



# PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter – April 2021

### Easter Hat Parade and Egg Hunt at Pumpkin!



# May Calender of Event

**30<sup>th</sup> – 01/05/21 – Samhain** – Festival marking the end of the Harvest Season

**03<sup>rd</sup> - 09/05/21 – Children Book Week**

**12/04/21 – 12/05/21 – Ramadan begins, Muslim tradition.**

**02 – 08/05/21– International Compost Awareness Week.**

**09<sup>th</sup> - Sunday– Mother's Day**

**09<sup>th</sup> - Sunday – Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Destiny), Muslim tradition**

**13<sup>th</sup> - Thursday– Ascension Day, Christian tradition**

**12 – 13/05/21 – Eid Al Fitr**

**16 – 18/05/2021 – Shavuot, Jewish Holiday**

**19<sup>th</sup> – Friday – The Walk to School Day**

**23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday – Pentecost, Christian tradition**

**24<sup>th</sup> – Monday – Whit Monday, Christian tradition**

**26<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – National Sorry Day**

**27<sup>th</sup> – Thursday – Australia's Biggest Morning tea**

**29<sup>th</sup> – 30/05/21 – Lag B'Omer, Jewish tradition**

**30<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – Trinity Sunday, Christian tradition**





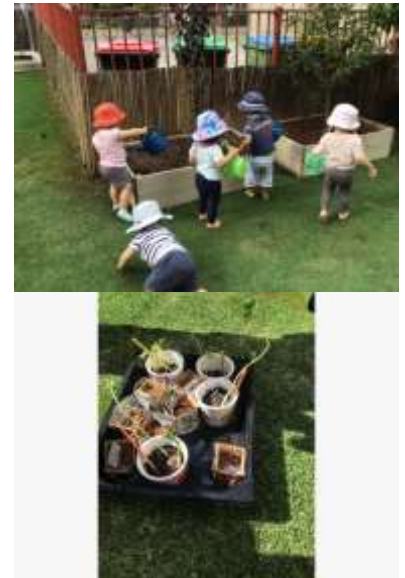
# Clownfish News

Welcome to the third newsletter of the year. This month, we welcome Jett, Benjamin, Enzo, and Harper to our room. We will have fun and cannot wait to see their growth during their time with us. This month, the children have been exploring several interests and we have been extending them with age and developmentally appropriate resources to support their development and learning.



## Planting

Throughout the month, the children were engaged with sustainability practices. For example, planting, cleaning our playground, watering the garden and feeding our room. Educators raised awareness about these practices to foster love and care for the environment as they are our future leaders. This month, we tried to plant potted plants from Woolworth that



have been given by Miss Elly as well as Mia's mother. We looked at what plants that can grow during Autumn, how to plant and take care of them. Throughout the month, the plants have grown, and we were able to put some of them in our garden beds. We will continue to look after our plants by watering them 😊.



## Physical play

Physical play has been consistent in our room with children exploring the playground with the bikes, or running around. Moreover, we also opened our playground to the other side where the children have more room to run around and they have been enjoying it. Challenges were put out by adding balancing beam and stepping stones to engage the children as well as to foster risk taking skills. The children have shown development physically and emotionally as they were able to access



the risks on their own or even set up the obstacle courses according to their ability. We were very proud of the children and able to celebrate each milestone with them!

## Construction



Construction interest was always there in month, through the exploration of blocks with various resources. The children were engaged with the magnetic shapes where they lined them up on the whiteboard, built a building and let them fall. We also added more resources to complement their play such as animals, vehicles and lightboard to further their interests. Through these resources, the children developed a range of skills and processes such as experimentation and investigation. We saw how the children

manipulated the objects to express their ideas and thinking and we amazed to see how resourceful they were 😊.



