

Bundaberg Community Kindergarden

May - June 2011



NEWS



◆ Ann & Linda attended the annual C&K Brisbane conference & centre visits May 21st - 23rd. We attended sessions about teaching maths, documenting the "voice" of children, families, staff of the centre, supporting "Risk taking" & children's strengths in our centres, using "reverse cycle garbage" creatively, programming "sustainability" practices and learning in the garden. Attended interesting keynote speakers, especially a session that shared articles & a story about 3 teaspoons and the cultural, ethical & moral understandings of children. What are children saying about their experience with prejudice, social status, gender equity, religion by selecting in a centre - a certain spoon (that is fought over), a certain bike, a seat, putting drink bottle or lunch box next to...? They have much knowledge already. Are they being taught fairly at home & at centre?



◆ We have purchased some quality resources from Brisbane conference - Poster pack re. Sunsmart, Allergic foods, purchased a terrific truck & sand play set made from plastic recycled milk bottles, Indian stamper set, a Baby basket made from grasses & small doll family from "Bangladesh". We also picked up some more ideas for future purchases & will present these to the Management committee for consideration.

◆ We saw the wonderful exhibition in the Convention centre which featured Jude & Jada's - now famous photo. Of course we were proud and it has encouraged us further to use photography to capture children's thinking & their voices.

◆ The management committee carried out the motion at the last Meeting. We have decided to change the format for sessions to a '5 day fortnight' arrangement. This is to ensure all pre-prep children access a 30 hr fortnight (or 15 hr week) learning program as per new funding scheme through Govt. starting next yr. Hours will be 8:30am-2:30pm & the alternating day will be the Wednesday. Jellyfish & Starfish gps will be same days as now & pupil free days will be matched evenly with Public Holidays so one group is not jeopardized in access. For more information families are encouraged to talk with the Director Linda or President Kirsten or phone the centre.

COMING UP EVENTS

Next Committee meeting:
Wed, 20th July, 6:30pm

Term 3: Mon, 11 July - Fri, 16 September
Term 4: Mon, 3 October - Fri, 9 December

Shopping Bus Trip for mums - Saturday, 12th November.

This is a social, fun day (not a fundraiser for kindy) and the trip involves a stop at Eumundi markets first and then a visit to Sunshine Plaza for more shopping. Please let Ann Jenner know if you are interested as numbers are restricted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Enrolments:

StarFish Group — 21
JellyFish Group — 20

Waiting List:

2012 - 66 children
2013 - 35 children
2014 - 13 children
2015 - 2 children

JF group will have 2 new students beginning next term-Crystal Bridge & Matthew Grima and we warmly welcome them & their families to our centre.

Absences: Health of children has been fair & attendance average. Some children have had colds & some lucky families have had extended holidays, enjoying some belated sunny weather. The long weekends have been many. The 'Bundaberg show' was eagerly talked about by lots of children & until recently the sunny weather has been very pleasant. Being a South Aussie though, I quite like the cold for a change — as long as it is quick!



Activities Across Both Groups

A SPECIAL CULTURAL CELEBRATION-LEARNING ABOUT RUSSIA

by visitors Timothy (Starfish friend), Ekaterina Eddy & her mother Luda. We moved to Russian music, put Babyshka dolls together, tried saying some Russian words 'Poka' (Bye), painted Babyshka pictures, learned about the climate, native animals, traditional costumes & national flag & were amazed that Timothy could say all his colours & numbers in Russian!

It's fun learning about other countries & cultures and we can't wait to learn about some more.

Children are learning to:

develop an awareness of their own & others' cultural heritage" & share language, dance, celebrations, songs & stories from their homes & communities"

pg 95, LISTENING,

C&K Building Waterfalls Curriculum

EXPLORING MATHS MATERIALS ON NEW PATTERN BOARDS

Linda & Ann were inspired by a presentation at the Brisbane conference-teaching maths in kindergartens. Although we had often provided interesting materials for children to sort, compare, pattern & design on mats, we had not built up a big collection of beautiful & colourful small objects like we saw & provided an ongoing section in the kindy-for children to visit, re-visit & build on their ideas. Exploring small objects and beginning to pattern creates mathematical thinking of number, symmetry, comparison, even algebra! So we have our special shelf with beautiful materials ready for maths investigations & the children have delighted already in testing ideas, designing on the black felt boards & are now able to find

their own name card & photograph their work before carefully packing it away.

