Term 2 has come and gone!

Our Joeys have had a very busy, very long term! We have been looking into all sorts of interests and topics. We have learnt about the season of autumn with all the change it brings to the trees and weather, we busily completed our mothers day gifts and with it had a lovely mothers night.

The Joeys were particularly interested in their bodies and facial expressions. With all the mirrors around the room, it was cute to catch a glimpse of the children looking at themselves and making different body positions to see what their reflections looked like.

The Joeys talked about healthy food during snack time and we learnt about worms and our worm farm at kinder.

We have looked at Australian animals and played with a variety of these in many different 'environments'; sand, on the floor, on tables, with felt mats and even a cave!

Getting our hands dirty with messy, sensory play has been a favourite activity throughout the term. And most importantly, we are learning how to be friendly and interact with others at kinder.
Mother’s Day Night

Our Mother's Day Night was a success with only a couple of faces missing. This did not dampen our spirits though as all our mum’s and children were able to play and socialise. We decorated cupcakes we had made earlier, had delicious pizza for dinner and our Mum’s went home with presents and the kids with a full belly. It was a wonderful night!

Why is play so important?

There is plenty of evidence out there that suggests that play is an important part of learning about life and the world around us. Play can support all areas of learning such as physical, social, emotional and intellectual as well as different content areas like literacy and numeracy.

Active play involving both fine and gross motor skills (big and small muscle groups) like climbing, running, ball games, digging, jumping and dancing supports children’s:

- Overall health and wellbeing
- Physical growth
- Appreciation for being active
- Skills for self help like eating or dressing

Dramatic or imaginative play like dressing up or role play games mummies and daddies help to develop positive social and emotional skills and values. Children learn to:

- Practice playing with others
- Develop qualities like fairness and empathy as they continue to play with other children

- Negotiating skills
- Making choices and decisions (life skills)
- Develop confidence through feelings of success
- Ability to control emotions and reduce impulsive behaviour
- Reduce stress as events may be acted out that’s worrying the child

Playing alone or with others and using toys like construction sets, dolls and pretend play supports children intellect as their brain are very active during this type of play. From this they can learn:

- Problem solving skills
- The power of imagination and creativity
- Math’s concepts like shapes, patterns, measurement
- Disposition like concentration and persistence which become very important for life long learning.

Adapted from “The value of play” by Dr. Anne Kennedy
Enerjive — Magicland!

This term we had an incursion about Magicland, a magical place where wizards, witches, knights (the boys weren't impressed enough with wizards) and fairies come from. The Joeys enjoyed dressing up in costumes and turning each other into all sorts of interesting things! They had lots of fun dressing up, dancing, doing stretching exercises, make believing they were fairies or wizards and having a ball.

As well as professional entertainers, we love to have family members come and share an experience with the kids. Whether it be a cooking or craft activity or even story time, please speak with Nicole.

We need you! What is your child interested in?

Marianne and I want to know what your child is interested in NOW. This is so we can include it into the program and capture your child’s interests. Although we have been observing the children, if we can get some feedback from you, then we can incorporate this into our activities.

There is a space for family feedback, ideas and comments on the curriculum plan, so please utilise this space! If there is something your child is interested in, LET US KNOW!!!

Weather Change

Now that the cooler weather is creeping up on us, it’s time to put a beanie and jacket with your child’s belongings when they come to kinder as we will endeavor to go outside regardless of the cold. Please ensure that there is a spare set of clothing (shirt, underwear, pants and socks) as accidents do happen but more so kids will be kids. And I do believe, let us allow our children to be children. They will get messy (though we try to prevent as much as we can with smocks and hand washing) and part of learning is seeing what rain is, making mud pies and finger painting to their hearts content.

Let the children play, but be warm and comfortable doing so.

Remember: Name all items of clothing.
A little help please?

Our Wattle Room is needing a little help from volunteers. We have some odd jobs that staff would be grateful to be helped out with.

- We are looking for a helper to make us some 'nice looking, durable' door stoppers.
- We need help mending some outdoor blocks. They will need screws put in to secure the sides to the top and bottom.
- We need assistance in stamping, contacting and cataloguing our new books.
- We would like a helper to take photos and catalogue our puzzles.

⇒ We are hoping someone can sew us a new laundry/washing bag so we have one at the kinder while the other is out getting washed.
⇒ We are hoping there are some handy people out there able to help us with extra shelving for our storeroom and play room.

If anyone is able to fill any of these roles, please contact Nicole as we would like to get them sorted out as soon as possible to ensure the smooth running of the kinder.

No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another. Thank you.

Reminders

- Remember to collect your child's work and any notices on each session. If there is any important kinder info, you will miss out until next time.
- Remember to include a change of clothes, a coat and beanie in their bags, all named.
- Just a reminder about language from parents and families in and around the kinder. Please remember to respect our children and other families.
- When on parent duty, remember to keep what you see and hear private as every family has signed our 'Parent Confidentiality Agreement.'