

Kookaburra Group Report

March 2020

We are now settled into kinder like one big, happy family with 24 amazing, curious and eager to learn young children. We are happily getting to know each other, and along the way exploring the wonderful learning that comes with this dynamic process.

Initially we have been settling outside where we have been enjoying our garden, and enjoying plenty of opportunity to play with water pouring and filling different containers, watering the garden and encouraging the water to flow down the trickle creek. We have also been swinging, climbing and playing in the sand. The outside is an important part of our programme in terms of building physical skills, strengthening the core muscles and developing balance and focus. We are continually working on evolving this space to enhance the learning.

Our pet guinea pigs Brownie and Caramel are also an important part of our programme. These two, cuties have calmed many an anxious child as they experience the joy of feeding them with grass and herbs. It is such a basic instinct to reach out and empathise with another.

Inside the children have been enjoying play in the dramatic corner, building with manipulative toys, and imaginative play with families of animals and dinosaurs. They have been building extensive railway networks and playing with cars developing interesting and involved story lines. The nature of the play is often co-operative and requires the children to listen to each other, to share, to communicate ideas, to think of ways to resolve problems and importantly help each other to pack away. The play has also been imaginative engaging and creative, we will be able to extend their play with props as their interests develop.

On reflection and evaluation of the programme it is apparent that our young children love a strong sensory programme, using open ended and natural materials. We will be offering lots of opportunities to explore this way with many textured based experiences such as sand, stones, pebbles and gravel. We have introduced large trays of kinetic sand inside for the children to explore; rubbing, digging, transferring from hand to hand, pouring and piling. There is also dramatic and imaginative qualities involved with this play. Presently we have a tea set and dolls in the sand this gives the children an opportunity to make up stories about the dolls hiding, sleeping and eating.

The music programme has enabled us to forge a strong sense of belonging. The children participate in singing movement and dance each session they come to kinder. We have shared many happy movement and music sessions, stamping, jumping and more jumping (always a favourite) and singing. We are currently learning a fun song about a turtle that got a bubble stuck in his throat.

Our lunch time and relaxation programme help to shape our afternoons. It is always exciting to sit and have lunch together and the children anticipate and look forward to the time when they can sit down and open their lunchbox. We are consciously reflecting on the flow of the day and the best timing for these regular features to

maximise the benefits of these times. Relaxation allows the children to have a chance to just be and have a moment to breathe and allow their mind and body to relax. This is a skill we all benefit from learning and it is great to start in these early years! We encourage the children to bring a blanket or something cuddly from home for this special time.

It has been so rewarding getting to know the children and their families we have already come so far. It is true that this period in young children's lives is such an optimal time for growing and learning

Suzanne, Yukie and Jennifer