Children are learning to:

'use early mathematical understandings to explore spatial awareness, shape, position, size...sequence, measure, classify, compare, pattern & sort..'

pg 37, CONNECTING,

C&K Building Waterfalls Curriculum

COOKING INSIDE & OUTSIDE

We are doing more real cooking at kindy and children learn so much from it, from science & maths to literacy, health & social experiences. Using plants from our garden teaches growth and also sustainable practices. Children's senses are explored as they smell, touch & later taste becoming more confident to try different foods (we hope).

Outside, the children play cooking & explore all sorts of things to add in their food. They experiment with textures, liquids & recall foods from home & their family & popular culture (i.e. TV Master chef!).

Both groups have been gathering pots, pans & we provide authentic cooking tools for children to invent, recreate recipes eg. cheesecake, lasagne, choc cake, noodles, rice.

Children are learning to:

"actively engage in constructing their own play environments by using equipment & materials in innovative ways" pg 49 CONNECTING ,

"use understandings from prior experiences & transferring this to new contexts"

pg 121, EXPLORING,

C&K Building Waterfalls Curriculum

STARFISH GROUP



- **Literacy**

Stories about mums: "Tucking mummy in", "When penny was mum". "A Roar for Stanley" story relating to children's interest & a told story "Zac loses his zing" inspired by Rhyanna. "Fast Food" (health), Our Oz Puppets have been used by many children & stories about them have been created almost daily. Timothy, Christina, Olivia, Mitchell, Rorik & Ella have had a turn - this involves working on a story with Mrs S having it typed up, illustrating it & then presenting it to the group with the puppets & friends assisting. Interesting themes have arisen (family sickness, friends, holidays, animals, Flying Doctor service) & the children have enjoyed working through these literacy processes. I have planned to work with each child so look out for a "special book" coming home. "The Wonkey Donkey" by Rorik & extended game. Other stories: The rainbow race, Peace at last, The Bush Jumper. As the group have been investigating Australian animals a bit I provided a small group project to learn more on "What is in the Bush?" as the children have grappled with the understanding of native Australian animals - not cats, dogs, rabbits or tigers or elephants. We were so busy looking in the books & discussing Bilbies, Wallabies, Dingos & even trying to draw them. Thomas was such a good helper - Thanks Thomas!J

- **Social**

Sharing small group games e.g. Jungle memory & Dinosaur snap. I was really surprised & delighted to see the children give each other extra cards (if they had snap & their friend was running out of cards). It shows a great sense of sharing & kindness - but makes for very long games! The cubby house has had some interesting props added: sparkly curtain, flowers, paints & media, clothes line (for artworks). This has inspired play and child initiated art as well as discussions about marriage & schools, mum's & dad's. "Shopping" has been a very popular game inside as the Home corner has also had a change. This is to encourage different & productive play that is familiar to children but invites learning about maths: using number & literacy, talking & reading boxes & social-speaking in courteous ways, sharing roles, planning play sequences.

- **Physical**

Ball play participated by several children, challenging their hoop throwing & the boards & ladders have led to some gross motor activities as children jump further & climb. The beam has also been introduced this term & the children are already quite confident in balancing heel/toe. Launch board games - children working much better in their small groups as they begin to invent rules (with adult help if needed) for harmony e.g. "If you slip or mess it up, you get another turn" (Tucker). These children ran the length of the yard to get a good jump!

