



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter – May 2020

### Infection prevention and control precautions reminders

Dear Pumpkin families,

Please help us to continue to apply infection prevention and control precautions by keeping your child home if he or she is unwell. We ask you to refrain from bringing your child to Pumpkin if he or she is unwell. For example, if your child has any cold or flu symptoms (such as fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose or shortness of breath).

If your child becomes unwell during their time at Pumpkin, we will contact you and ask you to collect them as soon as possible (within the hour). Your child will then need a clearance letter from a doctor upon returning to our service.

We would also like to remind you of the current restrictions on entry into our service, the following visitors should not be permitted to enter the facility:

- Exclusion of unwell children, visitors and staff
- Those who have returned from overseas in the last 14 days.
- Those who have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days (a contact is defined as anyone who has been in contact with a known case, including the 24 hours before the case became symptomatic)
- Additionally, we continue to request that only staff and children enter the classrooms at this time to respect the social distancing advice. Please continue to pick up/drop off your child in front of their classrooms. ***If you arrive at the service and the children are playing outside, please stay behind the gate, we will bring your child in or out.***

Thank you for your support!

Kind regards,

Elly Tjanterik

## June Calender of Event

01<sup>st</sup> – Monday – Whit Monday, Christian tradition

07<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – Trinity Sunday, Christian tradition

08<sup>th</sup> - Monday – Queen's Birthday, Centre closed

11<sup>th</sup> – Thursday – Corpus Christi, Christian Tradition

15 – 21/06/20 – Refugee Week



# Clownfish News



## **Mother's Day** To celebrate the

Mother's Day event, we staff took the initiative and invited the children in taking part in participating on making decorations



for Mother's Day. We got them to trace their handprint on the piece of coloured paper, decorated it flowers and put them on the paper pot plant. Children participated and cooperated



by allowing me to trace their hands-on paper. They were patient and listening to the instructions that is being said to them.

## **Letters and Alphabets-** we have re-introduced the

alphabets to the clownfish children. It is the interest activity that they started last week when they were combined with the Jellyfish children. First, we

provided the children with the alphabet puzzles. We

also gave them the magnetic alphabets, teaching the children with sounding

letters and letter recognition. Also, we spelt out their names on the white board

with the magnetic alphabets. We have used materials like legos, paints and

other bright colours items to attract children to join in the interest of learning

letters and alphabet.

## **Nature and natural resources-** Following yesterdays. Children did some

painting on leaves. Upon that interest, we with the children extend further on leaves, trees and nature. We gathered some items that we can get our hands on and learn more about them. We came up with pinecones, outer shells from seeds and nuts, we also have seashells. Children were interested, they came to the table and checked out the supply of nature materials we have put together for them to investigate. They started to feel the pinecone, it feels rough, uneven. The seashells feels smooth a bit sharp on the edges, we have different shapes and colours of seashell. Josiah put the seashell next to his ear. Also, we have some interesting outer shell from seeds and nuts, we explored through them as well. Children enjoyed playing with them. **Nature excursion-** following on the children's interest on nature, and leaves. So, this morning, we staff with the children





decided to go on tour around our own playground and Starfish playground to see what we can discover in our exploring of nature. During when we got to the Starfish playground Cody found yellow grapefruit, he was happy carrying it around the grapefruit with him, he also discovers plant pots. Lisboa enjoys the outdoor, she loves running around. We took the children around to look at many plants we have here at the centre, we have mango trees, avocado trees, we have many



plants and herbs and we collected some of few nature items we found in our tour, we will be pasting in some of those bits and pieces of nature. items we found on the paper and hand them on our clownfish wall. Overall clownfish children enjoyed the outdoor excursion, they explored, investigate and participated with the outdoor. **Shakers-** This morning, Ms Catherine continued with the children's interest in natural materials and resources. She provided the children homemade shakers filled with barks, seed and mini pinecones. Children took interest in them and began to play with the shakers. They like the sounds that comes out of the shakers.



**Free play-** throughout this month of May. Clownfish children look out for their own interest during the free play. Whether indoor or



outdoor. Their main interest during free play were books it was taken interest on daily basis, dolls, kitchen corner and cooking items was always occupied by clownfish children. They also liked singing and dancing to the wiggles. Musical toys were often visited by the children. Medical equipment was seen often played by the children. In the outdoor setting clownfish children enjoyed playing pee-a-boo, hide n' seek in the cubby house. Soft large blocks were played for construction. Passing, bouncing, and catching the ball to each-other was enjoyed by clownfish children.