## Easter



As Easter is next month, the children were engaged in experiences around it at the end of the month. We read books about Easter and did painting on Easter bunny. We also made Easter egg craft with scrap papers, feathers and so on where children could express their creative ideas. They also made Easter egg and basket ready for their Easter Egg hunting 😊



Until next time 😊



# Jellyfish News

**Literacy learning continued** – The literacy experiences carried over to this month as the interest was still present. Already on the 1<sup>st</sup>, to extend the children's interest in literacy from last month,



Miss Sinni intentionally read the ABC book with the group. Outside, Miss Sinni prepared waterplay with colourful letters for the group to freely engage



with. Miss Sinni encouraged the children to find their letter sand



engaged them in an open-ended discussion. "Let's find your letter, how many can you find", said Miss Sinni. The next



day, the children used letter and number moulds in their playdough play, after Miss Alex wrote everyone's name on the whiteboard and encouraged them to count the number of letters in their names. The children also got the opportunity to practice writing their names but preferred to just work on their first letter as they have been doing. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the children made collages with items that start with their initial letters, such as elephants for Edward's collage. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, the children engaged in letter threading. Finally, on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Miss Rozina set up a word pictures puzzle for the children to explore more with literacy learning.

**The nature interest continues** – The children continued to show an interest towards nature this month. Already on the 1<sup>st</sup>, the children added some fresh mint and rosemary to their water play, that they had collected them from the garden with Miss Fenny. Also, on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Miss Fenny asked the group about the plants we have in the playground, extending on their demonstrated home corner interest. Miss Sinni showed them that we have tomato, mint, and parsley. Some children

were interested in smelling the plants that Miss Sinni showed them. Miss Fenny suggested that they could look around the other playgrounds to find ingredients to use for cooking. The children then went to the Starfish and Clownfish playgrounds and saw grapefruits (still green sadly), rosemary, mints, apple and mango tree. They picked mint and rosemary to use in play as the others were still unripe. As we came back to our playground, Miss Fenny supported their play by providing plates, cups, bowls and tongs for them to use with their picked items. Looking at how creative the children were, we made infused water with mints and orange for our afternoon refreshment. All the children helped in squeezing orange in as well. The children enjoyed their infused water during afternoon tea and commented that it was “yummy”! On the 4<sup>th</sup>. Following news from Edward’s gardening t home, the children engaged in their own gardening experience here as they planted seeds provided from our local Woolworths.

**Birthdays** – We had four Jellyfish friends celebrate birthdays this month, as well as news from Josiah attending a birthday party, which led us to having lots of birthday related experiences. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the children created a beautiful, three-tier cake using recycled cardboard boxes. The next day, the children made party hats to go with the beautiful cake. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, Miss Sinni asked the group whether they wanted to make a sprinkle cake/fairy bread (inspired by Josiah's news). Before starting, Miss Sinni asked the group to wash their hands to maintain our hygiene practice. Miss Sinni gave them one bread each and they were given options to pick their preferred bread cutter, they then stimulated their fine motor skills as they spread the icing on the toast and decorated them with sprinkles. And of course, they enjoyed eating their yummy bread after making it. 😊





**Harmony Day** - After noticing Edward's orange top on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Miss Alex decided to become an intentional teacher and set up experiences related to the celebration of Harmony Day (due to Harmony Day being observed on the 21st of March). Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day as traditionally it



signifies social communication and meaningful conversations and it also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement

of mutual respect. Since Harmony Day is all about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone, Miss Alex set up puppets of different cultures in a big circle to remind us that we all belong 🧑🧒 and welcomed the children to explore them closely, taking in their features. For group time we read a book called Around the world: Hair. The book showed us children from all over the world wearing their hair in lots of different ways. As we explored the pictures from the book, we had a lovely time talking about the similarities and differences between people 🧑🧒. The children also made their own chosen persons, picking the skin colour, type of eyes and hair! Scissors were available for them to practice their cutting skills as they cut the 'hair', they enjoyed cutting the yarn for their preferred hair style and adding their chosen eye colours and size to their person. Also, for harmony day, the children explored a book about peace (learning how to say peace in different languages. They used little people in their dramatic play, taking in their different denatures and created a lovely poster with their handprints in in a love heart to remind us that we all belong! Finally, the children made lovely orange playdough on the 19<sup>th</sup> after Maisie brought a lovely book called "Dream", the book talked about how people can have a different dream and Miss Sinni also used multicultural puppets with different talents as a prop to enhance them in further discussion about having a different dream. Miss Sinni intentionally discussed with the group that everyone can have a different dream and it is okay to be different. As an extension, Miss Sinni asked whether they wanted to make orange play dough to mark Harmony Day. Because we didn't have orange food colouring, Miss Sinni told the group that we could make orange by mixing yellow and red. The group enjoyed mixing, flattening and rolling the dough. Miss Sinni then intentionally showed them how to make a human body using the dough, we explored the human body (head, arm, leg, stomach), the buttons were also available for them to explore their creative imagination.





