



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – February 2021

Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

The learning outcomes are most likely to be achieved when educators with partnership with families. Partnerships are based on effective communication which builds the foundations of understanding about each other's expectations and attitudes and recognised and respects one another's knowledge and expertise. We encourage families to share information about other child-related services accessed by the family.

Families are also encouraged to share their child's strengths, interests, abilities and needs.

Parents are the child's first and most influential teachers, and services need to recognise and value the expertise that families bring in this role. Keyser points out that effective partnerships with families bring unique knowledge and understanding of children to the process of shared decision making about their learning and wellbeing.

Sharing information about the child's likes and dislikes, preferences and culture is a way of building a bond between the families and educators.

We want to thank families and parents who have filled in our 'All About Me' form, if you have not done this, please contact the educator in your child's room.

Kind regards,

Pumpkin Educators

March Calender of Event

07th - Sunday – Clean up Australia Day

09 – 10/03/20 - Purim – Jewish tradition

11st – Thursday – Maha Shivaratri, Hindu tradition

17th – Wednesday – St Patrick's Day, come and dress in green

19th – Friday – Red Nose Day

21st – Sunday – Harmony Day

28 – 29/03/20 - Holi – One of the major festivals of India

28th - Sunday – Palm Sunday, Christian



Clownfish News

This month, we welcome Jagger to our Clownfish room 😊

Lunar New Year Celebration

In the beginning of the month, we celebrated Lunar New Year for the year of Ox. Educators

intentionally raised children's awareness by discussing the history, pictures of the zodiacs and culture that are celebrated during this time. The experiences were planned during this time such as making firecrackers, lanterns, treats and dumplings. These experiences also developed their fine motor skills and coordination as they painted, stuck red papers on the lanterns, mixed and

pinched during the cooking experiences. Miss Chun even made dumplings with the children as dumplings are traditionally eaten during this time and symbolised good luck. Miss Angel encouraged the children to dress in traditional costume and it was beautiful to see how one of the children wore it!



Construction

Construction has been consistent interest in the room in the beginning of the year as the children explored different types of connectors to build and express their ideas and imagination. The educators provided





different types of connectors for the children to explore. The children got more creative and independent in their play as well as proud of what they did. It was



evident in their smile or when they showed their creation to the educators confidently. They also enjoyed and learnt about cause and effect through this interest as they loved to stack the blocks up, let them fall and laughed.

Role play

At the end of the month, the children showed strong interest in role play. They grabbed the pretend food and tools and be in the kitchen corner to explore it. Educators also supported their play by providing more resources for them to explore such as doctors' kit, the baby's kit and more recycle materials added to the kitchen corners. The children explored different identities through this play as well as their communication skills. Educators intentionally scaffolded their interest by observing their play, being



attuned to it, responding to their cues and acknowledging their efforts to communicate and expressing their ideas. Miss Angel also planned a cooking experience that provided children with real life tasks as well as developed their fine motor skills. Recycle materials also added to their play so that they felt connection with the real world.

Dear Parents,

- 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.
- 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

A big welcome to George and our new fish tank and 5 fish in it!

Physical experiences – The children have been showing their enthusiasm and interest towards getting physical this month. They have engaged in ball games, yoga sessions, Simon says game, challenged themselves on the different ways the obstacle course has been set up, engaged in dancing, rode bikes,

hopped on bouncy balls, practiced their big jumping, throwing, kicking and catching skills and balanced on the balancing boards!



Our garden – The children enjoyed a lovely tomato tasting on

the 4th, from the ripe tomatoes in our garden. Yummy!

The next day, Miss Pimpini invited the children to have a look at our figs tree. The group picked figs for Miss Pimpini cut them and for another delicious tasting to begin! On the 18th, Ellesha (Bianca's mum) alerted us to a spider she spotted outside. Miss Elly placed it in a container so he could explore it further. We counted its'

legs and discovered that it was a huntsman but not a hairy one. The children then helped Miss Sinni to clean all the webs around our yard.





Lunar New Year – Miss Sinni intentionally discussed with the children the Lunar New Year history to raise the children's awareness of the celebration. The children



discovered that based on Chinese Zodiac, 2021 is the year of Ox. Miss Sinni showed the group an Ox poster, then used the iPad to browse the internet and help the group find more about the animal since the children did not recognise it. Miss Sinni also showed the group the video of the Lunar New Year celebration, with the celebration of the new year marked by lighting up the firecrackers that were originally used to scare away a monster called Nian and other evil spirits. The children enjoyed watching videos of the popular Lion Dance. The children also got to make their own



firecrackers, Chinese drums, Chinese desserts and engaged in free painting with red paint and gold sprinkles. After Amelia arrived in her beautiful traditional Chinese dress on the 10th, Miss Alex extended on the children's Lunar New Year learning. First, with the help of Miss Elly, we learnt that the traditional dress is called Chong San dress. Miss Alex found a great 'Luo Bao Bei' episode on ABC kids about the Chinese New Year coming. The story was about teamwork as the children practiced playing the lion dance in a parade. In the end, the characters said, "Happy New Year" and we repeated it as a group. It was interesting to see how the lion dance works as two people have to dress up in it and one is the head and the other is the tail. Miss Sinni also explained the difference between the Lion dance and the Dragon dance to the group and we could see how the Dragon one is indeed longer in the episode we watched. Finally, the children also swept up the bad luck with brooms outside and then enjoyed hiding them after we learnt about this part of the celebration. On the 12th, the group listened to a story brought in by Maisie called Busy Chinese New Year and extended the reading by making a paper dragon.