## Healthy eating habits- teaching clownfish children about nutrition and



healthy food choices. We invited the children to gather around the table, we showed the children magazine full of good food ideas. The photos of the foods were very inviting, it had

lots of bright colours and foods that the children can recognised. We showed the children what “eating right” looks like. Explaining that in their plates should always have fruits and vegetables that have nutrient and helps their body grows. Conversing with the children telling them that all foods have a place in their diet. Foods with the least nutrition, such as French fries, do not need to be off limit however they are not everyday

food. Ms Maylene showed the magazine of foods, I enquired from the children to point out which food that they want me to cut -out to paste it in our food collage. After going through the magazine, we came up with lots of yummy food ideas. Children helped Ms Maylene paste it on our collage using glue. Clownfish children Helped Ms Maylene to contribute in shared projects and learning healthy eating habits experiences. teaching clownfish children about nutrition and healthy food choices. We invited the children to gather around the table, we showed the children magazine full of good food ideas. The photos of the foods were very inviting, it had lots of bright colours and foods that the children can recognised. We showed the children what “eating right” looks like. Explaining that in their plates should always have fruits and vegetables that have nutrient and helps their body grows. Conversing with the children telling them that all foods have a place in their diet. Foods with the least nutrition, such as French fries, do not need to be off limit however they are not everyday food. Ms Maylene showed the magazine of foods, I enquired from the children to point out which food that they want me to cut -out to paste it in our food collage. After going through the magazine, we came up with lots of yummy food ideas. Children helped Ms Maylene paste it on our collage using glue. Clownfish children Helped Ms Maylene to contribute to shared projects and learning healthy eating habits experiences.

Until next time,

Clownfish Educators.

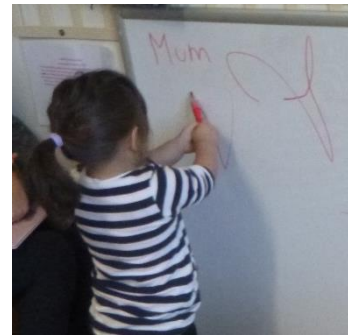
# Jellyfish News

**A big welcome to our Clownfish friend Grace!**

**Mother's day celebrations** – The children started working on their Mother's Day gift at the start of the month. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, Miss Alex counted with the children how many sleeps until Mother's day and discussed how it was a special day for mums. We read books about mothers such as 'My mum's the best' and discussed the many ways the children's mum make them happy (and vice versa, of course)!



Combining the literacy interest with our Mother's Day celebrations, Miss Alex wrote 'mum' on the whiteboard and the children were very excited to try and write it for themselves!



**Literacy and Numeracy interest** – The Jellyfish children continued extending on their numeracy interest this month. For example, on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Miss Pimpini and the children enjoyed numeracy book reading ('Come count with me', book chosen by the children) Through the book, the children counted together, "1,2,3,4,5". The children have also enjoyed using our counting eggs, as a way to take on roles of numeracy users their play. With the eggs, shapes and colours have also been discussed. In regard to their literacy interest, they have been requesting and enjoying our Letterland book and its' characters. The children also often enjoy using chalk to draw all over our playground and to practise writing their initial letters and numbers!



**The nature interest continues further** – One morning Alicia shared a leaf that she picked up from outside. Miss Pimpini shared an idea, using the leaf as brush for painting! The children chose "yellow, orange, purple" and enjoyed the art experience. On another day this month, the children collected leaves from outside and made a beautiful leaf collage!







**Classic Stories**– The Jellyfish children have two favourite stories at the moment, ‘We are going on a bear hunt’ and ‘Three little pigs’, requesting them daily! The children have been introducing their peers to other classic stories such as ‘Little red riding hood’, ‘Room on the broom’, ‘Wombat stew’, ‘Oh no George’, ‘Classic nursery rhymes’ and ‘Three Billy goats gruff’. Talking about 3 little pigs, Miss Elly has bought our room a new game about the 3 little pigs. When Miss Alex showed the children the new room addition, they were beyond excited to explore it! They have continued playing with the game all month! Inside, there has been some house building too with the children building very big and very tall houses together and adding little animals to their

houses. The Jellyfish children have also been engaging in lots of dramatic play, role-playing the stories together. Mid-month, they created their own wolves and little pigs and wolf masks after demonstrating excitement towards the wolves in the stories.



**New equipment** – The Jellyfish children have been enjoying the new resources, such as the new kitchen outdoors and building together with the new Lego and wooden blocks. The children have been having a lot of fun using our new Lego blocks to build, take apart, assemble, invent and construct as they cooperate with and work collaboratively with

each other. They have also been combining the new Lego blocks with our new wooden blocks as they image and express creativity through their social play!





**Shape painting and National Sorry day** – Since we were having a rainy indoor day on the 26<sup>th</sup>, Miss Alex suggested some painting. Alicia said, “Red and yellow. Balloon!”. What a good idea! Since she has been bringing balls in lately and suggested balloon, we discussed the circle shape and decided to do some shapes painting today, using the colours Alicia



suggested. The children made square, triangle, rectangle and of course, circle print shapes! And to mark Sorry day, Miss Alex brought up the colours chosen by Alicia for our painting experience, explaining that we can find them, along with black, in the Aboriginal flag. We spoke about the meaning of the three colours: the red earth, sun and people. We also read an Aboriginal story called Warnayarra, the rainbow snake. The children enjoyed discussing all the colours of the snake too!



Until next month,

Jellyfish Educators



# Lionfish & Starfish News

## Parent Notices:

- With the weather getting cooler, please ensure you child has a jumper/jacket packed and weather appropriate spare clothes (including socks).
- Please ensure all belongings are clearly labelled including jumper/jackets/vests.
- If you arrive when children are outside please wait for an educator at the gate to greet you.



