



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – January 2021

Centre News

Happy New Year 2021 and welcome back to Pumpkin! We hope you have had an enjoyable summer break. The children have certainly had lots of exciting stories to share. We believe these stories, no matter how big or small are the best educational resources you can provide for the centre. We use these stories in our curriculum/program and the ideas explored from your stories can last for weeks. This allows you to see firsthand what we do and your child sees that there is a connection between home and the service, this also strengthens the learning link.

We also believe that working in partnerships with families is central to ensuring continuity and progression in a child's learning, development and future success!

Our Service will cater for different capacities and learning styles and invite children and families to contribute ideas, interests and questions (Early Years Learning Framework). We will consistently engage meaningfully with families to inform them about the educational program and their child's participation, learning and development.

Please fill up our "**All About Me**" template in Storypark, if you need to do it manually, please ask educators for the form.

Kind regards,

Pumpkin Educators

February Calender of Event

4th - Thursday – World Cancer Day

12th- Friday – Chinese New Year (Year of Ox)

14th- Sunday - Valentine's Day

16th - Tuesday - Vasant Panchami – Hindu Tradition, dedicated to Saraswati, The Goddess of Learning. During this festival, children are taught to write their first words, ancestor worship is performed and the colour yellow is widely used

17th - Wednesday – Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent 2019

25th – Tuesday - Shrove Tuesday – Pancake day, day before lent begins

26th - Friday- Lantern Festival - Chinese Tradition

26th - Friday – Magha Puja – Buddhist Festival

27th – 28th - Tu BiShvat is the 15th day of the Jewish months of Shevat



Clownfish News

Welcome back to all the Clownfish children! This month we welcome Easton to the room and cannot wait to have fun together 😊. The children have shown rapid development over the holiday and we will share their growth during their time here in the month of January.

Dinosaurs interest



In the beginning of the month, Clownfish children have shown interest in dinosaur. It all started when Estel le brought her rhino to the school and the educators provided more experiences to extend the interest using balls, paint and sand. We used the



balls to look for the dinosaurs, the paint to see the footprints, and lastly with the sand to bury them. The children also developed their fine motor skills as they played.



Music and movement



Music and movement have been consistent interest in the room throughout the month of January. The children loved to dance to the songs such as Freeze dance, Tooty Ta, Sleeping bunnies, etc and knew to ask for those. Moreover, we also extended their interest by providing musical instruments or making our own shakers. The children also combined gross and fine motor movement to



achieve complex patterns of movement such as hopping, jumping, twirling in the dance as well as hitting the drums and pouring the beans to make shakers. Through these experiences, the children



were able to experiment with ways to express their ideas and make meaning.

Cars and transportation



Cars and transportation have been ongoing interests in the room. Hunter, Jake, Toma and Cody were especially interested in the cars as they asked for the cars and ramp in the room. To extend their interest, we brought the traffic signs



to raise awareness of the symbols and made meaning. For example. Miss Fenny explained about the lights, the STOP sign, and the colours. The children confidently repeated the words. We also made our own cars from LEGO where the children could attach the wheels by themselves



and experimented with motion. Paint was also used to make our own tracks as well as books.

Pretend play



In the end of the month, the children showed interest in the pretend play with the babies and cooking in the kitchen corner. They mimicked how the educators put the babies to sleep, put them in the strollers as well as gave them food.



We also had picnic outside with crackers and the baby dolls as well. The children explored different identities through the pretend play, responded verbally and non-verbally in the play and engaged in and contributed to shared play experiences.



Until next time,

Clownfish educators

Jellyfish News

A big welcome to all our new Jellyfish friends! And please fill out the All about me template in the **PLANNING SECTION** of Storypark (it needs to be completed via the website/browser version of Storypark and not the app). Please remember to add a family photo and your child's goals for 2021 in the template. Thank you!



