



24.05.21

Curriculum Note: Nature Education Centre

In weeks 2 and 3, we had the Living eggs experience at preschool where children were able to observe the eggs and newborn chicks. This experience provided an opportunity for the children to learn about caring, feeding, handling the baby chicks. (most of the children stroked the chicks and felt their soft covering)

Our borrowed animal last week (week 4) was a long necked turtle. The children were able to have a closer look as they observed the turtle in an outdoor enclosed area. We noticed the patterns on the shell and could touch the hard shell.

The children have been so engaged in observing and caring for the animals that we have borrowed from the Nature Education Centre.

This experience fits very well with outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework.

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- encouraging the children to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
- show growing appreciation and care for natural and constructed environments
- explore relationships with other living and non-living things
- look for examples of interdependence in the environment and discuss the ways the
- life and health of living things are interconnected

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved Learners - evident when children:

- express wonder and interest in their environments
- are curious and enthusiastic participants in their learning

Educators promote this by recognising and respecting children's involvement in learning

At preschool we use the Indicators of Preschool numeracy and literacy to inform planning. These indicators are underpinned by the principles, practices and learning outcomes in the Early Years Learning Framework. This fits well with our: Improvement Plan Goal 1:

To improve children's ability to process and produce complex sentences describing and expressing their ideas to connect and communicate

The Literacy Indicator states: *I understand and use language to connect to my world*

The children:

- Use increasingly sophisticated language to connect and communicate
- Describe experiences and express ideas
- Demonstrate rich vocabulary motivated by curiosity, comments and questioning
- Share prior knowledge
- Listen and respond respectfully in a group conversation
- Maintain a reciprocal shared conversation
- Initiate conversation with a trusted educator
- Speak in sentences, asking questions, listening and responding appropriately





Eat a Rainbow Programme

Thank you to the families who have sent orange and yellow food to preschool.

Eat a Rainbow encourages the exploration of a range of fruits and vegetables of many colours in a child-friendly way. This fun and appealing concept is a useful way to encourage children to increase their intake and range of fruit and vegetables.

The children were encouraged to try the variety of orange food – mandarins, sweet potato and also pumpkin soup

Similarly, the yellow food – pineapple, golden kiwi fruit and plans for banana smoothies

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



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 meet and talk to other parents, discuss any issues, topics of interest, fundraising.

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, June 3rd 9.00am (week 6)**

Preschool Closure Day Wednesday, May 26th 2021

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

As mentioned previously, our next pupil free day is this Wednesday 26th May

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

Dates to keep in mind:

Wednesday May 26th	Term 2 Preschool Closure Day (NO Preschool - staff training day)
Thursday May 27th	Preschool returns as normal
Thursday, June 3rd	Governing Council Meeting at 9:00am

