



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 – July 2016

Centre News

Starfish class room has undergone a makeover, with some new furniture, including home corner Dining Set, adjustable Tables and Chairs to seat 40 and also some new shelving, all made from Natural Pine. With the help of our Staff and keeping the children's interests and needs in mind, we have now re-arranged the room, increasing the space in our classroom.



Introduction to Webbing

Developing meaningful curriculum involves interactive decision making by children, parents and families, educators and the broader community with the aim of fostering children's learning. Curriculum decision making is guided by a combination of principles, practices and outcomes to promote children's learning.

As educators we facilitate learning through play when we use the Practices of the Framework and we consider that children learn from having:



- Meaningful experiences with others who are more competent players. Competent players can resource, role model, extend, give specific play knowledge and facilitate children's entry and exit from play and their interaction with others.
- Access to and good attachment with primary caregivers.
- Uninterrupted and prolonged time to play.
- A variety of spaces in which to play.
- Access to a range of resources that can be used to enrich and extend their play.
- Opportunity to pursue their interests, passions and theories.

- The skills and knowledge to engage in a range of play experiences.
- Resources that are rich with sounds, words and materials that are culturally and contextually meaningful.

We know that children learn best when they are interested and engaged. Using children's interests as the basis for our curriculum decision making helps to ensure that learning is not only interesting but also meaningful and relevant to children. As the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) notes, being responsive to children's strengths, abilities and interests helps to 'ensure motivation and engagement in learning' (DEEWR, 2009, p. 14).

As Elizabeth Jones (Jones & Nimmo, 1994), an American educator who has written widely on interest-based and emergent curriculum approaches, points out (p. 5): ... ***curriculum is [a] teacher's responsibility, not children's. People who hear the words emergent curriculum may wrongly assume that everything simply emerges from the children. The children's ideas are an important source of curriculum but only one of many possible sources ...***

We as Educators feel it is important to show the parents and families how the children's experiences are being linked and so have commenced a Project wall called 'What Interest's Us'. As the children show increasing interest in a subject, we extend these further by creating activities/experiences for them to further their understanding and ideas of the world. Whether it be related to; Researching, Gardening/Sustainability, Literature/Numeracy, Science/Experimentation, Cooking, Craft/Creative.

By presenting it in a 'Webbing Manner' shows a visual continuation of the children's learning and we keep track of the dates. We have started this in the Starfish room, the other rooms will start to do this webbing as well to show the continuation of the children's learning.

Parent Reminder

The health and safety of all children is a major concern for us. Parents and families are asked to please keep 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.

August Calendar of Events

01st – Monday – New South Wales Bank Holiday.

04th – Thursday – National Aboriginal and Islander Children’s Day (NAICD).

05th – Friday – Jeans for Genes Day.

09th - Tuesday- International Day for World Indigenous People.

10th - 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.

13th – 14/08/16 – **Tisha B’Av** – Jewish Tradition, on this day Jewish people fast in order to remember the sufferings of the Jewish people throughout history.

13th – 21/08/16 – **National Science Week.**

25th – Thursday – **Krishna Janmashtami** – Hindu Tradition, celebrates the birth of Krishna. This is a two day festival. On the first day, participants fast. This is broken at midnight by eating sweet dairy products.

24th – 31/08/16 – **Keep Australia Beautiful Week.**

28th – Friday – **Daffodil Day.**



Clownfish News

This month, Clownfish children didn't have much time outside due to the cold weather. Some of them stayed at home as they were sick☹; If your children have any history of health/medical issues and also if you need any assistance to administer a medication for your children during the day, please kindly inform us, we're more than happy to assist you! ☺ We always value the importance of effective communication that has a significant influence on the children's learning, development, health, safety and wellbeing.

UNDER THE WATER PROJECT



However, they didn't miss the fun, we have been busy in exploring our "UNDER THE WATER" PROJECT that happened from 24th June to 20th July.

The interest started when the children spontaneously recognized and spotted a picture of octopus during the story time, then we kept extending and spotting the interest day by day. Started from using our sensory and fine motor skill to make an octopus, crocodile, and fish with papers, paper plates, and paint; a water play; then making our very own ocean bowl and aquarium bottle to get more of the children awareness of the sea creatures; the children were also exploring their imagination while participating a puppet story experience with Mr.Crocodile! ☺



The children had discovered lots of animal that lives in/under the water such as crocodile, fishes, octopus, penguins, dolphin, crab, and duck.



Exploring our current interest towards Transportation....



This on going interest was started when the clownfish children heard a very loud noise of fire truck's siren passed down the road, The children were scared and ran towards educator after heard it, Miss Stella then explained to them that the fire fighter was rushing to help people who's in danger, they are nice people, so there is nothing to be afraid of. This discussion is ongoing for 3 days; the children were showing their curiosity in regard of the fire truck operation. the interest was continuing until Penelope came back from holiday, she shared her story while she's in the airplane, then the clownfish children and Miss Stella were demonstrating how to do an airplane pose while extending arm out and pretending to fly around like airplane.