Water play – The Jellyfish children started the year engaging in lots of water play to cool down on humid days. We had sea animals water play on the last day of the year following an observed



interest in sea animals from Christian's book, then we had mini animals with tongs in the water to continue with their animal interest and to further develop their fine motor skills. We also had seashells (following news from Ailsie's holidays) and cars in water play (following children's observed interest in vehicles). Finally, we combined the nature interest with water



play by having flowers found around the playground in the water.

Strawberry Hunting and strawberry milk tasting (and other nature related experiences!) -

The children started their first day in 2021 by having a yummy strawberry testing as Ava spotted some ripe strawberries in our garden. Miss Sinni then assisted the children to pick the fully ripe strawberries. The children showed their excitement by waiting patiently as Miss Sinni went to wash



and cut the strawberries. As the group tried the strawberries, they discussed how it tasted to them. To extend on their interest about strawberry and gardening, Miss Sinni read the "Growth" book. Miss Sinni engaged the group with an open-ended discussion about the right weather for gardening and what we need to grow a plant. Miss Sinni also talked about healthy eating and reminded the group to eat lots of fruit

because it is good for our body. At the end of the day, the children enjoyed watering the garden using the water from the waterplay and Billie went straight to water the strawberry! On the 12th, the children used our strawberries to make strawberry milk, yummy! The Jellyfish children continued showing great interest in exploring nature throughout the month. They made painting with leaves collected from the playground and flower painting, spotted flowers, kookaburras, caterpillars, snails, watered the gardens, cleaned up the yard with little brooms, observed the rubbish truck collecting our rubbish and we read another nature related story called A plant of my own. In the story, we could see a tiny seed growing into a giant flower and discussed many plant words such as bud and shoot. The children especially liked seeing what goes on under the soil as the roots were beginning to grow even though they could not be seen. On the 18th, the children enjoyed exploring the worms from our worm farm as they fed them food scraps.



Butterfly dance - When Miss Fenny asked the children what book they wanted to read, Lucas and Christian said "caterpillar", and we settled for "Butterfly Dance". To



extend on that, Miss Fenny showed them a video of the development of a butterfly, from the egg, caterpillar, cocoon and to butterfly. Once outside, Miss Fenny asked if they

wanted to fly like a butterfly and we turned on a song called "Fly, Fly Butterfly". The children grabbed the ribbons and started to walk/dance around the playground. Through this dancing experience, the children were experimenting with ways of expressing their ideas of being a butterfly, the way they moved and what their colours were. Towards the end of the month, the children started showing a strong interest toward caterpillars again as they would frequently request stories about them and engaged in craft to make their own caterpillars too!

Creative experiences – After Alicia happily shared her news (on the 5th) about engaging in water painting, we decided to engage in water painting outside too! Milla then asked for chalk after she finished her painting and peers joined in the free creative drawings all over our wooden plank! On the 11th, the children engaged in salt painting. Miss Sinni prepared a new painting technique experience with salt, after the children asked for painting! How exciting! All we needed was salt, glue and watercolour.





Role-play - Milla and Hazel could not wait to share all their new Christmas things with everyone as they opened conversations with the educators about their new items, especially their new role-playing kits. Miss Alex set up a doctor's corner outside to extend on their news. The children became doctors and especially liked checking



Miss Alex's ears, eyes, mouth, and temperature. The children built on their own social experiences to explore other ways of being. The Jellyfish children also went 'camping' after hearing about Milla and Hazel's holiday experience. They cooked, shared food and enjoyed pretending to be away together. The next day, the imaginative play continued with the children having a picnic. Fun!



Construction interest – On the 6th, during indoor free play, the children showed their strong interest towards magnetic balls, they explored their imagination and creativity through their cooperative play. The group confidently used verbal language to describe their inventions. The group then pretended to call each other and communicated through their pretend phones. On the 7th, the children were seen cooperatively building a house with magnetic blocks. The group manipulated the resources and explored their imagination and creativity by constructing beautiful creations. To extend their interest, Miss Sinni then provided the children with giant blocks outside in the playground, the children



were then seen to be busy building a tower together and they laughed as the tower fell.

