

Possum and Wombat Group Report

April 2020

This is a very short report as Term 2 started only a week ago and we are living very challenging times, as we are in the middle of a pandemic and we are all trying to cope with this and make it work in the best way we can.

We were lucky and very grateful that we had low number of children attending our sessions in the past week and hope that this trend will continue during the pandemic. This allows us to implement some of the measures put in place by the government, such as social distancing, by avoiding gathering of many children in our yard and in indoor area. This help us to reduce the risk of cross contamination in such a busy environment like a preschool.

Our sessions are now very different from the one in Term 1:

We have put in place temperature check points for children and staff at arrival and during the day, and the children are responding very well to these and are now part of our daily routine.

We had to suspend fruit duty because of the pandemic and staff are the only adult allowed in the building during sessions.

We avoid gathering of many children at the same time, so many activities are set up for 2 or 3 children at the time.

Snacks and lunches are progressive, children will eat at a table with a maximum of 2 other children and according to their bodily needs.

Sessions are mostly outdoor sessions.

Staggered start was recommended for possum group as we had a larger number of children attending.

The program is a play based as usual and children are invited to further develop their independence skills during this difficult time.

Sensory play has been suspended for the time being when it can cause a risk of contamination.

Hygiene is the dominant component of our practice and is the centre of many discussions with children.

We had our first zoom session with one of the group to help maintain the connection with the children at kinder and the children at home and this has been a very nice and important experience for all the parts involved. Lot of smiles and laughs.

We aim to maintain a caring, fun and educational environment during this difficult time, working in the limits imposed by the circumstances we are living. We often have to be very flexible and able to make many adjustments, a big learning curve for all of us, but the smiles of the children are the best reward.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

ANMK Teaching Team