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**TERM 2, 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021**



## PLAY-BASED LEARNING

Play-based learning is one of our FAVOURITE ways to learn! There are so many benefits to small children and by learning through play they really get to enjoy the process of learning new things. *(Plus, academic learning can get really stressful sometimes!)*

When we say small children, this isn't limited to toddlers and pre-schoolers, children up to the age of about 8 learn best through play.

Play-based learning is an integral aspect of early childhood education and is the very essence of our kinder and pre-school programs at Yackandandah Kinder. We believe it provides wonderful opportunities for children to actively and imaginatively engage with people, objects and the environment.

The best part of this philosophy is that it is completely open-ended and child-led. There is no end goal or outcome, you create an environment that allows children to take control and go deep into play to learn and explore their world.

Play-based learning usually includes:

- **The child choosing their play:** Adults are there to fascinate and supervise, but the child chooses what to play, how to play it, how long it lasts, etc. We are there to accompany them or possibly suggest ideas but leave the rest up to the child.
- **Having lots of fun:** Avoid attempting to "force" a certain activity, it's important they are enjoying themselves with what they're doing.
- **Being unstructured:** Allow your child to explore for themselves and select things based on their own interests. Create an environment with lots of options, but it is ultimately left up to them.
- **Focusing on the process:** take the goal or outcome out of the equation and focus on the PROCESS of play - that's the most important part.

**Children learn to LOVE learning:** The single greatest gift we can give children is helping them LOVE to learn. They will carry this throughout their entire life and see ways to learn in the world around them. By letting them choose based on their interests, we allow them to be more deeply invested into what they learn.

**They grasp concepts easier:** It's no secret that adults learn better when we are actually INTERESTED in it. Children work the same way too. By allowing them to choose what they play, they will learn information so much easier! They can even teach themselves to read if you support them in doing so.

**Encourages independence:** By THEM leading the way instead of following your lead, they are learning to be independent. They aren't relying on someone else to tell them what to do - they are diving head-first to decide for themselves!

**They learn at their own pace:** Since there is no pressure on the end-result, they get to learn through the environment around them at a pace which feels right to them. There is no "pressure" to meet academic standards and they can relax since you're relaxed too!

**Emotion regulation:** The more a child plays, the more chances they have to regulate emotions. They find the activities that not only make them happy, but keep them the most centred. They learn to identify how they're feeling, interact with others etc, by getting out and playing vs sitting down doing academic work.

**Enhances cognitive development:** By playing, children learn how to express themselves, develop their use of language, solve problems, use their imagination, and all kinds of other cognitive skills.

**Develop gross and fine motor skills:** As they play hopscotch or use a pair of scissors to cut materials, they are developing physical skills too. This will help them throughout their life.

*[this article produced using excerpts from MessyLittleMonster.com]*

## How we are encouraging and guiding play-based learning at kinder:

**Baking:** Exploring the world through different textures, learning about fractions, weighing or counting as you measure ingredients and understand the science of adding different ingredients together. The children follow instructions as they look at a recipe or they are told what ingredients to add and they explore their sense of taste and smell as they try new foods and enjoy a sense of pride in their efforts.

**Exploring nature:** Outside, the children are developing their muscles and learning to balance themselves. They test gravity as they jump in the air. In Bush Kinder, they are learning about different plants and animals. They see cause and effect as they throw a rock into a creek that makes a big splash. They learn about weather as they observe the sky above their play spaces during the day.

**Reading books:** Through letter recognition during story time the children are learning such things as being kind to other people, fire safety, animals, our planet etc. By creating an inviting reading area in our classrooms, they are learning the importance of books; they can ask for books to be read to them or they can read (or pretend to read) to themselves and/or their friends. Learning to read doesn't have to just involve books; we look at posters, read game instructions, watch educational videos and add words to a pretend play area.

**Sensory Play:** Sensory play can take many forms. Staff regularly make sensory bins based on the children's interest or a current topic or throw together a selection of different items that stimulate their senses and encourage children to explore. There will be problem solving, language skill and fine motor skills all being developed amongst other skills like counting and communication.

**Playing with sand – sandpit or using magnetic sand:** Dry sand is used to practice handwriting with a stick, for testing science by adding different amounts of water and for practicing fine motor skills as children scoop, dig, and pour. Staff add in some "treasure" or a selection of shells to dig for, sort or count. It is lovely to watch them problem solve as they make roads or build a sandcastle as they create their own small world.

## DROP OFF AND EARLY PICK-UP OF CHILDREN

Where possible, we would encourage parents not to collect their children from Kinder before their program finishes. Medical appointments are of course the exception.

Whilst we understand that some children may participate in sport or dance etc activities outside of kinder and that parents also need to collect their children from school at 3.30pm, taking your child out of their program early does mean that they miss out on their curriculum.

If it is absolutely necessary that you must collect your child early, please chat with their teacher beforehand and please collect your child no later than 15 minutes prior to the end of their session day. We urge parents to consider that this is your child's learning space and it is important to be respectful of your child, the other children in the class and the teacher.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the kinder to make an appointment with Marisel.

*Marisel Blefari, Director*

*Hoping our families enjoy a wonderful holiday break.*

## Term 3 Calendar Dates



- 23 June: FREE DENTAL SCREENINGS OFFERED BY AW HEALTH
- 25 June: FINAL DAY OF KINDER EARLY finish time of 2.15pm
- 13 July: 5.30pm Sub Committee of Management Meeting
- 10 August: 5.30pm Sub Committee of Management Meeting
- 14 Sept: 5.30pm Sub Committee of Management Meeting

## KINDER PHOTOGRAPHS UPDATE

The photographer has advised that photos will be delivered to kinder early in Term 1. As soon as we have them, they will be placed in your child's locker for collection.



