



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – February 2020

Learning Through Play

Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine. When children play with other children they create social groups, test out ideas, challenge each other's thinking and build new understandings. Play provides a supportive environment where children can ask questions, solve problems and engage in critical thinking. Play can expand children's thinking and enhance their desire to know and to learn. In these ways play can promote positive dispositions towards learning. Children's immersion in their play illustrates how play enables them to simply enjoy being (BELONGING, BEING & BECOMING The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia 17).

At Pumpkin, we believe recognising family knowledge and expertise includes inviting families to share resources, skills and ideas that can inform and support the work of the service. We invite all families to visit our program and share your cultural experiences, we also encourage families to provide feedback about the experiences planned for their child and to offer suggestions and share ideas. These valuable knowledge and insight families have concerning their child will be used to design a responsive learning and development program. Please talk to your child's educators if you have any questions or suggestions.

Pumpkin Educators

Calender of Events

01st - Sunday – Clean up Australia Day

09 – 10/03/20 - Holi – One of the major festivals of India

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

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

21st – Saturday – Harmony Day

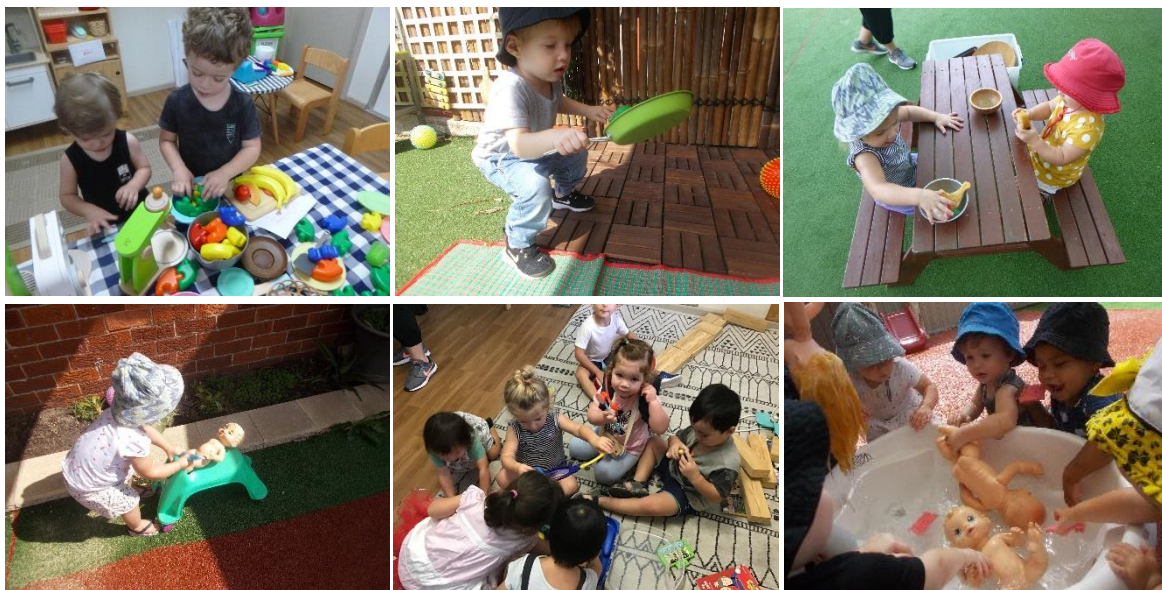


Clownfish News

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year, We welcome Alyssa to Clownfish room. This month, we celebrated Valentine's Day in the middle of month, the observed day to express love between family and friends. Besides that, the Clownfish children have been interested in role play, sensory play and being active this month.

Role play

Role playing has been the constant interest in the room this month. As role play has numerous benefit such as encouraging creativity and imagination, developing their linguistic, emotional and social skills, exploring identity and many more. Through their interest, educators scaffold their play by setting up the environment with rich resources, broadening their understanding and helping them to express themselves. Experiences such as being doctor, playing with baby dolls, opening donut shop and just exploring kitchen corner with the pretend food.



