. We placed everything in a bowl to wash, and we added some cherry tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce. The children were so excited and couldn't wait to try the salad. While preparing, some of them asked for cucumber, and enjoyed eating while waiting for the salad to be ready.

News topics for school holiday

School holiday is just around the corner. Any family input for news topic for the next two weeks are very much welcome.

Winter Season

Please ensure that you pack a thicker blanket for sleep/rest time, as well as spare jumper/jacket and clothes for your child.

Until next month,

Jellyfish educators

Lionfish News

During the month of June, the Lionfish children have continued their interests in animals and building houses using a variety of resources. Our news topic was 'Where we live' so we have been looking at 'Where we live' and what we do in our community as well as looking at and learning about the different habitats of some of our favourite animals. We have used our creativity and imaginations to draw our houses and our favourite animals. We have also used animal stamps in our art'n'craft activities. We also helped the Starfish children to create some different habitats using shoe boxes, paint and natural resources collected from the garden that we have used in our play.



The Lionfish children have also continued to use their imaginations and be very creative with a variety of blocks and building resources, as well as continuing to work together to design and make their own obstacle courses, adding different resources. We have made dinosaurs, houses, castles, Transformers, Power Rangers, Fire Stations, Birthday cakes and a variety of other Super Heroes.



We have also continued to enjoy lots of physical activities, especially during outdoor play. We have been practising our ball skills : throwing, catching, bouncing and kicking and also learning the limbo and how to skip with the Starfish Room. We have also enjoyed working together with our friends and Educators to make challenging and elaborate obstacles courses for everyone to use to practise our balancing and coordination skills.



This month, we have learnt about the letter 'j' and 'k', listening to Jumping Jim and Kicking King's stories, naming things starting with these letters, practising our sounds and even practising writing these letters on the whiteboard. We have continued using name stencils using white board markers to practise our Christian and surnames and have introduced name tags, which the children helped make, to practise our name recognition. We have been using these at mealtimes with great success!

We have also explored our Feelings and Emotions, listening to stories and talking about how different situations make us feel, how to talk about what we're feeling and how we can express our feelings in a positive way. This is helping us work together to devise rules for our room to keep everyone safe and happy. We have also looked at different faces to see if we can tell what they're feeling and drawn our own faces expressing our feelings.



Until next month,

Lionfish Educators 😊

Starfish News



At the end of last month, the children were observed to be interested in physical activities. They would often start their own games, such as basketball, and be active participants during physical activities. We decided to further explore physical activities such as games & sports.



The children have also initiated & joined in dancing, creative movement & other activities requiring them to use their physical skills, gross-motor & fine-motor abilities during their play. 'Count & Jump' was a popular game suggested by the children.



Look, I'm a Kangaroo!", "Like batman!", "Look I landed on my feet!", "Can we count and jump?"

What a fun way for them to further revise their numeracy knowledge!

Basketball, Soccer, Football & Tennis interests were emerging as the children practised dribbling and



bouncing balls, shooting hoops & also engaged in many basketball games (even using a real basketball brought in from a child!). Footballs & a soccer ball were brought in by the children & that got us talking about how sports are similar & different. We looked at photos of a soccer & of football fields & identified some of the differences & similarities. The balls were one big difference the children could spot straight away!



Remembering the basketball brought in earlier, basketball came into the discussions as we discussed the aim of the different sports. Starfish also demonstrated their increasing awareness of symbols associated with their favourite teams as well as recognising words, numbers & letters.



"I can see the numbers!"

Joining in on fun & stimulating play experiences during free-time, the children have increased in their abilities to learn different techniques including;



'Dribbling' & 'Kicking' with their legs/feet as well as 'Throwing', 'Rolling' & 'Bouncing' the Ball with their arms/hands. Increasing their strategical thinking & furthering their abilities to manipulate the ball & improving on hand-eye co-ordination. Starfish learned more about the



rules of the various games that they had shown interest in during their 'News' group times & were able to use the class computer to research & investigate further. Starfish children welcomed the games introduced by their teachers including challenging their knowledge & skills in throwing & 'shooting hoops' from a distance, 'Tunnel Ball', 'Up, Over & Under', 'Poison Ball', 'Skipping', 'Limbo' as well as their participation in the various running races where they demonstrated their capabilities.

