Little Ducks Childcare

November/ December 2020

A note from your Centre Manager

Wow! Here we are at the end of the year already! Christmas is just around the corner and this will be our last newsletter for 2020. It is wonderful to see the children engaged in ongoing projects demonstrating their learning and interests while really showcasing the skills they have learnt throughout the year.

It is also that time of year again when each child will receive a new summative assessment on their development and learning. This is a fantastic opportunity to see what your child has been learning and how far they have come since June, as well as some information about what to expect when moving to their next classroom. You should expect to receive your transition statement from your teachers in the Kindergarten in November. We also encourage you to complete a consent letter so we can share this statement with the school your child is enrolled in for Prep 2021. Our educators spend many hours compiling and collating these stories to showcase all the learning opportunities the children have engaged in and celebrate each learning achievement individually. If you have any questions or queries or just want to catch up on some information about what's happening in any of the classrooms, please don't hesitate to speak with your classroom educators either in person, via email or over the phone. Our educators are passionate about their children and programs and are always eager to have a chat. Ms Natasha, Mr Mark and myself have developed an updated Transition to School Plan for our Kindergarten children to promote continuity of care and learning and to ensure all children experience a smooth transition into Prep. I look forward to sharing this exciting time with each of you as we watch the children transition onto their new chapter in Prep next year.



Christmas is fast approaching and will be here before we know it and on behalf of the whole team at Little Ducks Wilston we would like to wish all our families the best during the holiday period and a great start to the new year.

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Upcoming Events!

November

Wednesday—4th November— **State of Origin**
Come dressed in your maroon and blue to support your team.

Monday 9th – **Henny Penny Hatching**
We will be exploring what came first, the chicken or the egg for the next 2 weeks watching the miraculous life cycle of chicken's hatching.

Monday 9th—13th— **NAIDOC Week**
NAIDOC week is a celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Monday 16th – Friday 20h – **National Recycling Week**
We will focus on the environmental benefits of recycling.

December

Wednesday — 9th December — **Kindergarten Graduation**
Celebrating our children who are transitioning to school next year.



Friday—18th December — **Christmas Celebration**
Our educators and children will be celebrating Christmas and the end of the year.

Friday—25th December — **Christmas Day**
PUBLIC HOLIDAY—CENTRED CLOSED



Monday 28th December - Friday 1st January 2021 — **LITTLE DUCKS CLOSED**
The service will be closed during this period. Our first day back for 2021 will be Monday 4th January.

Policy Reviews

We value your input and feedback …..



Additional Needs Policy
Code of Ethics
Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying and Occupational Violence Policy
Medication Policy
Food, Nutrition and Beverage Policy
Sleep, Rest, Relaxation and Clothing Policy
Holiday Discount Policy
Social Media Engagement Policy

Ways that you can provide feedback are:
Our policies are available to read in the foyer and you can give feedback in 2 ways, by email or anonymously via the suggestion box.

Quick and Healthy …

Christmas Yoghurt Bark

This delicious festive treat takes only 10 minutes to prep and a few hours of setting in the freezer - and with its pretty colours and yummy taste, it's the perfect post-Christmas-lunch treat!

Ingredients



* 1kg Greek yoghurt
* 1/2 cup honey, melted
* 1/2 cup + 2 tbs desiccated coconut
* 1/3 cup dried cranberries
* 1 cup pepitas, chopped
* 1 punnet raspberries, chopped

Directions

* Line a large, flat baking tray with baking paper and spray with olive oil.
* Combine yoghurt, honey and 1/2 cup coconut, then pour onto the tray spread into an even layer
* Scatter cranberries, pepitas and raspberries evenly over the yoghurt, and top with 2 tbs coconut.
* Freeze until hard then cut or break and serve immediately.

Transitioning Children to School

Starting school is an important milestone in a child's life – and supporting children to successfully transition to school helps foster their enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

A child's transition to school experience starts well before, and extends far beyond, their first day.

Families and carers play a significant role in supporting the transition to school, so start well before your child's first day.

By working together, early childhood services, schools, families and relevant community organisations can help children enjoy a great start to school.

Transition statements

Transition statements contain important information about a child's learning and development at kindergarten as well as suggestions for supporting their continued learning at school.

Kindergarten teachers develop the transition statement in November with input from parents/carers and children.