We noticed the clownfish children have been cooperatively exploring and communication in small/large group experiences throughout the day; they even initiated a circle dance and a reading group with educators. During this winter season, we always include a mini exercise in our daily routine to keep them warm up. Well done, children!!



We're looking forward of more refreshing experiences next month! 😊 😊 😊

We would like to say thank you to all parent and families who always support us in implementing our daily program through your fortnightly topic inputs.

Until next month,
Clownfish educators.
Cheers! 😊

Jellyfish News

A big Welcome to Claire and Russell!

Belated Happy Birthday to Claire who turned 2 on the 01st and To Sophie and Ruby who both turned 3 this month.

Archer is now a big brother!

What a chilly month...when we discuss the weather every morning during group time, the children would say that it's cold and they need to wear their jumpers and beanies.

We spent the month with lots of indoor play, but ensuring that we didn't miss any opportunity to go out if weather permits.



The children showed lots of interests this month. On the 04th, Archer shared to us that he went to see Lah Lah's concert on the weekend and he brought in his tambourine to show to his friends. We accessed the internet to watch some of Lah Lah's band concert. Everyone was familiar with the band and they all enjoyed watching and dancing along with the music. While watching, Mason came to Ms Criselda to show his top with guitar print.



As the children showed interest in playing music, we decided to have a mini concert during outdoor play. All the children participated with their chosen instrument. Some chose to play guitar, some tambourines, one played trumpet and some were shaking bells. We also have drums and xylophone. They played with one instrument, then with another one after. They were also seen playing rock music with electric guitar, swaying and banging

their heads while playing. What a nice concert Jellyfish 😊



The children love dressing up and their interest keeps growing every day. Every morning they couldn't wait to start playing in the dress up corner, pretending various roles. They also love having a pretend play in the home corner. On the 11th, the children were seen continuing their interest in dramatic/role play in the home corner. Everyone has his/her own role in their play. Selena was assigned in the kitchen, busy cooking

something. Ella was seen washing the dishes and serving her friends with a glass of water which



she got from the tap. Seth, Muhid, Elodie, Bryson, Isaiah and Renee set up the table and they started eating together, helping themselves with the pretend food. Renee, with the tea pot, walked around and helped her friends with a cup of tea.

To further the children's learning in food preparation, we decided to have a 'toast making experience'. We prepared a plate of toast and bowls of butter for them and allow them to make their own toast. "Wow," was the first word they exclaimed when they saw the set up on the table. They gathered around and each one had a turn to spread butter on their toast. They then ate together and enjoyed their yummy toast 😊

Our Family Tree



We just updated our family tree and we get the children involved by letting them do the painting job. It turned out very nice and the children love to see their family photo on the tree. If you haven't provided us with one or if you would like to update your family photo, you can either hand them over to us or send through email and we will print them out for you. 😊

We have a new shelf as well for our books and art and craft resources.



On the 20th, the children showed interest in cars again, and for our group time, they requested the Wiggles' Big Red car. To further the children's interest in cars, we decided to make a car collage. They were excited to choose their favourite car colour. Each one was busy sticking the wheels, trying to place them on the right spot.

We're done with two months of winter, only one month to go. Hope the weather will be better next month and we're looking forward for more exciting activities 😊

Until next month,
Jellyfish Educators



Lionfish News



This month in the Lionfish Room, we have been talking about where we live, learning the suburb and also our address. This has led to an interest in maps and exploring the world after Aiden brought in his World Atlas from home to share. We looked at a map of Australia and looked at where Sydney is. He also showed us where the Philippines was and said that Canada was his favourite place because, “Justin Bieber lives there!”

We also looked at maps and different countries when we were outside, using a World Atlas that Miss Tracey found. We looked at flags, animals, landmarks and cultural celebrations of each country. The children recognised the Sydney Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. We will continue further exploring the different countries.



The Lionfish children have also been interested in cooking this month. During outdoor play on 4th July, they played together in the sandpit, making cakes, rice and other foods. To extend on this interest and because we were celebrating Naidoc week, the children helped make damper on the 5th July. They helped measure, add and mix the ingredients and we ate our delicious damper for afternoon tea!



To celebrate Naidoc Week, the children looked at different types of Aboriginal painting for inspiration. We also listened to Aboriginal music and watched some Dreamtime stories which the children really enjoyed! On the 5th of July, the Educators provided banksia cones, pipe cleaners and paints for the children to create their own artwork.