"I know how to, like this, I dribble at my home!", "I did it!", "I got two points!", "I play football, that's my favourite! I do football training!", "I like basketball. My team is the 'Zebras'!", "In football, you have to run very fast", "10..9..8..7..6..5..4..3..2..1..Go!" "Go! Run... Run... Run!" , "I'm a Jaguar racing", "I won!"



Starfish children have also shown a fair amount of interest in Animals this month. Sharing about their favourite Animals including; Fish, Whales, Sharks, Crustaceans, Jaguars, Dogs, Cats, Elephants, Lizards, Snakes & Birds through news



presentations, researching, sharing knowledge of animals found in various environments & furthering their understanding of animal habitats.

Commencing with Jungle & Ocean habitats, the children learned of the different 'Zones' of the Ocean & discussed the physical characteristics as well as diets of creatures living at the surface (Epipelagic Zone), compared to those living in the



middle (Mesopelagic Zone & Bathypelagic Zone) & right to the very bottom of the Ocean floor (Abyssopelagic Zone & Hadopelagic Zone).

"Sharks!", "My favourite is the Great White Shark because it has sharp white teeth!", "I saw them at the aquarium, I saw a Whale Shark too!", "I know, it's a



Rainbow Parrot", "That's an Angler Fish!"

Furthering their curiosities & sharing their knowledge through conversations/presentations with their teachers & peers, we learned of the Asian, African & Amazonian Jungles, their environments & had a closer look into the types of Animals



that live there through factual readings & using the class computer to better understand their

world. "Tigers live in the jungle!", "There's a Butterfly!", "Look it's a green Frog!", "My favourite is the Jaguar, Because it can break a turtles shell, it has a very strong jaw!"



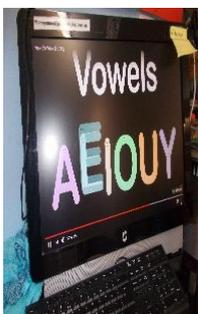
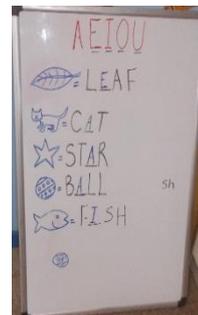
Starfish have been able to transfer knowledge through creative means, creating their very own 'Jungle' & 'Ocean' in a box as well as creating 'Shark Teeth'. Excited to be



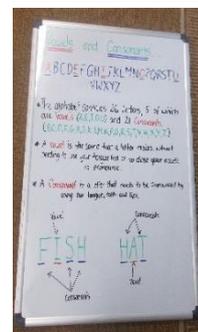
able to use these during their play, the children demonstrated a deeper understanding of animals, land & plants. Using creative movement, dance &



physical skills to depict behaviours of a large variety of animals, Starfish have also been role-playing with animal puppets/figurines & costumes. Regularly spending time in & around our gardens here at Pumpkin, the children closely engage with the wriggly worms, insects & other creepy crawlies, with the opportunities to handle & observe safely. Helping the children getting started with reading & writing (for



school) was a common goal requested by families during our parent-teacher interviews at the end of May. Therefore, opportunities were facilitated this month, where the children were encouraged & invited participate in experiences where they began sounding out words as well as becoming aware of the connections between the written & the spoken word. The children were invited to share (short) words they might know



how to write & words that they would like to learn. Examples of upper & lower case letters were provided to the children. Writing & reading from left to right & comparing the directions of 2 & S were also discussed this month. Starfish children routinely participated in writing their names, alphabet & numbers using their personalised sheets as well as being introduced to Vowels & Consonants through the use of the class computer and group-times in the afternoons. Grasping the concept well, the children are now able to recognise the difference between the two, including pronunciation of the Vowels and Consonants & even apply their new found knowledge to basic words & their names on work sheets & using the white-board.

Until next Month, Starfish Educators