**Origami...** Throughout May the Lionfish and Starfish have engaged with the origami process. Earlier in the month as an extension from a peer's news we used coloured paper to make our own dragonflies. This led to the interest of making paper airplanes and exploring the distance and height they can fly. To further this Miss Nicole made a target game which provided the opportunity for the Starfish and Lionfish to attempt to throw their planes through different sized targets.



**Construction...** The Lionfish and Starfish have been busy builders using various resources to invent and construct. The favourite resources being lego, colourful lego, junior engineer kit, magnetic blocks,



mobilo and mega blocks. We have had various houses, towers, boats, animals, cars built with the list going on. The Lionfish and Starfish have expressed great pride and satisfaction with their creations and now display it on our construction shelf. The Lionfish and Starfish have shared their creations made at home as a result of our news topic being construction. There also has been countless conversations regarding lego masters.



**Bikes and Cars...** When outside throughout May the Lionfish and Starfish have frequently requested to have the bikes and car brought out. When doing so expressing concern for safety of themselves and others through putting on their helmets and assisting





others to put on theirs. While pedalling around the outside environment the Lionfish and Starfish have showed each other how they go fast and how they can pedal forwards and backwards. On countless occasions a road has been created using chalk, with a pedestrian crossing, roundabouts. The Lionfish and Starfish have also pretended they were traffic lights through calling our red light and green light in order for their peers to stop and go.



**Mother's Day...** During May we celebrated Mother's Day. Together the Lionfish and Starfish created a Mother's Day banner to extended on a peer's news.

This was added to by the Lionfish and Starfish drawing their mums. When doing so discussing what their Mum looks like and why they love them. These are displayed on the window facing outside- come have a look. The Lionfish and Starfish created their own special Mother's Day gifts to express the great love and thanks for their



Mum. During news we heard of special Mother's Day celebrations. Throughout the month we also read various Mother's Day books.



**Drawing...** The Lionfish and Starfish have expressed an interest in drawing especially when arriving at the service and when outside. When doing so expressing their imagination and creativity while also discussing what they are drawing. Once done proudly showing educators and peers. We have various rainbows, families, butterflies, dinosaurs and even



people running away from an erupting volcano.



**Dramatic Play...** During May the Lionfish and Starfish have been engaging with dramatic play. When outside we have had an animal's hospital, zombie games created by the Lionfish and Starfish as well as superhero play. The Lionfish and Starfish have engaged with the indoor and outdoor home corner to cook and have various tea parties and birthday parties. When doing so using the dolls to further this







play and learning. The Lionfish and Starfish have created using the mobilio and role-played being police officers.

**Gross Motor Games...** While outdoors the Lionfish and Starfish have effectively employed the use of their gross motor skills and abilities. The Lionfish and Starfish have used the

black stepping stones to great their own leap frog game. Bowling has been also requested. Where the Lionfish and Starfish problem solve as to how to stand the pins up before demonstrating pro-



social behaviours when waiting to and when bowling. The Lionfish and Starfish have used their gross motor skills to explore numbers and counting when using the target throw games (Even requested the target with higher numbers). Towards the end of the month the



Lionfish and Starfish have collaborated and cooperated with each other to create their own obstacle course using the coloured buckets, stepping stones, balancing beams and the climbing frame. Once finished moving through the obstacle with countless smiles and laughs as well as encouraging and congratulating their peers.



**Literacy and Numeracy...** The Lionfish and Starfish have been provided with opportunity write using their name and number writing sheets. The Lionfish and Starfish have improved greatly and now are challenged through not only tracing their names but

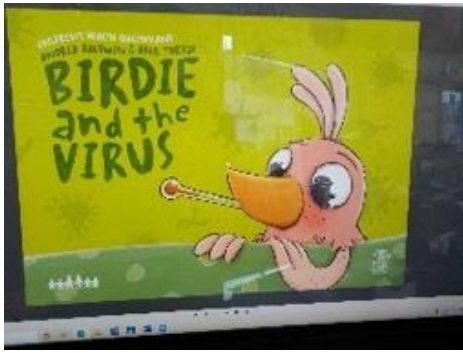
writing it themselves. Lionfish and Starfish have worked with educators to play various literacy and numeracy games on the prowise. This including

the counting activity with Miss Nicole as an extension on the interest of numbers. When inside the Lionfish and Starfish have engaged

with the magnetic letters to write their names and find the first letter of their names and their peers. Lionfish and Starfish have selected the muffin game as well as the owl game which involves numeracy concepts such as counting, addition and subtraction.







**COVID- 19....** Once again during May the Lionfish and Starfish have participated in various experiences detailing the importance of person hygiene and cleanliness. We read the book “*Birdie and the virus*”



which explored COVID-19 in a child appropriate manner. We also

used zoom and e-mail to connect to various peers who were at home. We welcomed back peers who we all missed and the Lionfish and Starfish were very excited to play and learn with them.

Until Next Time,

Lionfish and Starfish Educators ☺ ☺