**St Patrick's Day** – To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the children were invited to wear green on the day. Our friend Maisie was ready to celebrate St Patrick's day on the day as she arrived with two beautiful Irish themed hats. Her hats led us to learning about the leprechaun. We engaged in Irish dancing, the children followed the dance instructions, jumping, moving to the left and right etc. What a fun time! Miss Sinni also prepared a lovely St Patrick's day creative experience for the children using

cut egg cartons as clovers. The children painted and decorated them with green paint and sprinkles. Lastly, the children explored a book called Whoever you are as Miss Alex read it and talked about the pictures. The book was an extension of our learning from our Harmony Day learning from the previous day, about everyone being the same but also different, which links well with us marking a celebration from another country today. The book was very lovely, and it explained that all over the world, children are laughing and crying, playing and learning, eating and sleeping but that they may not look the same, may not speak the same language and their lives may be quite different to ours but that on the inside, they are just like our Jellyfish children.

**Physical play** – During outdoor play on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Hazel reached out to Miss Sinni and requested, "Miss Sinni, I want toy from here". She showed her interest and picked the animals hoppers, "I want horse, doggy and sheep", grabbed Hazel. Others then decided to join her. Miss Sinni then initiated the racing game, "Why don't we play racing?". Others joined with bikes. Miss Sinni counted "1,2,3". Soon the racing game became their favourite, they giggled and laughed as they raced. To challenge them, Miss Sinni added obstacles on the track. The racing continued on the 8<sup>th</sup>, as requested by the children. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, we engaged in a fun game using the action ball Maisie brought in. Everyone had a turn at throwing it and we followed its' instructions. It was a great way to warm up for the day!





**Dramatic play** - The dress-up box was added back to our room on the 8<sup>th</sup> and since then, the



children have been enjoying getting dressed up and engaging in lots of dramatic play! They have also been combining their dress-up interest with dancing, moving and drama experiences by requesting for music, ballet books (then engaging in ballet and free dancing!). On the 10<sup>th</sup>, Miss Alex introduced a pirate song and actions to the children as we pretended to be pirates and



continued with the pirate experience by using boats in our water play outside. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the children enjoyed using the i-pad to take photos of themselves as an extension of their strong interest towards using out pretend and old cameras in dramatic play.

**Games** – Due to a lot of wet weather this month, the children stayed inside some days. For the rainy days, the children picked games to get busy with and have enjoyed memory, pirate and bingo games! The games interest has been present for the Jellyfish children since January. The children have been demonstrating perseverance and experiencing the satisfaction of achievement as they engage in these games. It's also great to see them applying thinking strategies to engage with the games, solve problems and use representations to organise, record and communicate concepts.



