

ELC Newsletter



Making the most of many different opportunities to practise our mark making skills



Sharing our baby photos—developing our identity and understanding of changes over time.



Working together to maneuver the ball when ball painting

Welcome Family and Friends

It's certainly a huge relief to be compiling this newsletter from our usual ELC building which, as I'm sure you'll agree looks fantastic. Many thanks for all your patience, kind words and understanding over the last few months.

As Kate said, it felt like Christmas for the children (and educators) when we eventually returned last week and explored our new resources and rediscovered those that had been in storage. Our own Christmas in July.

As you will see from this newsletter, despite the challenges the children still had many wonderful learning and play experiences last term.



Reconciliation Week

In week 7 we celebrated Reconciliation Week, the Wattle friends learnt of white settlement and how Australia was once called Terra Nullius (nobody's land). As the week progressed children developed their understanding that Australia was in fact already somebody's land, and the land on which our Kindy is situated is Gubbi Gubbi land. This important information supported Wattle friends in learning the significance as to why we say our Acknowledgement of country.





Sense of belonging

We have had so much fun together this term! Outdoor adventures, singing, dancing and musical instruments, investigations and sensory experiences to name a few.

Over term 2 our Bunya friends have built close relationships with each other and educators and have also welcomed new friends, Cody, Imogen, Lola and Holly to our happy clan.



Independence skills have still been a big focus, including others and using words and kindness.

During our outdoor bush kindy adventures. We have been exploring the natural environment, wading through bodies of water and muddy puddles, playing games and collecting natural resources (flowers, sticks, seeds rocks) and returning to make nature art. We have also been practicing our tree climbing skills, helping us build confidence and develop coordination, problem solving skills, and strength.

Games with counting



We have been playing lots of games helping us learn early numeracy skills. (Dice games, counting games, shapes and colours). We are learning to count small groups of objects in sequence and to identify colours and shapes.

Human Bodies



Bunya children explored all things about the human body this term with great interest. We borrowed non-fiction books from the library looking closely at the human body illustrations. We talked lots about what our bodies need and explored parts of the body, their uses /functions.

Tinkering with Tools



We have loved our little pop up tool shop outside the Bunya room. Through tinkering with bolts nuts wood and toy tools, we have learnt about materials and functions of tools while developing their fine motor skills and having great fun in



Creating Cubbies

Our Bunya friends love, love, love making cubbies and dramatic role play. Cubbyhouses are a great way for children to enjoy imaginative play and role play, think creatively and solve problems. What has started as a simple cubbyhouse/ play area, has turned into all sorts of different places such as a shop, hospital, school, castle and much more.



Alphabet Soup

Throughout the year, Wattle children have been exploring sound/letter relationships with literacy games such as Letter Bingo and Eye Spy. This term Alphabet Soup was incorporated into the daily morning routine, not only to enhance the children's knowledge of letter sounds and names, but also to provide opportunity for the children to build comprehension skills, explore rhyming patterns, link pictures with words and develop an understanding that text can be used for a range of purposes – writing lists and recipes. This learning experience also challenged Wattle friends to recognise upper- and lower-case letters and develop an awareness that “big letters go at the start of a name” and “little letters go in the middle.” Each week as a new letter sound was introduced, the children showed enthusiasm to share their existing knowledge by brainstorming words and peer names that began with that sound. This further transferred into discussions at mealtimes as the children identified foods in their lunchboxes that began with the weeks' sound (corn, cracker, cucumber, cake).



Bush Kindy

Term 2 saw a variety of Bush Kindy adventures occur which created opportunity for many skills to be developed. Wattle children practised life skills by learning how to create shelter using sticks and a tarp. These survival tasks required children to listen and follow directions, be persistent and resilient as well as work in a team.



Creative thinking was explored when children were given projects to construct a house for a mouse and a nest for a bird. These tasks encouraged the Wattle friends to brainstorm ideas and discuss designs before going out into “The Wild” to construct their creations. Back at Kindy we saw an interest evolve from these activities, as many children began creating accessories for birds to put in the tree in the Kindy yard (bird swing, bird hammock, bird feeder, bird bed).

The wet weather in Term 2 meant while on Bush Kindy adventures the children were able to explore the effects of consistent rainfall – mud, puddles, and pooling water in road gutters. This led to conversations about natural disasters, such as floods, which prompted ideas in play as children used loose part resources to construct a “flood alarm.”





Enjoying some trips to our natural play space



Making friends and connections through role play



Feeling a sense of pride in our work as we share our creations with our teachers and friends



Supporting Children Through Anxiety

Last month I attended a PD looking at how we can support children who struggle with anxiety. It was run by a psychologist, Karen Young, who has written a book called “Hey Little Warrior” which helps children understand what is happening to their brain and their body when they become anxious. This may feel to children like fear, worry, sadness or anger.

Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing the book to children and working through the class-based program which has a variety of activities to help children to name and to learn about their amygdala. They will learn how the amygdala can help us to keep safe but may also think it needs to protect us, even when we are safe.

We will introduce and support children in using a range of strategies to self-regulate when they feel those big emotions.

- Developmentally, young children will not have the neural capacity to calm themselves when they are dysregulated, regardless of the number of strategies they learn
- Until they develop this capacity (which may take years) co-regulation is an important way to bring them back to calm and to build their capacity to self-regulate
- We recognize that children need to be able to co-regulate with the safe, warm and loving relationship of an important adult before they are able to self-regulate and that this adult needs to have both a strong sense of caring and a strong sense of leadership (through a calm, clear but firm approach). This highlights the priority we give to building strong relationships with your children

Staffing

Terri, who was with us for a short time last term sadly decided that she was unable to continue in her position with us due to ongoing problems with a historic foot injury. As you can imagine working with under 5's is physically very demanding!!

We are however, delighted to welcome Liz back to team. She will be working each Wed (assisting Kate in Wattle) Thurs (as lead in Bunya) and Friday working across both rooms to cover Kate and Claire for their programming time.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 25th August

Portrait Patch will be making their annual visit to take the children's photographs. They will be here from 8.30-10am. Please see the poster at ELC for more information and get your envelope to make an order at the office.

Friday 9th September

Closed for Noosa Show Day

Friday 16th September

End of term 3 for PBC. We remain open as usual

Monday 3rd October

Closed for the Queen's birthday public holiday.