

# Kindy Newsletter

Term 1

April 2020

## Welcome Family and Friends

Well, this is not the newsletter I had thought I would be writing at the end of term 1. I hope that you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well. We are enjoying welcoming those children who are still coming to our centre and we miss those who are choosing to stay at home.

Despite the unusual circumstances, I thought it would still be good to reflect on what the children have been learning and exploring throughout term 1. We had a wonderful start to the year with a superb group of children. They all settled happily to life here at PCB Early Learning Centre and quickly developed a strong sense of belonging and bonds with our staff team and each other. Hopefully we will soon be the other side of this difficult time and will be able to re-establish our community. In the meantime, please keep in touch.



*There's nothing quite like running in the rain and splashing in muddy puddles*



*Working together to build the tallest tower.*



## Getting to know each other

Our priority in term 1 is always to build strong relationships with children and families. This ensures that children feel valued and respected and develop their confidence, strong sense of self and sense of belonging within our early learning centre community. It also enables our educators to develop their knowledge and understanding of the children so that we can create an environment that best supports children's needs, interests and learning.

Children have proudly shared photographs of their family at Focus Time and have developed their confidence as they spoke about their family, their pets and what they enjoy doing as a family. Children are beginning to learn that families are unique and to respect their diversity. They have also drawn some fantastic pictures of their families which are displayed in the entrance alongside their photographs. We often see them studying these with their friends or parents, chatting about their own and each others' families.

*Harper demonstrates her golf swing as she tells us what she enjoys doing with her family*



## Sustainable Living

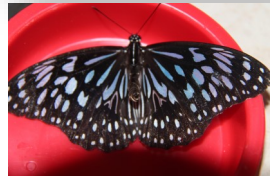


As part of our commitment to promoting sustainable living we invited people from the Sunshine Coast Council's Waste 2 Resource program to talk to us about 'compost critters' and to help us set up our worm farm with soil and 1000 compost worms. We listened to a story about the importance of reducing the amount of waste that goes to the dump and learnt that there are many different species of worms. We talked about which food we should and shouldn't put in our worm farm and learnt that worms love banana skins and apple cores but should not be given citrus fruit. The children have been eager to save their leftovers to give to the worms and have been using the worm juice when watering our veggie garden.



## Bugs

Children have been fascinated by bugs. Early in the term we read the story of The Hungry Caterpillar and this inspired lots of art work and discussions about the lifecycle of a butterfly. The repetition in the story supports children's literacy as they are able to tell the story themselves, sometimes using the felt story board as a visual prop. Amity kindly bought us a book from her trip to the Ginger Factory which was all about bees. Poppy brought in a moth that she had found which we studied in her bug catcher. On the same day Miss Shyra had brought in a beautiful blue butterfly. We thought that it was dead but the children were delighted when it flew away. This inspired us to go bug hunting in the school grounds and we decided to keep a tally of the different bugs we found. This not only supported children's love of nature and a sense of awe and wonder, but also their understanding of writing for different purposes, of recording quantity and of using mathematical language as we talked about what insects we found more/less/most of.



## Role Play Doctors and Hospitals

The children were inspired by a recent visit to the doctors. We quickly responded to this, developing their interest by creating various indoor and outdoor doctors' surgeries. The children were provided with many doctors' tools: dress up clothes, books about doctors and nurses, beds, teddies and other equipment. The play developed with the children using computers and note pads to make appointments and take notes about their patients. The children took turns being the doctor, the nurse and the patient.

The children developed various skills through this educational, fun role play: cooperation, communication, negotiation, turn taking and patience as well as literacy, mark making and fine motor skills.

The children's interests have changed slightly at the doctor's surgery at the end of term. Instead of the patient focus, children are more focused on the anatomical side of things. They have been investigating x-rays, body models, puzzles of our own anatomy and learning more about what is inside of our bodies.



## Getting Creative

We have noticed that many of the children have been enjoying exploring their creative side. They have been using a wide range of materials to build, to draw and paint pictures and to mould into shapes. As well as developing their creativity, having access to a wide range of art and construction resources allows children to learn about the properties of different materials and media. For example, they learn whether sticky tape or glue may work better to hold things together and realise that sometimes working as a team allows you to create higher or more complex constructions. They learn resilience when buildings inevitably fall down and determination as they work out different ways to make them more sturdy.



Working together to make a cubby



Using leaves and herbs from our garden "I'm making a puffer fish".

We made some lovely mobiles for the Joey's room—creating a sense of ownership at our centre.

## Letters and Numbers

Educators encourage children's numeracy and literacy skills each day by creating an environment that promotes opportunities for them to explore numbers, letters, sounds and stories. Throughout the day they embrace opportunities to extend and children's learning in these areas as they play. Here are a few photos of some examples of this throughout term one.



Making marks and using numbers for a variety of reasons with different tools, indoors and outdoors, encourages all children to enjoy literacy and numeracy and to develop their large and small muscles both of which are needed to develop their writing skills.



## Looking Forward to Future Plans

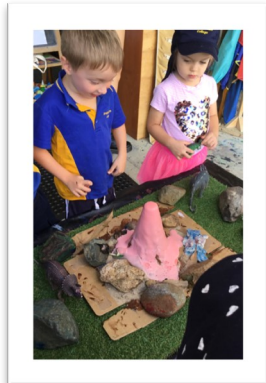
We had many exciting plans in the pipeline for Term 2 including working alongside Lyndon Davis, families and children to create some mobile art work for the foyer, depicting the traditional seasons here on the Sunshine Coast. We had booked our Bush Kindy sessions with Nature Weavers and we were building our links with Laparinta Pre-school in Alice Springs. Sadly these will be put on hold for the time being but we are looking forward to getting them up and running as soon as possible.



As I mentioned in an email we have been awarded a \$35000 grant from the Gambling Community Benefit fund for the re-fencing and landscaping of our large grassed outdoor play area. I would love to hear of any ideas you or your children have.



## Ideas for Activities During Social Distancing



*Make a volcano by mixing together 1/2 cup water, 1/4 cup white vinegar, 1/4 cup washing up liquid, a few drops of food colouring and then adding 2 tablespoons of bicarbonate of soda and watching it erupt.*



*We'd love to receive a hug from children at home and I'm sure that children at kindy would love to send one back.*



*Why not make some aliens like we did in the Easter Holidays. We had great fun making aliens using rice cakes, avocado and various veggies. A fun activity, making a healthy snack and using our fine motor skills and hand/eye coordination.*



### Kindy Tennis

We have decided not to run Kindy tennis for the first part of Term 2. We will then re-view the situation and hope to resume the sessions. In the meantime, Sarah Irvin is able and happy to offer private coaching sessions and is able to deliver these to 2 siblings at the same time. Her contact number is: 0415 835457