When shared with the child's new school, transition statements provide valuable information to assist in planning for a positive transition to school.

Parents and carers can consent to the transition statement being developed using the online transition statement application. They can also consent to the transition statement being accessed by the child's school via the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority portal. Parents/carers who do not give consent for their child's transition statement to be developed using the online application will receive a transition statement and they can elect to provide a copy of the statement to the school.

Supporting your child's successful transition to school

A successful transition to school is more than a great first day. It is your child feeling welcome, safe and confident in their new school environment. This journey begins well before your child starts school and only ends when they feel a sense of belonging.

As a parent or carer there are lots of different ways you can help your child enjoy a great start to school.

Simple tips:

- be ready to support your child
- listen to your child's thoughts about starting school
- make time to talk, read, play and relax with your child
- share your positive feelings about school
- practise new routines
- encourage your child to know how to seek help
- meet new children and families before the first day
- celebrate starting school.

Transitioning Children to School

Build your child's confidence

Help to build your child's coping skills and increase their self-confidence by finding answers to their questions or concerns together.

* Talk to your child about how to ask for help and model what to say.
* Ask your child's kindy teacher for ideas about how you can help your child to start school.
* Talk through some "what will I do if…?" situations with your child, for example "what will I do if my yoghurt spills?"

Transition to School Activity—Making a Chatterbox

Have fun as you and your child prepare for starting school with the activities in the chatter-box.

Instructions

1. Print the chatterbox template on the next page or at https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/earlyYears/Documents/chatterbox.pdf
2. Carefully cut out the chatterbox from the sheet and turn it over.
3. Fold the corners along the score-line in towards the centre.
4. Flip your chatterbox over.
5. Fold the corners along the score-line toward the centre.
6. Fold in half and in half again.
7. Gently pinch the ends together and push them toward towards each other.
8. Flip your chatterbox over.

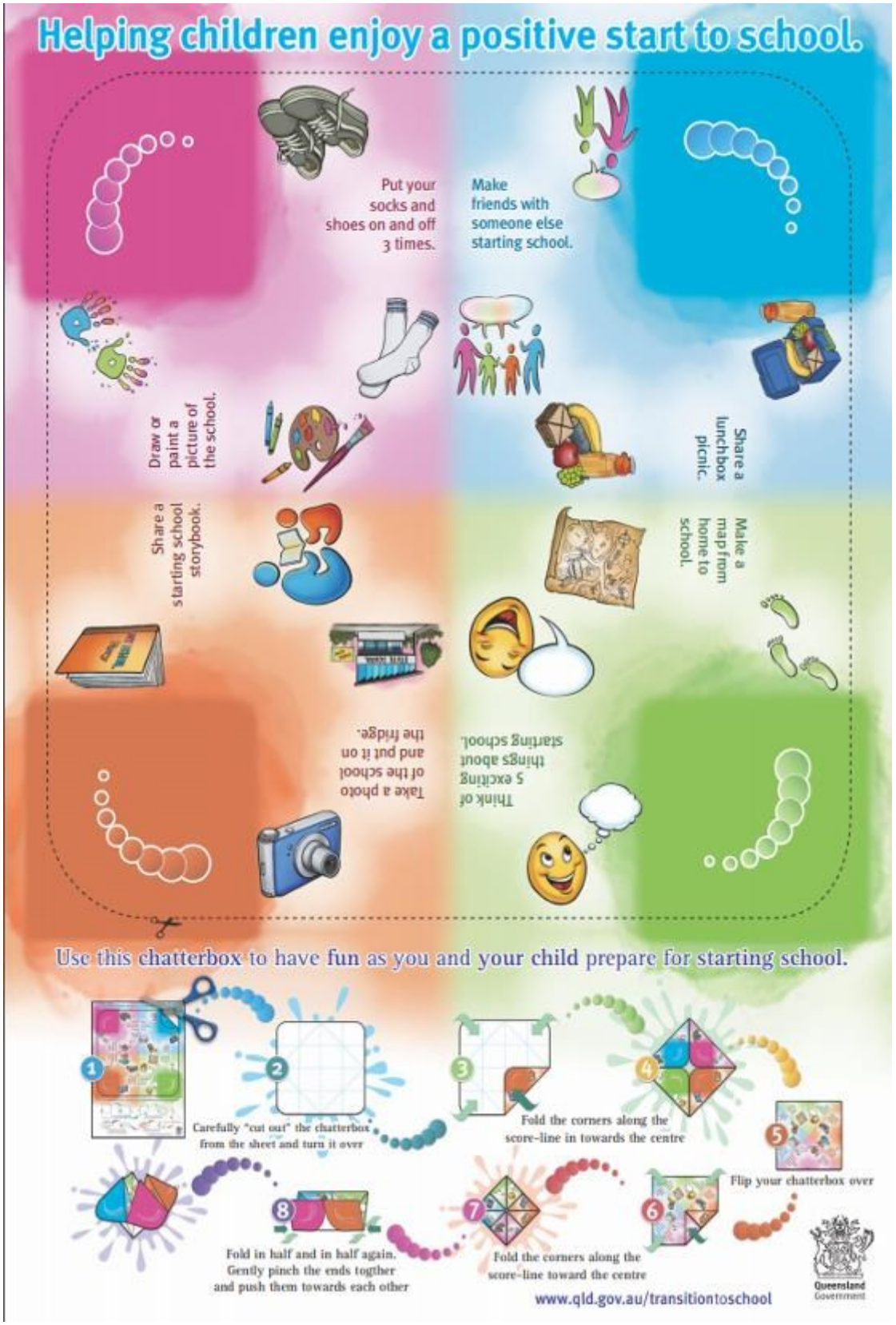
Have fun with your child!