Sensory play

This month, we explored sensory play as it is very important for children to be exposed to different type of materials. Through sensory play, children are developing disposition for learning (curiosity, cooperation, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination, creativity, etc), developing range of essential skills and processes (inquiry, experiment, investigating, problem solving and researching), and transferring and adapting what they learned from one context to another. Their favourite activities such as painting, playing in sand pit and playdough were available constantly and we also added

activities such as exploring kinetic sands and ice cubes. The children were engaged in the activities and we can see how much they love sensory plays just looking at their facial expression.



Physical activities

Being active is very beneficial for children's development of physical skills especially their gross motor skills. Running around the playground, jumping from balancing beam, climbing the frame, sliding down the slide, walking with walker, learning to crawl were example of activities that the children interested in at the moment.



Until next time,
Clownfish educators

Jellyfish News

A big welcome to Matilda and Amelia!

Please note that we now have a News basket above the children's lockers. Please place your child's news item there in the morning. Thank you!

What a busy month! The children have demonstrated many interests this month and therefore, we have explored many different topics, interests, experiences and activities!



Mailbox interest - The children started the month demonstrating an interest towards our mailbox and collecting the mail. They always check the mailbox as soon as we go outside and listen out for the postie's motorbike if the mail has not yet been delivered for the day. They run to the box as soon as they hear the bike! They happily take the mail from the postman and enjoy engaging with the local community member. We have been speaking about taking turns so that everyone can have a turn at collecting the mail and giving it to Miss Elly. One day, we noticed that the postman didn't stop here. We talked about the postman not having any mail for us that day. To extend on their interest, the children made their own mail!



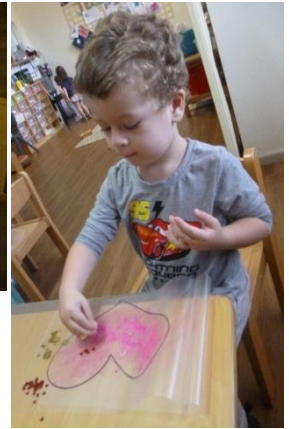
We started by talking about what we need to post mail, such as the mailbox, letter and stamp. The children made their own letter by drawing on the paper and decorated it with glitter. Next, they folded it, put into an envelope, and stamped it with their choice of stamps while the educators helped

to write their name on top. Great work everyone!





Valentine's day – To mark Valentine's day, the children



engaged in varied experiences such as heart printing, heart decorating, book reading and group discussions about love. For example, we explored ways to express love between family members and friends and read love related books such as, "The things that I love about my friends".

Music interest – The children have been showing a strong interest toward dancing, playing instruments and singing this month!

Outside, the children enjoy using ribbons in their dance, spinning around and moving them fast and slowly. They also enjoy being 'monkeys' jumping off the 'bed' outside,



singing and jumping off the balancing beam together! The children and families were invited to share musical items to extend on the children's interest and we got to explore a music box, a Santa book with CD ('We are going on a Santa hunt') and three dancing llamas (which got us researching and learning more about llamas) from the children's homes. One of our friends also showed ballet steps she learnt from ballet lessons! The children often started their own large and small singing and dancing games, such as 'Ring-a-ring-a-rosie'.





Donut shop is open! – One morning, we noticed that some children were creating donuts with connectors. As they played, they shared, “I made donut” and that prompted us to make a donut shop with different types of donut on the menu. Miss Fenny joined the children, showing how to put icing and sprinkle on top. The next day, extending on the donut interest, Miss Sinni provided the children with a creative experience where they were invited to make their own donuts. Everyone was so excited, looking forward to their turn by watching their peers making their own donuts!



Tadpoles and nature interest! – Mid-month, the children started developing a strong interest towards nature after a family brought in tadpoles from their



backyard to be added to our room! The children have been enjoying exploring and observing them daily! We have extended the interest by learning about the frog life cycle, by making tadpoles with clay and paint and by combining the music interest and tadpole interest and dancing on our pond mat! The children were



invited to share nature items with us and that has led us to exploring books about gardens and trees and learning about sea turtles. The children



have also enjoyed ‘going fishing’ though water play after hearing of a friend’s fishing experience. On the 20th, the children spotted a ladybug outside in our fountain outside. The children were asked if they wanted to handle the



ladybug and most were very excited to observe and explore the tiny



insect! They also enjoyed creating their own representations of ladybugs through a painting experience. The children have also enjoyed combining nature and animal play with playdough and sandpit play. Finally, the children are often very keen to water our gardens, as they quickly grab the watering cans and ask for water and then disperse around the playground to water the gardens.

