



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter – October 2020

### Christmas this year

Dear parents and families,

Christmas is coming! Due to COVID-19, unfortunately we cannot hold our Christmas concert like before, but the show must go on! The children will still be performing this year, but we will record it and publish the videos in our Storypark app.

We will send another email or notice with the dates, so you can dress your children up on their performance day.

Our centre will be closed for one week, we will be closed from Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2020 and reopen on Tuesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2020.

We also want to thank all of you for your support this year during this unprecedented time.

Kind regards,

Elly Tjanterik



# **November Calendar of Events**

**31<sup>st</sup> – 01/11/20 – Samhain** – Festival marking the end of the Harvest Season

**03<sup>rd</sup> - Tuesday – Melbourne Cup Day**

**11<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Remembrance Day** - remember to buy a poppy and wear it to childcare, we will also be making our own poppy's

**14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Diwali**– Hindu tradition, Festival of Lights, this festival celebrates knowledge over ignorance



**15<sup>th</sup> - Sunday – Steve Irwin Day**

**07<sup>th</sup> - 07/11/20 – Kids Teaching Kids Week**

**09<sup>th</sup> - 15/11/20 – National Recycling Week**

**09<sup>th</sup> - 15/11/20 – Children Book Week**



# **Clownfish News**

## **Sandbox**

This month we had fun exploring our new sandbox, that became our new favourite place to play. With the addition of the sandbox, the children extended their learning, such as fine motor skills and eye and hand coordination (with the digging, pouring, scooping, and moulding using the cultural tools) as well as imagination and creativity. We even added water to sand to create wet sand that has a different texture to dry sand.



## **Animals**

Children interest in animals started from Lisboa's book about animals, which we extended with more books and songs. The children listened, engaged, and responded verbally and through their gestures. Prints using children's hands and feet were also created to extend their learning as well as collages!





## Sensory play

Throughout the month, the children showed strong interest in sensory play! To extend on their interest, Miss Angel created sensory bags with various materials (glitter, beans, pompoms, and etc) which we displayed at their level so they can go back to it whenever they want! Miss Maylene also made shakers from recycling bottles, various beans, seeds, and pasta to further their learning about sound (loud and soft). Lastly, we used sand to create different craft experiences as the children loved to play with it. We made different coloured sand, sand art, and sand jars/bag! Through these experiences, we talked about different textures and colours along when the children looked, rubbed, tapped, squeezed, poked, and scrunched different materials with their senses.



## Creative arts

We planned experiences on creative arts based on the parents' inputs about how their children loved exploring colours, drawing, and dancing at home! To continue, we used pencils and paints where the children freely expressed their imagination and ideas using a range of media to make meaning. We had beautiful arts that we proudly show on our wall to create a sense of belonging and ownership of their work. We also encouraged children to express their creativity through



music and dance by providing them with musical instruments and different types of music (slow and fast beat music).

## Book week



We also celebrated Book Week from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of September where the children were encouraged to dress up as their favourite characters and share the book with us. The children brought their books and excited to listen to the story when the educators read them. Lisboa dressed up as



Emma and Eleanor even brought her cat's headband and tail. We also extended their book with songs and dance. Thank you for all parents that were contributing!



Until next time,

Clownfish educators.



# Jellyfish News

**A big welcome to our new friend Josh!**



**Dancing and music interest continued** – To extend on the children's music interest (started on the 8th of September), Alicia brought in a shaker (thanks to the family for your contribution 😊!) Our musical instruments were then provided to continue enabling



the children to express meaning using music. They loved the creative experience and expressed their ideas through dance, movement and music (on the 1<sup>st</sup>), as they used the instruments. The children especially liked the new drum and made sure to take turns so everyone could experiment with it. Since the children enjoyed their musical experience so much, we decided to take the instruments out with us. Hazel went over to the drum first, put it on and started marching around the yard. The children were encouraged to notice what Hazel was doing and a big march started, with the children following the march with their dancing ribbons.



**The ever-present nature interest: Snails continues!** – To extend their interest towards snails (started on 17th of September), Miss Sinni provided a snail painting activity for the jellyfish children to freely

participate in (on the 1<sup>st</sup>). The children rushed to the painting table, “Me, me” expressing excitedly. They stimulated their fine motor skill as they painted on the shells with colourful paint, they picked their favourite colours and labelled the colour. We also discussed the different sizes of the shells, learning about small and big concepts. The snail interest continued strong throughout the month! On the 8th, to extend jellyfish children interest towards drawing (started on 7th of September), we provided them with easel which Miss Elly recently purchased for us. The drawing turned into a snail experience after Kingston shared, “I’m making snail, look, two eyes”. When Ava heard that Kingston was drawing a snail, she rushed to the garden to find the snails, she searched along the plants, “Look, Miss Sinni, I found snails, here and here” pointed Ava excitedly. The snails were placed on the table for further exploration and everyone counted them together. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, the children continued to search for them outside and they were in luck as there seemed to have been a snail explosion in our gardens! Miss Sinni moved all



the snails on the sandpit cover for the children to keep exploring. There were so many, a big family, we decided together! Miss Sinni then found a caterpillar in the garden and the children gathered around, remembering the very hungry caterpillar story. Yes! They were reminded of the butterfly life cycle.

**Sensory experiences** – Also on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Ava shared her sensory book and we discussed the concept of hard and soft, the group also discovered the soft fur and which animals have soft fur. The next day, Alicia reached out to Miss Sinni and asked her to read a book, it was also a sensory book. We then as a group revisited our idea about soft and hard, in a group discussion, and the children explored by touching and feeling the sensory book and expressing their senses.

To extend their interest in sensory, Miss Sinni provided the group with a DIY sensory bag activity to freely join. The group showed their enthusiasm to participate, they stimulated their gross motor skill and eye-hand coordination as they carefully poured the oil and water into the sandwich bag. They then were given the opportunity to choose which materials they wanted to put in their bags. We filled the bags with pompoms, googly eyes, alphabets, sequins, buttons and glitters as decoration, as chosen by the children. We now have a sensory wall for children to engage in from what they created!







On the 6<sup>th</sup>, Miss Sinni prepared a sensory flag painting for the group to engage with as an extension of their sensory interest. The children used their fingers to squeeze and move the paint under the wrap and we used recycled cardboard as the canvas to maintain our sustainability practice. We then discussed the symbolic meaning of the flag colours. It is the perfect decoration for our room!



**The beach** - The Jellyfish children started talking about going to the beach on the 6<sup>th</sup>, following hearing all about Milla's and Hazel's time at the beach over the long weekend. The next day, the beach came up again as we saw pictures of Matilda's long weekend (also at the beach!) and Kingston brought in his beach bucket to share. Seems like we all love going to the beach! To extend on the beach topic, Miss Alex suggested to the children, "How about we



create a beach using sand from our sandpit today?" As the

creative experience was being set up, the children approached, keen to get started. As well as sand from our sandpit, the children could use pieces in their craft that related to what we saw in Matilda's news, such as birds and stars to represent starfish. People felt pieces and other sea animals were also provided. The next day, Grace shared pictures of her time at the beach and pool. To further extend on our beach discussions, the water table was set up like a beach on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with blue water and shells. All the children approached the table as soon as we got outside! What an exciting activity for such a nice day! The children decided to combine animal play with their water play by choosing animals from the mat and bring them over. They also brought in pinecones and cups to their play. To extend the interest towards the beach, on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Miss Sinni read the 'Protect the earth' book with the group. The book reading led us to a discussion about how to keep our planet clean and healthy. Later outside, outdoor play, the group continued their interest towards waterplay. This time, Miss Sinni put dried leaves (to represent rubbish) in the water table and the group collected the rubbish with tongs. After the children finish with their water play, they are encouraged to use the water to water our gardens. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, Maisie and Lucas brought in shells. To extend on our beach learning, Miss Sinni provided them with a DIY Ocean Sensory bottle activity. Miss Sinni then assisted them, first they needed to fill the



bottle with sand, then baby oil, blue water to represent the ocean and seashells that Lucas brought for us (Thank you 😊).



**Counting in other languages** - To extend Jellyfish children's interest in counting (started on 8/10/20), Miss Sinni challenged them by counting in Bahasa Indonesia and Mandarin too (on the 9<sup>th</sup>). The group showed their enthusiasm and participated in the counting together, they followed Miss Sinni and used their fingers to count. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, Miss Sinni invited Miss Alex to count to 10 in Portuguese to the children. The children started learning to count in

other languages on the 9<sup>th</sup> when Miss Sinni extended their interest in numeracy by teaching them to count in Bahasa Indonesian and in Mandarin. On Tuesday (13<sup>th</sup>), Miss Alex showed the children how to count to 10 in Portuguese. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, the children were invited to count in other languages again. Yuna was asked if he could teach us how to count in Japanese. He nodded but felt a little shy to do it. Using our I-pad, we repeated after the video from 1-10 in Japanese, and then in Korean. The children demonstrated great enthusiasm as they actively contributing to mathematical learning for themselves and others. What a fun way to broaden our understanding of the world we live in! On the 28<sup>th</sup>, we listened to Alicia; s mum singing Happy birthday in Korean through her news and Miss Alex also demonstrated how to sing in Portuguese. We love learning new languages!



