

Woodside Preschool

NEWSLETTER Term 1 Wk. 10

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Can you help?



Government of South Australia

Department for Education



Diary Dates

Term 1&2 2021

March 31 st	Mobile Junkyard
April 7 th	Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens excursion Last day of Term 1
April 27 th	Term 2 starts – 3 day week
FUTURE DATES	<u>May 4th</u> – 9am WPS school tour
	<u>May 5th</u> – Mother's Night
	<u>May 13th</u> – Governing Council
	<u>May 19th</u> – Curriculum Night
	<u>May 26th</u> – Magic Beach Excursion



www.woodsidepre.sa.edu.au

dl.4676_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

12 Moffet St Woodside 5244

83897103

0409684855

Robyn's News

Last Newsletter I shared with you our plans and progress towards the first goal in our Preschool Quality Improvement Plan.

The second goal follows on from Goal 1- once children are able to self-regulate and are ready to take risks they can engage more readily in their learning.

Goal 2 To accelerate and deepen children's literacy and numeracy learning and their application of knowledge and skills in context (problem solving and increasingly complex activities)

Just being able to recite the alphabet or count to 10, while appearing impressive, is not in itself an indication of literacy and numeracy learning. This particular skill is about memory rather than internalizing a skill.

Through playful learning and intentional teaching we set goals and work towards deepening children's understanding of Literacy and Numeracy. The first steps in this process is an understanding of number and developing phonological awareness.

Number-to really understand number and be able to use number to solve problems, children need to have a concept of what number is- which is tricky because it is an abstract concept. Through number games, sequencing, recognizing numerals, counting on, counting back, and using number in play and for real world purposes children will develop a deeper understanding of how number works. When they have this understanding they can then work towards solving problems with increasing difficulty. We have recently worked with all children individually to collect data on current understandings of number. This will help us plan our targeted activities and learning for term 2.

Phonological Awareness-this is the key skill supporting the development of reading. It refers to the ability to focus on the sounds of speech- rhyme, rhythm, syllables and later blending sounds and recognizing initial sounds. This aspect of literacy is about the sounds of letters rather than the name of the letter.

In the past few weeks all children had their Oral Language development measured using the Phonological Awareness Screening Measure (rhyme, syllables, and initial sounds). Once again, this information will be used to shape our planning for individual children and group experiences.

Group times will continue to have a focus on developing explicit skills in the area of rhyme, syllable differentiation and initial sounds as these skills are recognized as the building blocks to successful reading later.

With the holidays just around the corner here are some ideas for supporting the development of these language skills at home.

Make rhyming fun- there is so much rhyme in books and the environment- rhyming words don't even have to be real words- they can also be nonsense words (making up rhyming words is another skill progressing after recognizing rhyme in language).

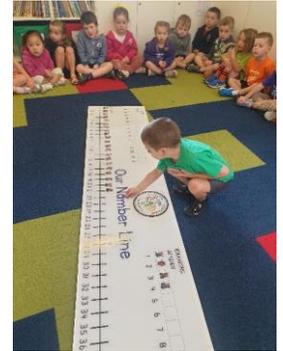
When we talk about **syllables**- it isn't actually important *how many* syllables are in a word- the skill is breaking a word up into the different parts by tapping, hopping, jumping, clapping, drumming- the list goes on.... Music and keeping a beat are great activities to support this.

Initial sounds- it is important to recognize that *naming letters* and *knowing the sounds* are 2 different skills- to support early reading (and overall language development) children need to be able to *recognize the sound* being made. Once the *first* sound is recognized with ease, we support children to recognize the *middle* and *last* sound (using the words first, middle and last and understanding them is also a valuable

skill).

Next week all children will take home their Sharing Books for the holidays. Inside you will find a **Belonging Statement** reflecting on your child's first term of preschool. We would love you to have a look through the Sharing Book with them and chat about their learning so far.

Happy Holidays, Robyn



Our Learning

Our first term of preschool is nearly over! We have all developed so much confidence in the learning environment – we are taking risks to try new things, immersing ourselves in learning experiences and challenging ourselves to extend our understandings.

Forming connections, relationships and friendships has been a major focus during term one and it has been fantastic to see lots of cooperative group play occurring. We have been working together on construction and creative projects, participating in imaginative play together, dancing together, exploring together and communicating with one another as we play. This has all helped to strengthen our sense of belonging.

Over the past few weeks children's interests, wonderings, questions and observations have helped to shape our learning programme.

Caterpillars, Chrysalis and Butterflies

We have been fascinated to observe the lifecycle of a butterfly which has been occurring before our eyes in the preschool garden. We have witnessed every stage of the lifecycle and there was great excitement when a butterfly finally emerged from its chrysalis. We have discussed our observations, made predictions about what will happen next and have extended our understandings through creative art experiences and pretend play – there have been lots of pretend butterflies fluttering around the yard lately!



Fruit, Vegetables and Seeds



We have had some weird, wonderful and enormous vegetables brought into kindy by children which has sparked an interest in learning about vegetables and fruit. We have explored what fruits and vegetables look like through still-life painting and we have used our fine motor skills to cut up a rainbow of vegetables to taste. We dissected a selection of different fruits and vegetables and discovered that some have seeds inside, which we then collected using tweezers. We noticed that a cheeky possum has been eating the produce from our vegetable garden (Huerto) so we conducted some experiments to discover what fruit and vegetables possums like to eat – the results showed that possums don't like broccoli or cauliflower!!

Kindness

We have been exploring kindness – what it looks like, sounds like and feels like. We have discovered that being kind can be as simple as saying hello, smiling at someone or inviting someone to play. It is wonderful to see everyone identifying the kindness that occurs at kindy everyday and our "Kindness Jar" is quickly filling up with colourful pom poms.



Some other curriculum highlights have been :

- Our first "Stay and Play" morning for parents.
- Glenn's Mobile Junkyard visit.
- Celebrating Harmony Day and meeting our Big Buddies from Woodside Primary School.
- School library visits with Monique.
- Making and using our calm down glitter jars.



We hope you enjoy looking at our Discovery Table each day to gain an insight into what we have been doing and learning. You will see even more of our adventures on our Facebook and Instagram pages too!

Have a happy Easter, Jodie, Kathy, Jane and Jo ☺

Term 1 Social Skills



This term all the children have been participating in a social skills program which has been a half hour session once a week. This has been an intentional teaching time where the children have listened to stories, watched puppet shows, watched a DVD and engaged in practical activities to help them understand the concepts. The concepts covered have included greeting others, taking turns at talking and listening, taking turns at play, sharing, asking for help, identifying feelings, empathy, overcoming fear and anxiety and managing

frustration. Over the coming terms we will be working on helping the children develop these skills in their play situations.



The concepts covered have



Governing Council

At our first Governing Council meeting for the year, members passed the final version of the Budget and also the Preschool Quality Improvement Plan. A final version of the Preschool Quality Improvement Plan will soon be available on the Woodside Preschool website- if you would like a paper version please let us know and we will get one to you

Lucky Squares wood raffle: - are you starting to prepare for winter? Does your wood pile need a top up? We have had a trailer load of fire wood donated and will be selling Lucky Squares tickets at pick up and drop off for \$5 a square. If all tickets are sold before the end of the term, we will announce the winner on the last day of term.

Can you help??

Purple Jumpers- we have a sale on our purple windcheaters (no zips). We have a number of size 4 & 6 available for \$15 each.

To give away-We have a large woodwork bench that has been lovingly restored a number of times and has now reached the end of its time with us. If you would have a use for this table/bench and are able to move it please let a staff member know.

Can you help?? (continued)

We have a very busy holiday ahead as staff!

Due to some stimulus funding coinciding with previously planned updates there is a lot happening at kindy over the next month. Not only are we getting an entire new kitchen installed, we are also having the shelving in the storeroom upgraded and a new cupboard built for the verandah. Before all of this can happen we need some help



- 1) We have a 3rd hand fridge, 2nd hand stove & microwave to dispose of. If you have a need for any of these items- let staff know (no cost but happy to accept a small donation if you want). They need to be taken away on Thursday April 8th between 8.30-4.00.
- 2) Sometime during the first week of the holidays we need to have the shelving in the storeroom dismantled and taken away.
- 3) We would love to have the brick wall on the verandah painted before our new cupboard is installed.



Please see a staff member or email us if you can help us out. Thanks



WPS School Tour

Interested parents are invited to attend a New Parent Tour of Woodside Primary School on Tuesday May 4th at 9am. Please meet at the office.

Parents who would like to attend the tour are welcome to leave their children at Kindy between 8.45-9.00 to allow you time to get to the school.