Support your child to have a great start to school.

Transitioning Children to School

Chatterbox Template



Nursery Natter!

Hello families and welcome to another addition to Nursery News.

Firstly, we would like to welcome Miss Sunashki into the Nursery. Miss Sunashki has come from our Junior Kindy room to work in the Nursery as she has a special interest and passion for working with children under 2. We would also like to say a special welcome to all our new families who have started with us these last few months. We are so proud of all our new friends that are being so brave as it can be very hard to change our routine and be in a new and different care environment.





As we do have many new families just starting care, the nursery educators are focusing heavily on building enriched relationships with the children and families. When children feel supported, they are more confident and involved learners. To help assist the nursery educators with building these secure relationships, we would really appreciate feedback on what activities or comfort techniques you use at home to help bridge the gap between familiar and unfamiliar. We can then collaborate these into our programs while your child is in our care.

To continue supporting the children to achieve their milestones, we have been focussing on developing fine and gross motor skills. These skills will support each of them on their journey. The children have been enjoying pulling themselves up, crawling on the balance beam, reaching for toys at tummy time, rolling, and grasping objects. We also have a few friends that have taken their very first steps!





Nursery Natter!

Miss Brenda, being from Brazil, has been incorporating her native language of Portuguese into the daily program. We have included this by teaching the children small words and listening to Portuguese songs. The children really enjoy the Portuguese songs, and love singing and dancing along together.



In the coming months we will be working together with Senior Nursery on the transitions for our friends moving to that room next year. We will be doing this by spending periods of the day combined with Senior Nursery so our friends can become more familiar with the room and the educators.

As always it is a pleasure and privilege to be part of your child's learning journey at Little Ducks and if you wish to provide any feedback or input, please feel free to talk to your educators in the Nursery.



Until next time,

Miss Brenda and Miss Sue





Senior Nursery News!

Welcome to our new and existing families!

It's that time again when we get to share with all our friends and families the wonderful and exciting experiences our Senior Nursery children have participated in over the past few months.

Firstly, we would like to welcome Miss Kym into the Senior Nursery. Miss Kym will be joining is in the Senior Nursery room 3 days per week, on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Miss Kym has a special interest and passion for working with children under 2.

As Educators we pride ourselves on creating a home away from home space that is welcoming, nurturing and educational for all our children. We endeavour to create an environment that fosters children's interest, needs and abilities. We have been hard at work getting to know all our children and incorporating the children's voices into our program and planned experiences . As our connections strengthen and relationships form, we are able to see the children's confidence blossom and their independence emerge as they establish a sense of belonging to their environment.

