



TEACHERS' REPORT MAY 2017.

Term two started in a rush with lots of excitement and industry heading into our 'Mothers Day Pamper Mornings' on Wednesday and Thursday this week. The children all worked very hard and were very excited about welcoming their special guests into the environment so we hope you all enjoyed the time with your children. We also hope that our amazing mums get very spoilt on Sunday.



The cooler weather has arrived and with it we have already witnessed the start of sniff, coughs and colds. We realize that a large majority of four year olds spend the entire winter with a runny nose and we don't expect them to stay away for all of that time but please use common sense when deciding whether or not your child should attend. We know that in most cases the children don't like to miss the opportunity to see their friends but please don't let them make this important decision. Apart from spreading germs amongst their peers they will also struggle to keep up with the tempo of the program if they are not 100%

It is great to see that the children are all drinking our filtered water with no juice in sight and the majority of lunches seem appropriate. Please don't over face your child with food. If they have a sandwich and a piece of fruit then just one small treat is probably sufficient and if the treat is not sealed in a wrapper even better.



Of course with the cooler weather will come the rain. We will still endeavour to complete an obstacle course in the morning prior to the bell ringing. It is a great way to start the day and allows the children to run off a bit of steam and greet their friends before we are asking them to sit and listen. The only time we will not have an obstacle course is if it is pouring down and then we will retreat indoors and complete a puzzle with our parents before the

bell rings. If it is just cold we will still be outside so come prepared with a jacket (sorry tough love). It is very important that your child completes the course with you so that you can see the skills that we are working on. I know that a lot of children simply want to run off and play but we would appreciate it if you could reinforce our routine ie fruit in the bowl, lunchbox in the box, hat on, hang up their bag and then complete the obstacle course. Thanks for your co-operation in this matter. On the subject of rain as I mentioned at the AGM in January our program is based on the inside and outside environment and we really try to make use of the outside year round. If it is just raining a little I don't mind if the children bring rain coats, rain boots etc so that we can investigate the magic of puddles and mud (umbrellas can be a bit of a hazard). Please put a change of clothes in their bag so that if necessary they can get changed as well as maybe some dry shoes. Of course we wouldn't adventure out if there was a storm but a little rain is not a problem

I was very pleased with the progress the children made last term in the naming and recognition of syllables. They all did very well with this new concept. This term we have continued to reinforce the concept of rhyming. Our aim is that the children are able to hear words that rhyme and identify some rhyming words. The children have a lot of fun with this process but you may find that they want to rhyme everything that comes out of your mouth. Look out for story books that make use of rhyming words because this is a fun way to reinforce the concept. We will also continue to develop the children's concept of print and how books 'work'. That is text, illustrations, title, author, illustrator, left to right reading skills etc. From the reading that we do the children will start to retell simple stories in their own words, sequence events of a story and discuss characters within a story. We have also started introducing initial sounds. We start with doing a lot of work with their name's initial sound which most of them now know. They will now start to recognize the sounds their friend's names start with and then other naming words. It is very important to keep it real and concrete for them and connected to their world.

In the numeracy area we will continue to work on number recognition of numbers 1-10 as well as forming groups for each of these numbers and counting a group of objects with 1-1 correspondence. We will continue to explore and investigate terms involved with measurement, time (days of the week), money etc. Later in the term we will introduce the concept of patterning and the identification of a pattern. This will also lead into grouping and looking at objects that have common features.



Next week we will read the story of "The Rainbow Fish" a beautiful story that allows us to investigate the concepts of friendship, sharing and conflict resolution. From here we will discuss the underwater world of the ocean, the properties of water as well as touching on our Waterwise messages.

We are also very lucky this term to have the services of Bettina an amazing Yoga Instructor who will be visiting kindy over the next six weeks. She will be joining us on a Friday which means each group will only see her three times. This is a very worthwhile session to continue to show the children how they can control their body and their feelings. We have noticed a decline in four year old's core strength over the last few years which makes it difficult for them to sit up straight and manipulate tools with success. This along with a lack of finger strength makes using a pencil very difficult for some children. We can't really blame this on the 'push down' of educational goals that is occurring because in the past children still seemed to have more strength in this area probably because of lifestyle and play choices. On the whole they don't run around as much as they used to or dig with their hands in mud or climb etc. Swiping a screen does nothing for their finger strength. This is why the obstacle course is an important part of our program and it makes me sad to see people not arriving until bell time so that the children miss this important step in their day. Kindy starts at 8.45am and next year if you arrive after that time you will have to report to the office and if it happens too often then they will be on to you (just a gentle warning). We have also introduced a program called Animal Fun. This is a movement program promoting physical activity and mental health. Research continues to highlight the

connection between gross motor skills, fine motor skills, academic achievement, health problems and emotional well being. The movements are all based on animals and we are finding it is tying in very well with the yoga poses the children are learning. I have included a copy of the policy that accompanies the program for your interest.

For the first time this year I have booked an incursion called "Educated by Nature." Apart from the brief outline on their website I don't know a lot about what will be covered but I have been following this group on Facebook and have enjoyed seeing what they are doing. The concepts they promote all sit well with the philosophy of the kindy so I am looking forward to seeing what they bring. The Dolphins will have their session on Thursday 25th May and the Seals will have theirs on Monday 29th May.

Finally I can't thank everyone enough for the wonderful support we received for the running of our Open Day last Saturday. We were blessed with beautiful weather and it seemed as though the children all enjoyed themselves. Big thanks to Prachi for over seeing the whole event; Karyn for designing the poster and getting the Joondalup Times on board; Simon for covering the cost of the bouncy castle; Gemma for pushing the advertising of the event; Natalie for organizing vouchers from Woolies and Coles and for doing all the shopping and Lauren for running the cake stall. I have probably missed someone, sorry, but overall it was a team event from all parents who offered their time to run the event. Our enrolments are still desperately low for 2018 so if anyone has any other great ideas please let us know. Looks like another busy term ahead so enjoy every minute.

Alison, Michelle, Julie and Sandra.