- **Science**

Observing changes in the gardens & learning about the growth of plants. Special cooking activities - making pumpkin

soup with our neighbours pumpkin & cooking pikelets. Dramatic play involved a group of children playing a "science game" they said. They were using water (of different colours) & making medicines. They were to fix animals & it involved spooning in sand etc. But the children were all working toward the same goal, collaborative in their play. Growing seeds over Easter & we planted sunflower seeds in the kindy flower garden - they have grown really tall! "Real" herbs added to creative cooking play and children like to test smell the leaves. Healthy foods have been talked about & programmed. We have measured the sunflower plants every week & made amazing discoveries & planted beetroot & onion seeds. Building with the new "Rainbow blocks" bought from recent conference. The children have enjoyed testing them with marbles to make them roll in different ways.

- **Numeracy**

Shapes - matching & forming pictures, building with small blocks & adding the 'tiny teddies', mat time group games sorting & classifying shapes & teddies in turn & some children practicing colour knowledge. "Shape" poster emerged from children's idea & all children contributed. Milo seed play has been a different texture for the children to feel, measure, pour & listen to - so soothing & calming.

- **Creativity**

Music/percussion fun occurred on a rainy day at kindy. I think we have many budding musicians in this group. They test out sounds & experiment with melodies as they create their own music. I am teaching respect of the instruments & the names of them for correct use. At mat time we have been using the triangle for vocalising sounds tap & zing - great speech practice. Ear bud painting provoked some children to paint jungle animals with focussed teaching. Printing blocks from India led to some pattern forming & exploring. On the playground play was about submarines & mermaids & sick friends. The children are creating more productive & extended play as they become more experienced. "Birds" played often & adult provided colourful streamers for children to make lots of wings or flags. The play became very colourful.

- **Music**

More Heart & healthy songs, a new "marching" one & new from Peter Coombe - involving counting & sequence patterns that the children are enjoying e.g. "5 little pussy cats in the shed", "5 daddy's in the bath", "Mummy's up the tree" & the children are recalling these well. This group really enjoy the healthy heart songs still so we are learning some more. Drum & percussion play outside - amazing talent & beat keeping observed in several children. "Bear songs" relating to the Picnic we had. Aranda bush song & story-talked about Aboriginal people.

- **Cultural**

Sharing discussions about mums - what roles they have & pondering what you (child) do if they were the mum? Learning about Russia. More learning about Aboriginal culture.

JELLYFISH GROUP



- **Literacy**

Read stories "Dreadful David/Dylan". Children's named Flash cards are being used for recording their work/taking photos & also in group mat time games for name recognition activities. Cards & letters were made by children "for their mummies" with adult supporting writing & wrapping. Story - Proper Little Lady - recognised our names in English & worked on tracing/decorating our names in Russian too as well as drew a picture of ourselves. This is good practice for our fine motor & thinking/literacy. "The very blue thing-a-majig" - extended play dough activity/ decorating our own thingamajigs. Mobilo constructions & reflecting to teachers about the projects, Rhyming words are of recent interest & is being planned for at story times & music. "The little yellow digger" read following children's interest in trucks/getting stuck. Story about "Going to hospital" following children's play - much discussion and interest in this area.

- **Physical**

More jumping (every day we plan an obstacle course with the children) & balancing on the beam. This group like to add steps & enjoy leaping off the yellow plank! The balls have been used regularly being thrown up to the shade (and down again) and a few children getting support to throw & catch with accuracy. This group have begun regular running races. Bike riding is still very popular & safety has been learned about. Alex G brought traffic lights one day too. Amazing ideas these children have & recently small groups have devised own ball games: throwing over the balance board, throwing & catching up high on the fort levels to ground level adult, rolling down the slide into things & then through other things, onto the sloping roof (allowed with adult) as it always returns...but where? Rolling down the hill has been a fun task & very good for developing bodies. Soccer is often played by several children & we hear "score" quite often!

