

NEWSLETTER Term 2 Week 6 2016



STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On Friday, 27th May, our team of educators undertook two professional development training sessions as part of our continuous cycle of improvement to address the children's learning needs. In the morning Rosalie Kowald led us through digging deeper into practical ways of implementing the Preschool Numeracy Indicators. Some wonderful strategies for differentiating teaching and learning to meet the children's individual needs and abilities were discussed along with the relevance of key mathematical concepts. Firstly the significance of sorting/classifying in later developing patterning and other more complex mathematical concepts; and secondly, the importance of developing an understanding of number as a quantity



and the preservation of number (knowing that the last number you say when touch counting is the number of items in a group). The afternoon session was conducted by an Occupational Therapist who provided an overview of sensory processing and its impact on children's learning and behaviour. This considered six senses: visual (vision); auditory (hearing); olfactory/gustatory

(smell and taste); tactile (touch); vestibular (body movement); and proprioceptive (position of your body in space). She also supplied strategies for supporting children who are more sensitive to sensory stimuli.

2017 PRESCHOOL ENROLMENTS

Do you have a child turning 4 years of age before 30th April 2017? Staff are taking enrolments now for the 2017 preschool year. A letter with an invitation to an information evening and Pre-Entry session details will be sent to families during Term 3. We make every effort to accommodate families' work and other commitments - please contact a member of staff if you need your child to attend on specific days.



CURRICULUM SNAPSHOT

Indigenous Perspectives - Billie, Lataeka's Mum, shared her culture and art expertise with the children. She painted, and donated to the kindergarten, her representation of the story about *Tiddalick the Frog*. After listening to the story, the children looked at Billie's canvas for inspiration as they created their own painting of Tiddalick. The children will be exploring contemporary Aboriginal art forms over the coming weeks.



Numeracy - This fortnight we have focussed on sorting/classifying which underpins patterning, and have begun to explore the 2-dimensional properties of shapes (for example that a triangle is flat and has 3 sides). Through our *walk and talk* program, we have been exploring the everyday uses of symbols in our community (finding numbers on letter boxes, rubbish bins, licence plates and more) and wondering how they are different to letters.



Literacy - The children have been participating in acting out traditional stories (such as *The 3 Little Pigs* and *The 3 Billy Goats Gruff*) to enhance their understandings of rhyme and recall. We will be following on with traditional Aboriginal stories.



Gross Motor - This term in small groups and throughout the children's free play we have been focusing on balance (hopping/standing on one leg; jumping over or walking along a rope; negotiating climbing equipment); and ball skills (bouncing, throwing and catching). The children have particularly enjoyed the introduction of the soft climbing equipment including the "crash" mat.



Friday German Program - The children are captivated and engaged by this interactive program. Through songs, dance, stories and games the children are exposed to German culture and language. The children take turns to say "Guten tag, Bruno" (greeting the bear puppet) and many of them are beginning to independently name family members in German (der Vater, die Mutter, der Bruder, die Schwester und das Baby).

Nature Education Visit - Monday 23rd and Wednesday 25th March - To align with egg incubation and hatching chickens and extend the children's understandings, Nature Education visited with some oviparous (egg laying) animals, reptiles and insects and their eggs for the children to see and gently touch. Following on from this, educators have revisited this experience using the children's recall and have explored the meaning of new words such as *camouflage*.



PARENT/CAREGIVER SURVEY RESULTS

The results from the current parent/caregiver survey have been collated. Results from the data show that the majority of you would like information on what you can do at home to support your child's literacy and numeracy learning in preparation for school. To support these requests Maddie has developed a brochure that provides ideas about how you, as busy parents, can be involved in your child's numeracy learning.

FLOORBOOKS

Have you looked through our floorbooks with your child? We have two floorbooks, one for highlights of our day-to-day learning and another specifically to track our **Chicken Inquiry** that is emerging following on from the visiting chickens and the eggs hatching in the incubator. Floorbooks are one way to capture children's voice through photographs, anecdotes, and the children's actual words. Children are able to revisit past experiences and plan what they would like to do next. You may also notice analysis of the learning that has happened, future planning through possible lines of development (PLODs) and links to curriculum documents (*The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia* and *Preschool Indicators of Literacy and Numeracy*). Copies of floorbook pages directly involving your child are placed in their profile books (white folder with your child's name and photo on the front).

GOVERNING COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held here at the kindergarten on Wednesday, 15th June, 2016 at 7:30pm.

KINDERGARTEN PHOTOS - Tuesday 14th & Thursday 16th June, 2016.

Professional photographers will be here on these days to take individual and group photos of the children. If these are not your child's usual kindergarten day, you are welcome to bring them (and stay with them) while the photos are taken. When the photos are ready you may choose none, some, or the whole package in a folder which is \$35. Additional photos additional copies can be ordered. You will be able to view the photos at the kindergarten, and can take them home once payment has been received. A note will be on whiteboard when they arrive.

Playgroup Fridays 12:30-2:30pm

Come and join Willow Close Playgroup. Meet other parents and their children in a friendly atmosphere. There is a focus each week and resources are provided - just bring snacks and drinks for your family. Open for children from birth to 5 years - cost \$2 for children 2 and over.

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