## SNIFFLES, SNEEZES, GREEN NOSES & WHEEZES

- please don't come to play at kinder

Whilst there are strict policy guidelines for some illnesses, others require parental consideration. During this time of COVID particularly, if your child is ill, please keep them at home to help contain the spread of viruses as best we can.

We are working under the Department of Education directives at present, which clearly state to parents that "If your child is sick, your child must stay at home. You must follow this rule even if your child is only a little sick". If your child becomes sick at school, kinder or childcare, you must pick up your child straight away."

Therefore, we ask that you be patient and compliant when we phone you about your child's runny nose, cough, etc. We understand the frustration this causes and indeed our staff are affected too!

## ALBURY WODONGA DENTAL FREE SCREENINGS

Parents who booked their child/ren in for a free screening are reminded that their appointment is on 23<sup>rd</sup> June in the Maternal & Child Health Nurse Room in the kinder building.

09.50am	Whitley	11.20am	Thornton	2.10pm	Smith-Deans
10.00am	Whitley	11.30am	Robinson	2.20pm	Smith-Deans
10.10am	Clarke	11.40am	Boscolo	2.30pm	Roberts
10.20am	Falez	12.00pm	Bulman	2.40pm	Hutchings
10.20am	Falez	12.10pm	Odewahn	2.50pm	Boschetti
10.30am	Hobbs	12.20pm	Dowsley	3.00pm	Vorbach
10.40am	Wyatt	1.30pm	Davenport	3.10pm	Scobie
10.50am	Greenwood	1.40pm	Hall	3.20pm	Scobie
11.00am	Davis	1.50pm	Greenwood	3.30pm	McIntosh
11.10am	Glanville-Jones	2.00pm	O'Keefe		

## CSU STUDENT OLIVIA MARTIN

Third year Bachelor Early Childhood Education student Olivia commenced her 4-week block placement with us on 31<sup>st</sup> May and is under the guidance of Leigh Dinter as she embarks on observations and documenting the children's learning. She is joining Leigh and Jane's classes.

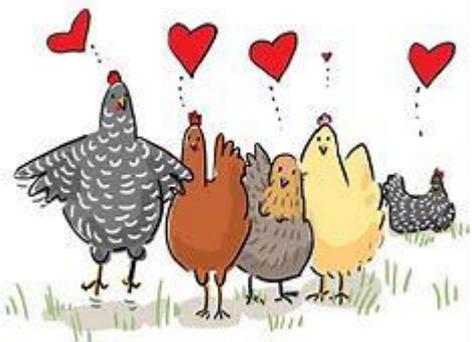
## IMMUNISATION HISTORY STATEMENTS

It is important to update us with your child's immunisation details when there are changes (new vaccinations, birthdays) by printing out the most recent copy of their Medicare immunisation record and handing this to Jen in the office. Many thanks in anticipation of your co-operation.



**THE HAPPIEST OF JUNE BIRTHDAY WISHES TO...**

**Cody, Sloane, Huck & Coco**



## Can you help feed our chickens during these school holidays?

Our cluckers are in need of feeding & watering a few times a week during the holidays and we are hoping two families [or one very generous one] could perform these duties. Fresh-laid eggs and happy chookies would be your reward! Please let our staff or Jen know if you can help.

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OUR LENDING LIBRARY

Next term we will have a tub out on the verandah for any donations of games, finger puppets, books etc for our lending library. Claire is busily planning this kinder community resource and any donations made [in addition to our purchases from School Readiness Funding] would be very enthusiastically received.

### JANE'S 3YO ROOM

#### LEARNING ABOUT AND SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

We are very excited to share that one of our kinder children, Clyde and his family are headed on a holiday adventure half-way around Australia and will be visiting an indigenous community in the NT and people they call family. They are Lariman people from Yarralin bit they live in Gilwi which is Ngaliwuru land. Clyde's mum Mel previously lived in this community for three years, after which she lived in Katherine NT and kept working with the people of Gilwi community for another seven years. Clyde and his brother now have the wonderful experience of visiting this community.

In the past weeks prior to Clyde's departure, Jane's class were learning about indigenous culture and how indigenous communities live – exploring differences and similarities.

The class gathered a variety of summer and winter clothing to be re-used by members of this community who are in great need. We thank those families who donated old clothes to the labelled baskets on the verandah.

#### UPCYCLING PRE-LOVED CLOTHING

We have a talented fashion designer in our parent group! Aurora's mum Angeliza is currently studying fashion design and has a passion for upcycling pre-loved items. She is very kindly going to workshop some art projects with our class, using old fabric. If you have any bright coloured clothing items or fabric which can no longer be worn, we would be happy to give them a new life in the form of a weaving or collage project. We are excited to see the children create masterpieces with Angeliza. Items can be popped in the clearly labelled basket on the verandah.

ON A COLD WINTER'S DAY, WHEN YOU ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO KEEP WARM ..... pick up a shovel !



NEW SOFTFALL FOR OUR PLAYGROUND ARRIVED RECENTLY AND WE HAD PLENTY OF WILLING HANDS KEEN TO HELP US BARROW IT UP TO THE PLAY AREAS. GREAT TEAMWORK BY OUR BUSH KINDER GROUP AND LEIGH'S 4YO TUESDAY GROUP. THE CHILDREN THEN HELPED STAFF IDENTIFY THEIR PLAY AREAS MOST IN NEED OF TOPPING UP. STAFF & PARENTS ARE CONTINUING THE BARROWING AND WE THANK THE DENT-EDWARDES FAMILY FOR THEIR MIGHTY EFFORTS RECENTLY.