- **Numeracy**

Blocks being encouraged constructively before the cars get to go on them-involving children to plan their space & problem solve using shapes. Puzzles are being supported daily as many children require support to work through this planning & thinking process & children really like to challenge & celebrate their learning regularly. Milo seed investigations, instead of water play so children can feel a unique medium & explore its properties using maths concepts. Giant rainbow helped us search through the new maths objects & begin to sort by colour. Each colour was found & added to, even a row of "transparent" was placed under it - surprising the teachers. The Rainbow blocks in this group have been explored as tunnels for cars & trains, incorporated with extensive long roads from blocks & used for decorative arches. Several boys have been working hard with the Duplo construction. Now they help each other & make awesome helicopters & aeroplanes with each other! Time concept explored (music, stories) a little as the "watches" were made for the "Jewellery shop" and we talk about it all the time!

- **Science**

Cooked pikelets & did the swirly colours (milk, detergent, colours) experiment-learning about substances reacting together. Worms are often checked & fed & handled by several very interested friends. Experiments are frequently done in sand pit & teachers support by adding interesting things- this has prompted the implementation of group science experiments. Leaf absorption experiments, celery tested with coloured dyes. Making "Goop" explored using cornflour & water. This was curious for the children & they expressed great sensory language: wet, slimy, runny, stretchy, spa-lack - like ice-cream, dry. Oil/water density experiment challenged thinking as objects went in 3 different layers. Theories about textures discussed & properties of them (sinking/floating). The garden has been a source of continuing interest as some children like to regularly cut leaves for themselves or mum's. Sometimes they are used in art as a follow up.

- **Creativity**

Hand printing, card making very popular - initially teacher led this when making Mother's day gifts then some children have been busy doing them on their own-extending own interest. Boxes have been used very imaginatively by several technical children who are so focussed on their ideas, painting in the sunshine. Play dough is always enjoyed by our children & recently some children have concentrated longer to make flowers, trucks, monsters using their busy small finger muscles. Indian stampers on fabric was planned after initial exploring. They looked great & some waving sticks had to found in the garden. "Eye dropper art" evolved from a science activity in a small group in the sand pit. The children used them to add to absorbent paper & then tried creating designs.

- **Social**

"Old grey cat" chasing game-children playing together, following rules of game & enjoying social experience, lots of baby/mum play continuing with babies performing routines such as nap time & learning to eat solids & going on a picnic and the beach, building sand castles & going to the "Cafe". The Home corner changed to a "Doctors office" which saw very constructive play - Mrs Stone got bandaged by Dr Sam & cared for by Nurse Zahliah. Hospitals became an area of interest in this group & we learned about what happens at a hospital through reading books & play. "Billy Ball" (ball rolling social game in circle) is back - this time we found out that we all know everyone's name & can think of some positive & kind things to say about them. A "Jewellery shop" has been installed now - the "Doctor office" is gone. This occurred from planning & collaborating with staff, children & parents. The children have begun making their own jewellery using beads & I think more will be designed!

- **Music**

"This old man", "Hickory Dickory" & "Peter Coombe", "Pizza song", "Hi my name is Joe" songs. Parachute & Lycra fun & also music sessions combined. I have been encouraging these children to sing familiar songs but we are adding body percussion & movements.

PLEASE NOTE

- ◆ All food containers must be labelled with child's name
- ◆ Discuss not sharing any food at kindy with your child
- ◆ All people (child, parents, siblings) must wash their hands when coming into the centre
- ◆ Please can all parents only put ONE treat in their child's lunches? We are noticing that some children have 2-4 treats each day. A treat includes biscuits, chocolate desserts, fruit/lolly snakes, muesli bars, muffins, tiny teddies, LCM bars etc. Not only does the sugar stay on their teeth during the day, high sugar content is unhealthy for developing bodies. I encourage you to think of alternatives e.g. cucumber, cheese, left over dinner (we can heat), an extra sandwich, a salad, baked beans, etc.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance completed:

- ◆ Foyer computer had maintenance completed

Maintenance to be done:

- ◆ Bike tyres again being pumped up
- ◆ New veranda floor covering/ sand pit borders - to be done in holidays
- ◆ Bark chips needed for topping up playground
- ◆ Cubby house repairs

