



Children really enhanced their confidence and skills in the pool. They practiced safety slides, dived for toys, kicked with the kick boards and much, much more



Ruby's creative construction.



Who's the tallest? Comparing size. Inspired by Jaxon who brought his skeleton outfit when he was focus child.



Kindy Newsletter

Term 4

December 2019

Welcome Family and Friends

Another year full of fun, adventure and learning has flown by. Writing the final newsletter of the year is a lovely time to reflect on how much the children have grown and developed over the past year. I am grateful to be working with such a skilled team of staff who make sure that the children are at the centre of all that we do and who share a sense of wonder in how children learn and a commitment to nurture their personalities and love of learning with care and compassion.

We wish the children who are starting Prep our best wishes as they move in to the next stage of their learning and hope that they continue with the enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge that they have shown throughout kindy. Please feel free to pop in and say hello—we would love to see you and hear all about school.

We look forward to welcoming back those children who are returning in 2020 and to having lots more adventures with them here at PBC Early Learning Centre.

Myself and the team would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and joyous New Year.

Goodbye Signora Suzanna

We are sorry to have said goodbye/arrivederci to Miss Suzanna as she is leaving school this year. She asked me to pass on her best wishes and to say what a pleasure it has been to teach your children over the past years.

We have been so fortunate to have her share her love of the Italian language and culture and to do so in a way which was fun and meaningful to our children. She has kindly handed over to Kate McDonald who will incorporate Italian in to our Kindy program. I'm sure that you will join me in wishing Suzanna our best wishes.



Music and Movement



As the weather heated up we noticed the children engaging in more indoor play. With plenty of energy still to burn, educators programmed activities inside that allowed the children to exercise their gross motor skills. Music and movement became a regular activity and this encouraged learning in a variety of areas. During free dance sessions children were observed role playing a range of characters such as princesses, mermaids, birds and dinosaurs. Nurturing this cognitive development skill of imaginative play, educators incorporated appropriate dress ups into the learning environment. Children took full advantage of this and regularly utilised the costumes, adding value to their play. We noticed some children enjoyed experimenting different beat patterns in songs using instruments. Extending on this we researched music from around the world and discussed what instruments made songs sound different. We extended this further by experimenting how to move our bodies to various beat patterns, We strengthened children's comprehension and skills in listening and following instruction as we carried out dance games that followed set rules such as musical statues, musical bums and musical colours and by incorporating dances that used specific movement instructions. All in all, during these sessions of music and movement a sense of fun, happiness and excitement was seen on the children faces.



Yarning Circle

This term Joey children have been developing their conversation skills through a yarning circle. We noticed that sharing ideas and experiences in a group situation was challenging, as the children were eager to share their thoughts at the same time. This often led to children becoming frustrated because they could not communicate their opinions without being interrupted. Educators also noticed some children lacked confidence in sharing their views, hence the yarning circle and talking stick concepts were introduced. Each day the children gathered for a yarn in relation to a focus question or visual aide. This intentional teaching method was applied to strengthen comprehension skills and develop confidence as it encouraged children to think and respond to a specific topic. The assistance of the talking stick allowed children to grasp the notion of turn taking with talking and listening while communicating with others. The intention was set that only those with the talking stick, which the children decided resembled a microphone, would do the talking while others clicked on their listening ears. This rule was well received and many demonstrated a strong understanding of turn taking in not only yarning circle situations but also in regular group time sessions. Educators began to see children waiting their turn to talk by making an indication, raising their hand, which showed they wanted to share an idea. Traditionally yarning circles have been used by First Nations People from around the world to learn from each other, build respectful relationships and preserve and pass on cultural knowledge.



