



29.04.21

Curriculum Note:

Our Curriculum encompasses all the interactions, experiences, routines and events, planned and unplanned that occur. Planning the environment to assist children to achieve outcomes is important in providing quality play experiences.

At our fortnightly planning meetings, we reflect on the week and we draw on a rich repertoire of practices designed to foster children's learning and development.

These include:

- adopting an *holistic approach* – physical, social, emotional, personal, spiritual, creative, cognitive, communication aspects
- being *responsive to children* - to all children's strengths, abilities, interests, developmental needs
- planning and implementing *learning through play* - essential to children's learning and development providing opportunities to learn as children discover, create and imagine.
- *intentional teaching* - Intentional teaching is deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful, for example in our group times where during the day we divide into 3 or 4 smaller groups

These group times provide an opportunity to include intentional teaching with a specific focus on certain aspects of literacy and numeracy.

(Our literacy focus goals were sent to families last term identifying the following areas)

- Phonological awareness (PA) – to improve PA skills through small groups – children's understanding of syllables, rhyme, same sounds in words
- Conversations – improve children's ability to process and produce complex sentences – to describe and express ideas

We introduced aspects of these goals in term 1 and will be continuing this in more depth in our small groups this term

Educators who engage in intentional teaching recognise:

- that learning occurs in social contexts
- interactions and conversations are important for learning
- use strategies such as modelling, demonstrating, explaining, open questioning
- engaging in shared thinking and problem solving to extend children's thinking and learning

During the break, we identified several books which we will be working on during the term. Our work with the children in small groups will include:

- Phonological awareness – syllables, rhyme, sounds
- Representation and writing
- Oral language – thinking, recalling, listening, vocabulary
- Print knowledge – letters, books, uses of print

All educators are aware of the goals and will work with set groups of children

We have allocated some of the time we buy in for our speech therapist Tilly, to be involved with the planning and to work with us on these goals.

Nature Education Centre

This term we will be borrowing animals and displays from the Nature Education Centre located at Urrbrae Agricultural School. The experience provides an opportunity to:



- show growing appreciation and care for natural and constructed environments
- explore relationships with other living and non-living things
- observe and notice
- care for a range of live animals, preserved displays and kits
- develop vocabulary
- gain information through listening and asking questions

Our borrowed animal this week (week 1) is a sleepy lizard.

Eat a Rainbow Programme

Information emailed and placed in children's pockets

Steps to help promote well-being and good health habits

To help prevent the spread of illness at preschool we:

- promote regular hand washing during the day
- regularly use alcohol sanitiser
- wipe down surfaces
- have an extra 1 hour cleaning schedule in the middle of the day
- cough / sneeze on an elbow or use a tissue
- promote staying home if unwell
- as adults, including parents must continue to physical distance wherever possible, including at preschool pick up and drop off

Easter Fundraiser

The term 1 Easter raffle fundraiser was very successful. We received many donations and the parent committee made up 17 prizes. It was good to be able to hand over the prizes knowing they were filled with quality chocolate.

We thank the parents who made up the prizes and to all who bought tickets in the raffle

Also, to Kym who organized the raffle.

We made \$550.00 profit from this fundraiser

Parent Committee Meetings also referred to as Governing Council Meetings

As mentioned previously, these meetings are open to all. We encourage families to come along and take the opportunity to:

- find out more about the preschool
- meet and talk to other parents
- discuss issues, topics of interest, fundraising
- view and assist in labelling any new equipment
- have a say

The meetings last for approximately 1 hour. They are held at 9.00am on the first Thursday of the month. If you are interested but unable to attend the meetings, please let one of the staff know so an apology can be recorded.

The next meeting will be: **Thursday, May 6th at 9.00am (week 2)**

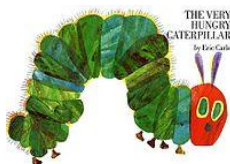
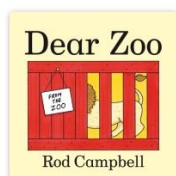


Book Display

Books & Gifts Direct leave a selection which is displayed at the preschool on the table to the right of the entrance gate. The display which is generally well discounted is for families to look through and order from. If you would like to order from the selection:

- please add your child's name to the list located next to the display
- place the money for the books in an envelope provided, hand to an educator

The money needs to be paid at the time of the order, or prior to the delivery date.



Mobile Library Van visits for Term 2:

A.M. group: Wednesday morning

P.M. group: Thursday afternoons

A.M. dates

April	28 th
May	12 th
May	26 th
June	9 th
June	23 rd

P.M. dates

April	29 th
May	13 th
May	27 th
June	10 th
June	24 th

It was good to see so many children borrowing books last term. Having stories read aloud to children is great for literacy and the development of their vocabulary. This has long term benefits for future reading and writing at school.

If you have a query about the process, please ask one of us.

Preschool Closure Day Wednesday, May 26th 2020

The Department for Education allocates sites pupil free days where all staff are required to attend training and professional development. We have planned for the pupil free days to be one per term and to hold these on different days of the week.

This term: preschool will be closed on Wednesday May 26th 2021.
Preschool will resume as usual the next day on Thursday May 27th

Reminders:

In terms 2 and 3, hats may be worn for outside play at preschool, but they are not compulsory. Our bodies require a certain amount of sunshine and outside play (without hats) in terms 2 and 3 is one way of achieving this.

Dates to keep in mind:

Thursday, May 6th Governing Council Meeting at 9:00am

Wednesday May 26th Term 2 Preschool Closure Day (NO Preschool - staff training day)