Valentine's day – To mark Valentine's day, the children engaged in varied experiences such as love letter making, discussion of feelings and book readings. Miss Alex had a quick discussion with the group about the upcoming day and encouraged the children to talk about the ones they love as the children created lovely love



letters for the special people in their lives. Through our Valentine's day experiences, the children had the opportunity to openly express their emotions and thoughts with others.

Pancake Tuesday –

Another celebration marked this month was Pancake Tuesday. The children asked for playdough and when



Miss Nicole shared about her pancake making experience in the preschool room, we had an idea! Why not combine playdough with pancakes? The children made 'pancakes' with their dough and practiced flipping them in frying pans and by using spatulas! The children were encouraged to give thanks for the things they like and have. The playdough fun continued the next day. On the 18th, the children got to decorate their won biscuits following all the cooking with playdough interest. And talking about playdough, the children also made their own playdough on the 1st of this month, following an interest in home corner cooking.



Literacy learning -

The Jellyfish children are becoming more confident writers and



are working towards recognising their own initial letters, as well as their peers' initial letters. They have been making wonderful efforts to freely copy their initial letters next to Miss Alex's examples. Miss Alex has also been guiding their hands, helping them to write, encouraging them to notice the different lines and shapes of their names. They have also enjoyed letters in water play this month and have been challenged to identify their own letter out of two letter cards. On the 25th, Joshua came to Pumpkin with a top with his name on it, we got inspired and decided to extend our literacy learning by engaging in letter stamping. Well done, everyone!



6.5 All about recycling – On the 22nd, we received a new recycle caddy called "FOGO-Food Organics Garden Organics" from the Randwick City Council. To raise the children's awareness about recycling, Miss Sinni showed them the FOGO caddy and intentionally discussed with the group about the new recycle bin, as we discovered that it is

where we can now put food scraps to good use. Miss Sinni showed the group the brochure and together they investigated what could go in it, learning about all the food and garden waste that we collect will be sent to a composting facility. Next, the group listened to the 'Recycle' book before looking in our room's recycle bin and



labelling all the recycled materials inside. Miss Sinni also told the group that we can use all these recycled materials to make art and craft and invited them to bring recycled materials from home too. Outside at the playground, Miss Sinni then invited the group for a nature walk and to collect all the dried leaves or flower that we could find on the ground. Using the nature resources that the children collected, as well as the recycled food magazines' cut -ups, Miss Sinni engaged the children in making a recycling poster. The next day, the children painted the recycle resources from the bin and created a big construction by sticking all the parts together once it had all dried up, calling it a 'messy house'. The next day, the children enjoyed doing collage and free drawing

on cardboard boxes left from our food catering company. They also were challenged to write their first letters (combining the experience with our current literacy learning) on the cardboard paper and freely made circles and lines! The children have since been showing their enthusiasm in placing their own scrap food in the FOGO Caddy by themselves! Well done, children! ♥

Dramatic play – On the 2nd, the children engaged with the doctor kits. The children showed their interest and enthusiasm when Miss Sinni set up the dramatic corner for them with doctor set. Miss Pimpini decided to engage in their role play and started to have a conversation with them. At the home corner, Miss Sinni also added some shopping baskets, phones and cashier machines for them to explore their roleplay further. The next day, the cash register play continued as Miss Rozina set up the cash register and some foods on the table for sale as an extension of children's interest from the previous day. While outside, Miss Alex opened the sandpit for the children and they got busy cooking food using the utensils that Miss Alex provided. On the 15th, the role-play interest returned with the children being interested in the pretend cameras. Upon noticing the interest, Miss Fenny showed the children how to use the real camera and gave them the opportunity to take photos of each other. On the 23rd, Miss Alex set up a nappy changing station with real sized newborn nappies to extend the children's role-playing interest and to celebrate the fact that one of the children had their new baby brother brought home from hospital. On the 25th, Hazel opened a conversation about her sister going to the doctors and that led us to engaging in doctor/patient dramatic play.



The children especially liked bandages – a new addition to our doctor kits.

Until next month,

Jellyfish Educators

Lionfish & Starfish News

Parent Notices

- Please ensure you label all your child's belongings
- Please share via story park or e-mail a current family photo to add to our family sea wall
- If you have not already, please fill out an all about me form. This is in the planning section on story park or ask one of the educators for a sheet to fill out.