Shape Recognition

A focus area for the Joey's mathematical learning this term has been shape recognition. Children have been learning basic shapes such as circle, triangle, square, diamond and rectangle. Group time discussions about shape attributes, such as sides and points, encouraged children to recognise objects within their environment that resembled each shape. Many children made relevant connections such as a bouncy ball for a circle, a pizza slice for a triangle, a window for a square and a kite for a diamond. Educators observed children transferring and adapting their learnt knowledge of shapes into informal chats over mealtimes. Children were heard using mathematical language when comparing and identifying the shape of their sandwiches, a triangle or square, as well as other foods in their lunchboxes; a circle for a cookie and round for an apple. During these chats children were further encouraged to explore other mathematical concept such as quantity, counting their sandwich sections, and measurement as they compared the size of different foods. The children showed much curiosity and enthusiasm incorporating this mathematical learning into an everyday situation.



Gardening with Mary

This term we were thrilled to welcome Mary (Memar), Leonardo's Grandma who joined us every other Wednesday morning and worked tirelessly planting and tending fruit, vegetables and herbs in our veggie gardens. During Mary's first visit we talked to the children about how we could care for our plants and wondered if any other creatures might try to eat them. This resulted in the planning, gathering of resources and making of our very cool looking scarecrow.

This project supported children in learning about nature, sustainability, healthy lifestyles and caring for their environment; problem solving; working collaboratively; language and listening; large and small muscle control; literacy skills; a strong sense of belonging; high self-esteem and a sense of agency as they made decisions about their learning. All of this while having so much fun!!!

The children loved Mary's visits and have been enjoying caring for, harvesting, cooking with, and eating what we have grown.



Incubating and Hatching

At the beginning of the term the children had been fascinated by a plover that was sitting on a nest in the big yard. We talked about how they would swoop to protect their nest and so we kept well away. Then, one Monday morning we noticed that the plover had gone and assumed that the chicks had hatched. However, when we went to play in the yard children discovered an egg in the nest. The children hoped that if we cared for the egg it would still hatch. They set about making a nest but eventually agreed that it wouldn't hatch. The children were fascinated by discussions about incubation and we were lucky enough to arrange for an incubator and eggs to be brought to the centre from Henny Penny's. We spent the next two weeks studying and caring for the chicks as they hatched and grew. This was a great learning experience as children further developed a love and respect of living things and life cycles. They learnt the importance of handling the chicks gently and quietly and making sure that we didn't catch or pass on germs. Children increased their vocabulary, developed patience as they waited for their turn to hold the chicks and recorded mathematical concepts as we kept a tally of how many yellow and black chicks hatched. The chicks were adopted by Jake and Rocco who are taking great care of them and they are continuing to thrive.



Making Books and Recording our Ideas and Learning

In term 4 the kindy children were involved in various projects and worked collaboratively to document their learning in the form of making books. We created a book on a learning topic of Seasons as well as 'What we are looking forward to in Prep'. The children also made an original poster with Miss Kate for display in our foyer, celebrating world kindness day.

Each child contributed their thoughts on what it means to be kind, with a drawing of that kindness on a cut out tracing of their hand. All the hands together were placed in a circle shape that represented a circle of kindness.

"it's kind to help someone when they are sad"
"it's kind to listen to the teacher"



Our focus children brought in some interesting items that inspired some fascinating discussions and inspired lots of play and learning.



Leonardo brought his mice Poppy and Daisy to visit. He chose Ruben to be the first to stroke them as he was sitting quietly so he wouldn't frighten them.



We were introduced to the wonders of fishing.



Children shared special books of the schools they are going to next year, Zoe showed photos of a family camping trips, Stella shared a book on the world and all about her family heritage and Dan brought in his venus fly trap.



Ideas for Christmas Activities

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/melted-snowmen-christmas-cookies-recipe/3igc4n8f>



These melted Christmas Snowman may be apt for our Sunshine Coast Climate



Or maybe a Christmas Tree frittata if you feel they've had enough sugar!!!



Perhaps a game of Christmas bingo

For instructions and recipes:

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/melted-snowmen-christmas-cookies-recipe/3igc4n8f>

<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/printable-christmas-bingo-games-1356265>

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/christmas-tree-frittata-recipe/>



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR