



Clarence Park
Community Kindergarten

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CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

FLOORBOOK AND CHILD'S VOICE

Our Floor book has taken on a different look this year to reflect more of the children's voice, their interests and ideas and to document how the Educators extend, scaffold and develop their play to meet the Learning Outcomes of our Curriculum the National Quality Standards.

- It responds to individual intelligences through play based experiences.
- It supports the emotional development of children by valuing their thoughts and ideas.
- It provides opportunities that motivate children to challenge their play.
- It lets the children lead the play.
- It develops ideas for intentional learning.

Children's ideas that have been developed this term are:

Music and dance	Numeracy activities
Painting with rollers on large paper	Magnets
Gradients and ramps	Colour mixing
Building with Lego	Pretend Play - boating and fishing
Target throw	Punching bag

Music and performance has been driving many of the children's learning. We have developed the following opportunities for self-expression through music such as;

- instrument making,
- dance using props such as ribbons,
- experimenting with a variety of musical instruments,
- introducing them to a fabulous online resource called 'Musication',
- Teaching them new songs and of course the visit from our guest Graeme who entertained the children with many facts about music. He introduced the children to concepts such as beat, rhythm, pitch, vibration, soft sound and loud sound. He talked about tempo fast and slow music, about melody and chords. He even made sound visible. We have been exploring these concepts with the children.

The connection between music and literacy is huge. We have been teaching the children about syllables, by using tapping sticks and drums discovering how many syllables we have in our names. The children are loving these activities.

Has your child been talking about Funny Hat Time?

Funny Hat times are our more formal meeting times.

When the children notice the Educators wearing a Funny Hat, they know that it is mat time and use the rhyme, "Funny hat, sit on the mat" as they come inside to be "calm, focussed and alert" The children may have talked to you about this expression. It requires them to use their "thinking brain".

Our 'Funny hat sit on the mat' group times will enable the following learning outcomes:

- Expressing emotions and developing a concept of who we are.
- Constructing identity in the context of community.
- Developing social skills, getting along and nurturing friendships.
- Language/literacy and numeracy activities.
- Developing children's interests.
- Teaching skills in gross and fine motor development.
- Project work.

BELONGING

'BoB' Presentations.

All children will get an opportunity to take home a bag which we call the 'Bag of Belonging'.

Your child will be able to bring and share 5 things with the other children during a kindy group time.

The 5 things can be:

- Objects
- Tools
- Photos

These items should represent who your child is:

- My culture / language / religion
- Activities outside of kindergarten
- My community
- My family

We have already had the pleasure of listening to some of the presentations.

This is another great way to monitor children's oral language and to watch their progress through the year.

We will invite you to read about their presentation once we have documented it in their journal.

The belonging tree

At the start of the year the belonging tree was very useful when children were feeling sad, missing their mum or dad at drop of time or at other times of the day. We could take them over to the tree and show them a photo to make them less emotional. Now each child's centre piece has a petal growing on it. They were all asked "Why do you belong at kindy". Their answers were recorded and added to their blooming flower on the tree. Each term another petal, with a different question is added to the tree to give us a sense of how they are feeling about being at kindergarten.

EMOTIONAL REGULATION

What have you heard about the colour monster table?

The book called 'The Colour Monster' is a very valuable resource that teaches children about their most common emotions. It relates each emotion to a colour and describes how those emotions can make you feel. The children are invited to check into their emotions during the day, when they're happy, when they're sad, angry, calm, frightened, love or mixed up. We teach them that it is ok to feel in those particular ways and provide strategies

for overcoming the feelings of sadness, anger, frustration or fright. The Educators have been using consistent language with the children on self-regulation. Last week the concept of 'is it a big problem or a little problem?' was introduced largely through the use of the book, 'Pete the cat – I like my white shoes' Children can relate to this story and the language with great success giving examples of big and little problems. They understand that there are some problems that you can learn to keep going with or walk away from, but with the big problems, assistance is needed.



Diary Dates

19 th March	Harmony day celebration
2 nd of May	Working Bee.