Mrs Jenner's Pirate (pumpkin) Soup

- 1 PUMPKIN-PEELED & SLICED
- 1 ONION CHOPPED
- 3 POTATOES
- 1 LARGE CHICKEN STOCK
- 1 DESSERT SPOON OF SUGAR
- TSP VINEGAR
- WATER-TO THIN DOWN LATER



METHOD

1. ROAST ONIONS & PUMPKIN IN A LITTLE OIL TIL LIGHTLY GOLDEN BROWN
2. REMOVE & PUT INTO STOCK LIQUID
3. PEEL & CHOP POTATOES & ADD TO STOCK, SIMMER UNTIL COOKED
4. BLEND UNTIL SMOOTH, ADDING WATER AS NEEDED

THANK YOU

- ◆ To Leigh Critchlow for all her help with the Teddy Bears picnic
- ◆ To Jane Saint, Kylie Heycox for the generous maths materials donations
- ◆ To Ekaterina, Luda & Timothy for providing a cultural session about Russia-I want to learn more!!!
- ◆ To the great management committee of 2011 for supporting Ann & Linda's conference to Brisbane
- ◆ To the families that attended our first shared group social day 'Teddy Bears picnic'. It was a lovely day to eat a hot sausage & delicious crème caramel (by Monica's mum), catch up with other kindy folk & sing some Teddy bear songs together
- ◆ To Evan McKinley for donating syphons for making some boats with our scientific children.
- ◆ Special thanks to our lovely relief staff who help out so well & strive to continue our quality play based program

STAFF

Training & Development:

Linda attended training at Kalkie State school Wed. 25th May re. using interactive whiteboards with young children. The possibilities are endless and how lucky are prep children that have this technology already.

Linda & Ann attended a professional network coffee session at "Rich Aromas" on 7th June. We discussed regional "Enrolment processes" & changes & updates in our sector.

We have a volunteer at our centre - Kimberley Gould - who will be working alongside the children and assisting staff with preparation. She holds a current Blue/positive suitability card and we are thrilled to have such a friendly & helpful, regular volunteer.

Mrs Ann Jenner was absent with sickness May 30th-June 3rd and her replacement was Mrs Kim Helmore. We employed Amy Gillard as Mrs Helmore's replacement. Mrs Uka Thomson relieved for Mrs Helmore on June 10th.

Please note that this term II Mrs Kim Helmore was working in SF group 10:30am - 2:30pm & in JF group 10:00am - 2:00pm as Lunch relief & Assistant & Additional needs Assistant.

Dylan Cason from Bund SHS is participating in a work experience block as part of his Cert 3 certificate.

FACES OF OUR COMMITTEE



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- ◆ **President:** Kirsten Beyer (Rorik "SF")
- ◆ **Vice President:** Asya Bishop (Braydan "JF")
- ◆ **Secretary:** Marie Walker (Angus "SF")
- ◆ **Treasurer:** Tracey Cobb (Tucker "SF")

Other Office Bearers

- ◆ **Fees Treasurer:** Carolyn Young (Lachlan "JF")
- ◆ **Minutes Secretary:** Melissa Song (Sienna "SF")
- ◆ **Newsletter Editor:** Kate Eddy (Timothy "SF")
- ◆ **Promotion Officer:** Kate Eddy (Timothy "SF")
- ◆ **Book Club Convenor:** Jane Saint (Tia "JF")
- ◆ **Child Protection Officer:** Kylie Neycox (Lachlan "JF")
- ◆ **Maintenance Officer:** Debbie Cambell (Morgan "SF")
- ◆ **Social Events Officer:** Jessica Rodwell (Sharnee "JF")
- ◆ **Purchasing Officer:** Leigh Critchlow (Jada "SF")
- ◆ **Inventory Officers:** Tracey Smith (Brooke "JF"),
Shannon Woodman (Kobe "JF"),
Sheridan McMahan (Christina "SF")



★ **Jada Critchlow** 16/05/07

🐙 **Lachlan Heycox** 29/05/07

★ **Timothy Eddy** 23/06/06

★ **Thomas Baker** 24/06/06