The Senior Nursery educators appreciate the parent input in creating your child's term three and four goals. The children's personal goals are a very big focus in our curriculum to ensure each child develops to their full potential on their learning journey. One of our main focus focuses in the Senior Nursery room this month has been language and commination skills. We are trying to encourage the children to use their verbal language to communicate not only with educators but with their fellow peers in play. We have been doing this by planning group experiences to promote interactions with others, roleplay and group/individual readings. We ask for you to encourage this at home too by naming common objects, playing a game of eye spy at meal times, reading books with your child and encouraging them to ask for things eg; "Drink, food, toy" etc. We are also focusing on the children's' emerging non-verbal communication skills by encouraging eye contact, pointing and communicating through hand signs and body language. This will continue to be a main focus for the educators as we support the children to be effective communicators at their own pace. We look forward to working in partnerships with our families to achieve this goal.





Senior Nursery News!

In the Senior Nursery we have also been focusing on self-regulation and emotional resilience. Miss Melissa and Miss Marcela use role play ,with the baby dolls, to develop their sense of empathy as well as gain another's perspective. The children practice using their gentle to dress and undress the baby dolls, as well as giving them a bath. Well done friends!

We have also been reading many books around feelings and how to identify feelings such as anger and frustration, this will hopefully lay the foundations for our small friends to be able to recognise and articulate their feelings in the future. We have already seen a very positive effect from these techniques and look forward to including them further into our daily routines.

Recently, we have introduced diversity into our morning routine. Miss Marcela has been busy at work building on our Spanish lessons and teaching the children how to say farm animal names and colours in Spanish and revisit them every week. This interest was sparked by one of our beloved families. By introducing new words, it helps children to expand their vocabulary and language skills. We have observed many of our senior nursery friends being very effective communicators and using words with more purpose and meaning so we will continue to provide opportunities to let their voice be heard.

Our "Garden Bed" is another of the high lights of the past few weeks! The children enjoy taking care of our garden by watering it twice a day and have a growing appreciation for our natural environment. Well Done Friends!





Mejores deseos!

Miss Melissa, Miss Marcela and Miss Kym





Toddler Time!

Hi, Toddler Families!



The last two months have seen the toddlers thrive in the room as they engage in a range of activities purposefully directed at them developing their physical, social, cognitive and emotional skills.

The sense of identity and belonging is growing in the Toddler room as the children demonstrate being safe, secure and supported both by their peers and by Miss Carla and myself. They express their opinions during our group time chats and during activities, for example every Monday morning they are able to tell us what they did over the weekend. The also show a good sense of agency when they readily pick up a book for us to read as a group, or ask for a song for us to sing during group time (though most of the time its "Baby Shark"). During the day they transition smoothly from one activity to another and demonstrate a strong interest in being part of the group.





Each of the children has shown that they are connected with and contribute to their world as they engage in turn taking activities and group learning activities. They have learned how we keep safe in spring/summer by putting on sunscreen, wearing a hat, drinking lots of water and when they engaged in recognizing what is treasure and discarding trash they learned how we could keep our environment and beaches clean. Our construction activities are now group activities during which the children use their imagination as they play in a big group and take turns at using resources and blocks during open ended play. Children now also lead the Acknowledgement to Country as they acknowledge that we are on Turrbal country and thank the Turrbal people for giving us their land.





The children have displayed good outdoor skills as they easily negotiate their way around the outdoor play area, attempt at least one rung of the monkey bars, climb the obstacle courses and participate in our Move and Groove activities. They also show good spatial awareness both outdoors (when they watch out for their friends while running or climbing) and indoors (when they give each other space while dancing to their favourite action songs).

Toddler Time!



Last month we created a reading area and an art area in the Toddler room. Since then the children have expressed a lot of interest in creating works of art at the art table. To encourage them to refine their fine motor skills we have scaffolded their learning by engaging them in fine motor skill play such as picking up coloured sticks and decorating play-doh, threading laces through shapes, solving puzzles and the like. Many of the children now display the tripod grasp rather than the cylindrical grip while engaging in these activities and while drawing.



Reading area has also become a popular corner with many children observed enjoying a moment of solitude while browsing through the books in our book bag. Setting up of the reading area was actually a child led interest as all of the children actively participated in our book reading and related craft activities during Book Week at the end of August. Of course, the more that we read, the more the children extend their vocabulary and the more confident they become while expressing their ideas and opinions during the day. Most of the book reading in the room is now an enjoyable interaction as the children recognize and ask for their favourite books and answer open-ended questions while the book is being read.