Until next month,
Jellyfish Educators

Lionfish and Starfish News

What a busy month we've had in the Lionfish and Starfish rooms! The children that have moved up from the Jellyfish children are settling in well to our routine, practising their self-help skills assisted by the Starfish children. The new children that have started are also settling in well, getting used to the routine and making new friends. 😊

Parent Reminders

- Please ensure all your child's belongings (hat, water bottle, sheets, etc...) are all clearly labelled.
- Please ensure your child has at least two spare changes of clothes which are weather appropriate.
- If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please see Miss Elly, Miss Tracey (Lionfish room leader) or Miss Nicole (Starfish room leader)

News.... The children have embraced their news time, most of them remembering not to bring in toys. We have received a lot of 'All about Me' sheets and are enjoying learning more about each child and their families and what they like to do on the weekends. Thank you to all the parents that have emailed or sent in the sheets and family photos. If you haven't already there are still some forms available near the sign in sign out. Also, if you haven't already sent in a family photo could you please send one so we can add it to our family wall. 😊



Dancing... Throughout February, the Starfish and Lionfish have continued to request music to be put on to dance. They are enjoying practising their dance moves as they dance on their own or with their friends, even teaching their friends some new moves. Some of the

children who didn't want to dance are becoming more confident to join in.





Dramatic Play.... The Lionfish and Starfish children have continued their interest in dramatic play, both indoors and outdoors. They have continued to use the dress ups in their play, practising their self-help skills as they put them on themselves and asking

assistance from their friends if they need help doing them up. Outdoors they have continued role-playing in the cubby house, cooking a variety of foods and cakes for their friends and having birthday parties and picnics. They have also continued role-playing with the animals, also adding them to the constructions they've made.



Construction... The Starfish and Lionfish children have continued to use their imaginations and creativity as they build with a variety of blocks both indoors and outdoors. They have created castles, houses, a variety of vehicles, parcels and packages and even zoos for the animals. They have continued to proudly show their creations to their peers and Educators when they are completed.



Writing... We have continued to encourage the Starfish and Lionfish to practice the writing of their name and numbers (one to ten) in the afternoon. Miss Nicole has made special sheets for each child so they can practise in their special writing folders. The Starfish and Lionfish have



expressed a great interest in this and are proud to show their educators once done. The children have shown great improvement as they practise. Throughout the year the educators will continue building on this skill with the Starfish and Lionfish.



Environment...

Throughout February the Starfish and Lionfish have continued to assist educators when caring and upkeeping the natural environment. They have continued to help water the plants, being aware of the water restrictions and using watering cans. They have also enjoyed exploring the environment, especially after the much-needed rain, discovering snails and other animals and insects in the garden. We have researched on the computer to find out more information and facts.



Ball Games ...



The Lionfish and Starfish children have continued their interest in ball games, asking for the soccer net and basketball hoop so they can practise their ball skills. The older children have taken on a leadership role, teaching the younger



ones how to play and the rules of the game. They have continued to take turns and practise their sharing skills as they play together.

Cars ...



The Lionfish and Starfish children have also shown a great interest in cars this month. They have asked for the cars, garages and ramps out each day so they can race their cars against each other and also test the speed and distance as they roll down the ramps and



the different slopes in the playground. They have even used recycled cardboard ramps, putting them on different areas to use their cars on.

Pancake Tuesday ...

On 25th February, we celebrated Pancake Tuesday by making pancakes. The Lionfish and Starfish children eagerly gathered around to help as the teachers told them what we had to do. Miss Tracey was in charge of the fry pan and the children helped mix the ingredients together, shaking the pancake mix. Once the mixture was shaken, Miss Tracey demonstrated to the group how to make the pancakes. Once they were ready, we ate them for afternoon tea.

Until next month,

Starfish and Lionfish Educators 😊