**Easter** – On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Bianca arrived with the ‘The Easter Bunny comes to Australia’ book. Miss Sinni then invited the group to join the book reading together. Miss Sinni also intentionally discussed with the group about the directions of the bunny going (East, south, west, north), through



the book, we also explored all beautiful places in Australia such as Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Darwin, Canberra, Hobart. Miss Sinni also invited them to find all the hidden eggs in the book (as we are having an Easter egg hunt soon!). The children then got to paint an Easter egg



like the one in the book with watercolour paint. Seeing children’s interest towards Easter, Miss Elly shared a great idea to dye eggs with food colouring. Miss Sinni then invited the group to do the little experiment with the egg. Miss Sinni showed them the hard-boiled egg. After adding the warm water and vinegar in the cup, Miss Sinni asked them to pick their favourite colour for their egg. As we were waiting, we observed that the water turned fizzy, and it formed bubbles around the egg. After 3 minutes, we took the egg out, it was all perfectly dyed! Miss Sinni then assisted them to crack the egg and peel the skin off. The next day, the children decorated their own Easter hats. They also decorated Ester baskets for our hunt and engaged in a miniature egg hunt as they used tongs to pick up eggs from a tray. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, (following Josiah’s news) the children painted little bunnies and engaged in a



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ball hunt in the sandpit. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, the children made carrots using their feet to stamp on the paper (following Easter news from Maisie). On the 31<sup>st</sup>, the children played a game of egg and spoon race. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April we had our lovely Easter egg hunt/bonnet parade. What fun!



Until next month,  
Jellyfish Educators

### **Parent Notices**

- Please ensure all your child's belongings are clearly labelled.
  - Please remember if you arrive late and there are children in the playground to wait till an Educator comes and collects your child.
- the Easter bunny had left.
- we made our own bear using recycled materials.
- the children using their imaginations and creativity and working individually or in small groups.



# Lionfish and 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 continued their interest in



literacy and numeracy. The Starfish and Lionfish have continued to engage in various letter puzzles and games including alphabet bingo as well as practising



number recognition. During the afternoon, the Starfish and Lionfish have continued to trace/write their names as well some worksheets. Some of the older children are



starting 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 pro-wise board too. We have also used our letters



creatively, decorating letters using shells and also used our fine motor skills threading letters.



**Dramatic Play...** While inside and outside the Starfish and Lionfish have continued to express



their imagination and creativity through engaging within various forms of dramatic play. There have been various games of mums and dads as well as pretending to be various animals. The children have also enjoyed exploring their identity as they use our dress ups to create different characters both inside and outside and used their dress



ups in their dramatic play and also when they have been expressing themselves to music through dance and creative movement.



**Gross Motor Experiences...** The Starfish and Lionfish have continued to request the bikes, engaging their physical and gross motor skills to pedal around their learning environment. This has been furthered through using the tyres, cones and various signs and road markings. The Starfish and Lionfish have also constructed various obstacle



courses and successfully moved through them. They have also shown great interest in ball games, participating in a variety of activities to increase and improve their ball skills, learning to work as a team as they practise. They have played soccer, basketball and also practised a variety of ball skills and drills.





**Natural Environment...** This month the Starfish and Lionfish have expressed an interest in the



natural environment as well various bugs and insects. They have also shown interest in caring for our environment, planting seed pots that Miss Nicole and some of the children



brought in. We have been caring for our plants and garden using recycled rainwater and worm juice and been observing the changes as they happen. When they have grown enough, we will replant them in bigger pots and our garden beds. We have



continued observing our plants and have repotted them in larger pots or added them to our garden beds.



**Cultural awareness....** This month has had several significant calendar events that we have celebrated with the children. On 17<sup>th</sup> March, the children were encouraged to wear green, and we looked at a video showing why we celebrate St Patrick's Day. The educators provided an art experience where the children were encouraged to create their own shamrocks using recycled bottles to print with. We also celebrated Harmony day during the week before it occurred, talking about why we have it and reading books, watching a video and creating different art works relating to it. We also prepared for Easter, reading books, making a variety of art and craft and also having an Easter egg hunt and Easter hat parade the last week of March before the Easter weekend.



**Puzzles ...** The Lionfish and Starfish children have shown a great interest in challenging themselves doing a variety of puzzles. They have shown great cooperation and collaboration as they have





helped each other complete different puzzles based on different topics, showing great pride in their finished efforts.

Hope everyone has a safe Easter break 😊

Until Next Month,

Starfish and Lionfish Educators 😊 😊