Literacy and Numeracy... This month the Starfish and Lionfish have expressed their growing interest in literacy and numeracy. The Starfish and Lionfish have engaged in various



letter puzzles as well using the alphabet bean bags in various ways. Throughout the month the Starfish and Lionfish have also engaged with the magnetic letters on the small and large whiteboard. When doing so spelling their own names, names of family members and peers. Each transition the Starfish and Lionfish have been counting how many peers and educators are present. During the afternoon, the Starfish and Lionfish have continued to trace/write their names as well some worksheets. Miss Nicole is starting to challenge some peers to write their names unassisted. During group times the Starfish and Lionfish have collaborated and cooperated with educators to further explore numbers and letters through playing on the pro-wise board and writing on the prowsie board too.



Construction... The Starfish and Lionfish have been using an array of materials to build, assemble, invent and construct. This including waffle blocks, construction sets, junior engineer kit and



the wooden blocks. During the middle of the month the Starfish and Lionfish used recycled

materials to create their own box constructions. After building the Starfish and Lionfish have used their constructions within their play.



Sandpit... The sandpit has been requested to be opened most days. The Starfish and Lionfish have assisted educators to open and close sandpit as well as set up and pack away the resources (Great work). While in the sandpit the Starfish and Lionfish have



used the large trucks and cars to fill up and transfer sand before moving them to different areas.

The Starfish and Lionfish have also been busy cooking up a storm in the sandpit. There was been various cakes, soups, pasta, desserts, and drink been shared with peers and educators.



Dramatic Play... While inside and outside the Starfish and Lionfish have expressed their imagination and creativity through engaging within various forms of dramatic play. There has been countless games of babies, mums and dads as well as pretending to be various animal too. This has been



furthered through the request of trolleys and prams. The Starfish and Lionfish have taken on various roles and identities through dressing up and engaging with the fairy garden. This also included making their own fast-food drive through using the worm tunnel and the bikes.

The home corners (inside and outside) have also been the starting points for various parties and picnics.

Water Safety... This month countless Starfish and Lionfish peers have shared news regarding the beach and pools. This led to the Starfish and Lionfish joining with educators to learn more about



water and beach safety. Miss Nicole read the book “Boo’s adventures at the beach” which furthered into various discussions. Together we visited the surf lifesaving website using the prowise board and looked at other ways to stay safe and watched a short video. While outside the Starfish and Lionfish expressed their learning creativity through drawing the ways we can keep safe at the beach and pool as well creating their own red and yellow flag.

Lunar New Year... To celebrate Lunar New Year the Starfish and Lionfish firstly listened to a book detailing what is Lunar New Year and some associated practices and customs. After discussion the Starfish and Lionfish collaborated and cooperated to make their own lion to hang within the classroom. Throughout the month peers shared their experiences about Lunar New Year through sharing photos of news. This resulted in the Starfish and Lionfish exploring the lion dance, the music/sounds and associated instruments.



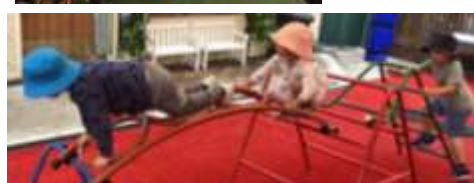
Fine Motor Experiences... Towards the end of the month the Starfish and Lionfish have expressed interested in experiences that provide the opportunity to engage with their fine motor skills.



The Starfish and Lionfish have employed their fine motor skills to physically participate within experiences as they build, explore and construct. For example, the Starfish and Lionfish have attempted to tie shoelaces, thread, made necklaces and use various tongs to pick up and manipulate resources.



Gross Motor Experiences... When asked what they would like set up the Startfish and Lionfish request the bikes. The Starfish and Lionfish have engaged their



physically skills and gross motor skills to pedal around their learning



environment. This has been furthered through using the tyres, cones and various signs. The Starfish and Lionfish have also constructed various obstacle courses and successfully moved through them. To challenge this Miss Nicole changed the climbing frame, which the Starfish and Lionfish are mastering. Most days when outside the Starfish and Lionfish have also requested to the speaker so they can express their creativity, imagination and identities through creative movement.



Natural Environment... This month the Starfish and Lionfish have expressed an interest in the natural environment as well various bugs and insects. Through news Starfish and Lionfish



peers have shared bugs and insects found at home. We have researched various facts as well as also referencing books and images via the prowise board. The Starfish and Lionfish created their own spider as well using various loose parts and natural materials to make their own bugs and insects. While outside the Starfish and Lionfish used the magnifying glass to look closer at bugs and insects that they find. The Starfish and Lionfish have also assisted educators in taking care of the environment and watered the plants.

Until Next Month,

Starfish and Lionfish Educators 😊 😊