**Playdough** – After Alicia shared that she spent her weekend playing playdough, we decided to make our own playdough too! Miss Sinni provided all the ingredients, and the children made the



dough, labelling all the ingredients, “Salt, Flour, Water, Oil, cream of tartar, food colouring” repeated the group.”

To maintain our hygiene practice, we divided the dough into 10, the group counted how many doughs Miss Sinni made for the group, and everyone picked their favourite colours and glitter for their personal dough, later we placed it into the personal bag with their name labelled on it.



**Recycled materials and dramatic play** – Grace and her family brought recycled coffee trays for us (Thank you parents for participating in our sustainable practice ❤️). Miss Alex asked her, “What would you like to do with this, Grace”. “I want to do painting” replied Grace. As they painted, the children started noticing that the two colours they chose, pink and blue, made a nice new colour: lilac! The next day, the children used their beautiful coffee trays for dramatic play as a coffee shop as set up with recycled

coffee cups too!



**Book week** – We marked book week as we had Maisie and Ava come dressed up in their favorite characters and books! To extend their interest in books, we created a big comfy spaces, with lots of pillows (inside and outside) for book reading. The children enjoyed the week of listening, engaging and responding to their own and friends’ favourite stories. It's great to see the children actively sharing their enjoyment for reading! 😊



**Activities outside of Pumpkin** – We had a mini ballet class after learning that Ailsie started ballet classes. The families where then invited to share about their children’s outside of Pumpkin activities and we also discovered that Alicia has been doing soccer training. That led us to having our own soccer training here with obstacles and a goal for kicking the balls into! Miss Sinni assisted them on the training, as they crawled under the wooden plank and







then kicked to score goals! Miss Alex said that yesterday jellyfish children had a great time



throwing balls during outdoor play, so Miss Alex suggested a great idea to

provide children with basketball ring too, Miss Sinni then grabbed the ring and set it next to the soccer post. Since the children enjoyed the soccer game so much, the next day we set up a basketball ring for a throwing game, instead of a kicking game. The children loved it and celebrated their efforts and achievements by sharing them with the educators and clapping! To extend the physical games interest, bowling and quoits game were also provided this month. "I did it Ms Maylene", the children celebrated their achievements!



**Halloween** - To mark the celebration, the children were invited to come dressed-up. We had 5 witches, a Batgirl and Spiderman with us on the 29<sup>th</sup>. We all enjoyed a lovely Halloween hunt where the children looked for scary lollies and they also made a very scary cake, using recycled materials (combining the Halloween celebration with the cake making interest from the previous day). What a fun day!



Until next month,  
Jellyfish Educators





# Lionfish & Starfish Newsletter



October has been a busy month in the Lionfish and Starfish rooms. We had our playground renovated and the children are really enjoying exploring the new environment, including the new sandpit, gardens and home corner area.



After the long weekend, a lot of families took advantage of the beautiful weather and went to the beach or camping. Their families sent in photos to share about these experiences and this created an interest in sandpit play and water play as well as exploring natural resources and sea



life. The children explored shells and other natural resources, using them in different areas of play including the homecorner. They also used the resources in the sandpit and water play.

The children have also enjoyed exploring the loose parts both indoors and outdoors, using them in a variety of ways. They used natural and recycled resources in their play in home corner, the sandpit, to create different patterns and also with the cars and trucks.



Physical activities also continued as an interest with the children working together to create their own obstacle courses, continuing to ride the bikes and also discovering the hula hoops and learning how to use them in different ways, moving them around different parts of their bodies or adding them to their obstacle courses. The children have also enjoyed dancing to a variety of music that Miss Nicole has on her Iphone. They have particularly enjoyed adding the ribbons and using them in their dance moves.



The construction interest also continued both indoors and outdoors with the Lionfish and Starfish children using their imagination and creativity with the lego, mobilo, magnetic blocks, mega blocks and waffle blocks to build a variety of things including cars, robots, zombies, houses,



castles and suitcases. They also incorporated the loose parts and recycled cardboard boxes in their play.



We also celebrated book week from 19th to 23rd October. A lot of children came dressed up in different characters and others used our dress ups. Once dressed up, they role played different scenarios both indoors and outdoors. They also brought in their favourite books to share with



their peers. Some of the Educators came in dressed up and this rekindled the interest in pirates and treasure hunts.



The last week of October was Halloween and we invited the children to come in dressed up as something spooky if they wished to do so. The Lionfish and Starfish children came dressed as witches. Wizards, zombies and other characters. We had a great day, making wands after one of



the children came with a magic wand and it was a great hit.

Until next month Lionfish and Starfish Educators 😊