Moving forward, in the Toddler room we will encourage the children to build on their connections with one another by engaging them in small and large group activities, build on their emotional resilience by engaging them in Yoga, Pilates and mindfulness activities and help them extend their vocabulary and engage with texts by reading more. Also, we are trying to build an appreciation of Aboriginal literature by engaging them in reading dreamtime stories and books written by Aboriginal authors. The above mentioned activities will continue as we intentionally encourage each Toddler to become a knowledgeable and confident child while Learning through play.

Warm wishes

Miss Belmira and Miss Carla





Junior Kindy Column

Marhaba Junior Kindy Families!



Welcome to another edition of the Junior kindy newsletter. Before we showcase the children's learning experiences in the past two months, we would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where we live and play. Acknowledging the First Peoples of Australia has been part of our daily practice and we are incredibly happy to observe children take an active role in leading this inclusive practice.

We would like to introduce Miss Emma to all of our families. Miss Emma has recently joined our Junior Kindy community and is very excited to be a part of each child's learning journey. Miss Emma is passionate about working with children and has an interest in all things art and music related. She is an especially big fan of anything messy!

Believing in children's capability to carry out simple tasks on their own supports the development of their leadership skills, sense of responsibility and agency, self-confidence, and relationship. We empower them to be leaders in the room through singing the transition song Mr. Clown, where they can direct their own learning and learn to interact with others with care, empathy and respect.

Supporting the children's leadership skills does not only happen during the transition to the bathroom but we also encourage them to lead the visual routine and setting up the tables during meal time which gives ample opportunity to sustain their ever-growing sense of identity and connection to their community.

Father's Day is celebrated early September and this time we marked the occasion in a different way. As we were unable to invite the fathers in the centre this year, we instead sent out a questionnaire to the families so that children can share the wonderful information about their dads to their friends. Thank you, families, for participating in this activity, the children were immensely proud to sahre with their friends and educators how much they love their dads.

Ditto the Bear from Bravehearts, was our special visitor early September and taught the children the importance of personal safety and whom to seek help from. We extended on this activity through listening to the songs and discussion about the important parts of our body.



We continue to support each child in achieving their goals through organising purposeful activities that are aligned to their current interests. We organised see-saw, table tennis, bike rental activity

Junior Kindy Column

and trucks and loose materials in our physical environment to surmise the children's negotiating and turn taking skills and widen the secure relationships with their peers. Social and emotional wellbeing is central in our curriculum planning.

We ensure that children have opportunities to calm down before rest time by participating in deep breathing exercises. Pilates, laughter yoga and dance freeze activities are some of the ways we support the mental wellbeing of the children and assist them in achieving their goals.



The children's learning lens focuses on construction and design. We were amazed how well the children showcased their talent as they strategically manipulate materials, imposing order in the objects around them, subsequently creating buildings, animal zoo and roads structure. Connection, transporting and positioning schemas in play are predominantly present during children's learning exploration as they move the wooden blocks around, connect and line up each one. We, in turn, extended the children's interest through introducing different materials that they can take apart and put together such as lego, stickle bricks, magnetic shapes, connector cubes and 3D shapes. Hand tools and construction machineries are also included in children's play to extend pretend play ideas.



Family partnership is an important aspect in developing our weekly curriculum plan. With input from families, we investigated the importance of road safety and brainstormed with the children why it is important. Using information technology resources, we learnt the Stop, Look, Listen and Think strategy before crossing the road. From our parent input, we explored the different shapes, learnt the letters of our first name and began to recognise numbers.

Throughout the month of October, the children were very interested in process art. Without any expectations of the finished product, children have the free will to manipulate the different tools and materials and express themselves in ways that reflects their inner thoughts. Through this creative expression we discovered the children's ability to create swirls which we then intentionally and purposely extended by teaching them to close the swirl to create a circle. We will further scaffold the children in this learning in the next few weeks. So, watch out for our pedagogical display.

Moving forward..

* We will support the children who are moving to the next room through stay and play with their Junior Kindy educator.
* NAIDOC week celebration – Always was, Always will be.
* Sensory play





Miss Nabia, Miss Sawsan, and Miss Emma

Kindy Catch Up!

New faces in the room….



There have been a few new faces in the room recently and I would like to introduce Mr Mark to all of our families. Mark has worked at the centre as a casual over the last year but has now become an assistant in the Kindy Room. He shares an interest in animals with the children, particularly reptiles and fish.