Physical play – The children have been

requesting physical resources for outdoor play and engaging in lots of climbing, jumping, running, balancing bike riding, ball hopping and games this month! They also enjoy running singing games for themselves and others such as by singing 5 cheeky monkeys and then jumping off together! On the 18th and the 20th, the children enjoyed playing basketball and other ball games together.





Cutting – Perhaps due to cutting strawberries the day before, on the 13th, Billie spontaneously made a request, "I want to do cutting!" A cutting station was set up outside. The children got provided with scissors,



after choosing the ones they wanted to use and after a sharp objects' safety talk, the cutting began! The children were observed to be manipulating the scissors with increasing competence and skill, as well as requesting help when needed. Great to see the children approaching new safe situations with confidence and interest! The group was also provided with a piece of cardboard as a place to glue their cut pieces of paper. The cutting continued the next day with the children creating their own Jellyfish zoo with their cut animal patterns after hearing about Ava's news at the zoo. The next day, the cutting fun continued with the children challenging themselves and this time cutting patterns such as zigzags.

I am Australian too – We marked Australia day this month. The children created Australian animal paintings, made yummy



Australia day themed jelly and created a beautiful flag together and decorated it with paper plates to represent our Opera house!

Until next month,
Jellyfish Educators

Lionfish & Starfish News

The Starfish and Lionfish educators would like to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break. We hope you enjoyed your time off. This month we have been slowly saying goodbye to our Starfish friends that are starting school soon, moving the Lionfish children into the Starfish Room and also welcoming our new friends from the Jellyfish Room as they transition to the Lionfish Room.



The new Starfish and Lionfish children have been settling into their new rooms well, getting used to the routines and rules. The new Starfish children have been a great help to our new Lionfish friends, lending a hand when needed and showing their



new friends what they need to do.

The children have continued to enjoy role play and dramatic play both indoors and outdoors in our home corner areas. They have particularly enjoyed pretending to shop, using the



homecorner food and natural resources and collecting them in containers, baskets and shopping trolleys, then paying for them at the cash register. They have also enjoyed role playing in the sandpit using their imaginations and



creativity as they make ice creams, cakes and a variety of food and drinks or pretend they are on a construction site, digging and excavating using the large trucks and spades. They have also enjoyed experimenting with different types of containers, transferring the sand from one to the other. The dress ups have also been popular with the children exploring their identity as they pretend to be different characters and act out different scenarios.





The children have also enjoyed physical activities including riding the bikes, bouncing on the bouncy balls, testing their skills on the obstacle course or the climbing frame or practising their ball skills playing a variety of



ball games. They have shown great prosocial skills as they practise their turn taking skills and sharing while using the equipment.



They have also enjoyed the art and craft activities that the educators have organised based on their interests and input from



parents/carers. We have created our own fireworks using powder paints after New Year's Eve, painted with water colours, collaged dinosaur footprints. The children have also continued their drawing/writing interest using their imaginations and creativity as they draw using textas, pencils and crayons. We have also been practising our writing using our laminated writing sheets and other stencils to practise their fluency and pencil grip.



We have also been practising our numbers, practising our number recognition and counting through a variety of games on the Prowise and other activities. We have also been using the Prowise to practise our letter recognition and



sounds as well as playing a variety of games and other activities. We have practised our letter recognition through a variety of games including using the fishing rods to catch magnetic letters. We also practised our number recognition and counting skills using the fishing game.



Before Australia Day, we looked at the Australian Flag and made our own interpretations referencing the flag



and using crepe paper. We also looked at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and used paint to create our own. Some children shared photos for news of how they spent their Australia

Day holiday with their families. We also read a book called 'Finding our Heart' that one of the children had brought in, talking to the children about Australia's history.



The children have continued their interest in construction using a variety of blocks including mega blocks, mobilo, magnetic blocks, project blocks and recycled materials to create different structures including houses, garages, car tracks, castles and robots.



As we are getting to know the new children in our room and also continuing to learn about all the children, Miss Nicole shared some 'All about Me' templates to fill in about your child on Storypark. It would be wonderful if you could fill them out and even add some photos.



Until next month

Lionfish and Starfish Educators 😊