Also this month, the Lionfish children have been very interested in construction, using a variety of resources . They have shown great imagination and creativity as they have worked individually and cooperatively in groups to build! They have built Rocket Ships, Houses, roads and tracks for their cars and trains as well as bridges. We have continued their interest by investigating how rocket ships are made and will continue investigating buildings throughout the month!



This month the children have really enjoyed drawing as well as learning about letters. They have been practising writing them as well as recognising them. To further encourage them, the Educators have provided them with laminated writing sheets which include letters, numbers and their names for them to practice on.

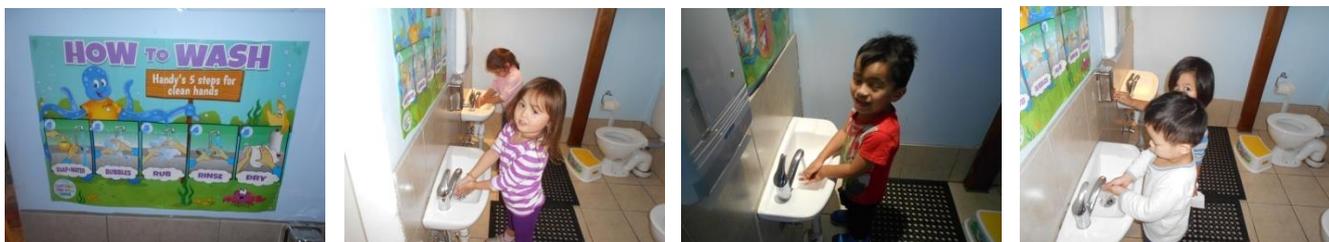


Also during this month, the children have been interested in books, whether it be practising their counting and number recognition skills or just choosing their favourite book and finding a comfortable spot to sit and read it ☺ The children really enjoy actively sharing their enjoyment of books!

The Children also revisit their kite as the wind blowing more and the Children learnt about movement and lifting and different in masses. This lead into planes and why they fly. On the 15th of July they found it interesting to learn that planes where design by looking at birds.



The Children also reviewed their hygiene Practices and learnt more about the spreading of germs. On the 19th of July they Learnt the best way to keep germs down is to wash their hands before and after various actives during the day. The children also practice their hand washing skills and are getting great at it.



During this month the lionfish has found an interest in shape and has watched internet video with thing that can be made up of circle squares, triangle and Rectangles. The group found cars have circles and Squares, while pictures frames and windows are rectangles. They also learnt how many side each shape had and for fun the lionfish made dinosaurs out of shapes as Well .The group also learnt numbers and how many square made a rectangle.

Until next month

Lionfish Educators ☺

Starfish News

The Starfish children warmly welcomed Ms Alessandra as their new room leader this month! In the beginning of the month, the children planted carrots following Peyton's interest in gardening.



They are still monitoring their seeds, watering them and watching their carrots as they grow. On that day, the children continued with their garden interest and picked some chamomile and



lemongrass from our garden and turned them into delicious tea, following Olivia sharing that her aunt has Marigold petals in her soup!

On Friday, the 8th, the children discussed what they were going to be doing on the weekend and noticed that they were all going to engage in social situations with friends. Back at Pumpkin on the Monday, they shared about their social weekend time with their educators and peers. That turned into a conversation about loved



ones, which turned into what we enjoy doing with them (watching t.v.), which then became about making a television and remote for our

home corner (Olivia's idea!)! The interest got extended and the children also created two cardboard couches to go along with the television 'watching'.

The television interest brought out a puppet interest in the children. They have been enjoying creating puppet shows to their peers, on their television. Following on from the puppet interest, the children started demonstrating a strong interest towards role-playing. Their favourite role-playing activities this month included making and following treasure hunts and becoming doctors, nurses and patients (in relation to our 'When I grow up'



learning). Towards the end of the month, the role-playing also included , Bus drivers, Plane and Rocket Pioneers, Chef's/Patrons, Mummy's, Daddy's and Babies, Pussy Cat's and Kittens, Puppy Dogs, Dragons, Piranha's, Crocodiles, Sharks, little Pigs and the BIG BAD WOLF!! Starfish also created hide and seek games, where the children came up with characters and rules for their own games.



From the 18th of July, the children have been sharing their thoughts on what they would like to be when they grow up and learning about different occupations. Starfish children have also listened to stories based on Professions called 'When I grow up' and 'Jobs that People Do'.



New Classroom Make-over...

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interests and needs in mind, we have now re-arranged the room, increasing the space in our classroom.

Introduction to 'What Interest's Us' Wall...

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'Learning Stories' Folder...

We have now on display, our 'Learning Stories' Folder for the Parents/Families to have a read of, which contains a more detailed account of each Project/Experience that has grasped the children's interest. Please feel free to have a read when picking up or dropping off your children.

Until next month

Starfish Educators 😊