We also have some students doing their practical experience in the classroom. Miss Asia has just completed her session and we thank her for engaging the children building pyramids and helping us work with clay. Miss Hayley will be in the classroom during November and we look forward to doing lots of arts and crafts with her.

Our studies….

During September we explored how amazing our bodies are, following on from our visit from Bravehearts, the personal safety incursion. We identified the major organs of the body and did practical experiments to help the children understand how they functioned. The messiest (and most fun) would have to be the digestion system where we got to mush up bread. We also identified foods that were healthy for our bodies to eat. Thank you for the amazing drawings and research that the children presented for Show and Tell during this project. We created and displayed a skeleton to reflect our learning about the bones of our body.

Due to the interest in animals we moved on to exploring land animals in October. To help us understand that animals live in different places we have grouped animals by habitat- rainforest, desert, polar and river. The children have enjoyed exploring these habitats in our small world tub, using ice for icebergs, sand and rocks for the desert and slime for the swamp. We have tested our fine motor skills building with clay, learning how to form pyramids, igloos and sculpting different animals. Thanks to Oliver for bringing in his volcano kit for us to play with. We had fun making it erupt many, many times!! It is amazing to see the improvement in our drawing recently. The children are now attempting quite detailed drawings of animals, including sharks and penguins.





Kindy Catch Up!



Events…….

Even though we could not have our dads at the centre for Father's Day we put a lot of effort into creating something for dad. Using our newly discovered printing technique we created a design for a tie that dad could use as a key holder.

Book Week was moved to October this year, due to COVID restrictions earlier in the year. The theme was Curious creatures, Wild minds and we celebrated by looking at some of the curious creatures of the polar regions, like the narwhal, colossal squid, penguin and sea spider. These captured the children's interest and we explored how to draw them and make them.





Emotional and social development…..

Our main focus around social development has been how to regulate our emotions more independently. We explored our current strategies for using words and asking for help in situations that are challenging. I have also used some small stories to help get the children to tell me what the best action is. For example one story featured an animal that wanted to throw rocks inside and the children were able to tell me that was unsafe, where it was safe to do and what was acceptable to throw. We are also using small group games to help children understand turn taking, fairness to others during play and winning or losing. The children have enjoyed bingo games, matching colours, shapes, animals or animal patterns and are learning to play together well.



Kindy Catch Up!

Moving our bodies…..



Our favourite moving activity has definitely been jumping and we have incorporated that into our outdoor activities. During Polar week, the mats became icebergs and the grass was freezing water. During Jungle Week the children climbed from tree to tree like monkeys. We also practiced our crawling, under and over obstacles.



Coming up……

We have started preparing our older Kindergarten children for their transition to school. We are exploring what they already know about school and how it might be different to Kindy. I enjoyed our discussion about how children around the world get to school. We will also look at using the Lollypop Person and how schools are different around the world. If you have any topics you would like to discuss with the children, please let me know. Preparing our children for school



Graduation is coming in early December and we will soon begin practicing our ceremony and pieces we would like to present to the families. It has been a strange year, but I still can't believe it is coming to a close.

At the end of November, children going to school will receive a Transition Statement, which is an official record of your child's development throughout their Kindy year. These can be passed on to your school to help them ease your child's move to Big School. If you have any concerns about how your child might manage this transition, please catch up with me at the centre or send an email and I will be happy to help.

Ms Natasha and Mr Mark





Move and Groove

This month our move and groove focus has been around running, jumping and climbing! This has been a very popular module with the children as they are excited to show off their existing abilities and build new skills! It has been wonderful to see the children develop confidence in their abilities as well as cheering on their friends in their attempts. Our Nursery children are continuing to be supported to develop their movement and arm and leg strength that will one day assist them in developing the required skills for running, jumping and climbing!

Remember to stay active!



Sustainability

Our current Sustainability focus is on the 3 R's—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Consider how many times you've bought more than you need, then tossed half of it in your rubbish bin.

Now imagine everyone else doing this, in households across Australia. That's an awful lot of garbage that goes into landfill and, from there, contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. And that's not to mention the rubbish that ends up in our waterways and oceans, where it does untold harm to our marine life.



You can help address this problem by adopting the mantra: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

With a little more thought, we can all change our habits so that we throw out less garbage. It's as easy as developing a few new practices - when shopping and in the kitchen - and very soon it becomes second nature.