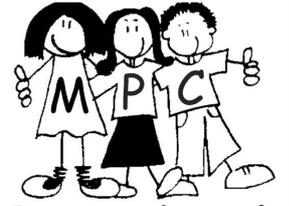




Mitcham



Preschool
Centre

Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Term 2
Newsletter 4

This week at kindy

Over the next 2 weeks, we continue with our focus

"All about me and people in my world"

Underpinned by the **Child Protection Curriculum.**

The focus will be Recognizing and reporting abuse.

This area of the curriculum is a complex one. We draw on the knowledge and understanding we have learnt through previous topics such as

- Feelings
- Safe / unsafe
- Warning signs
- Relationships
- Trust & networks

We deliver this topic of the child protection curriculum using the book

"Everyone's got a bottom".

The book covers all these areas and also includes

- Safe touching
- Secrets (safe secrets / unsafe secrets)
- Anatomical names for body parts
- Private parts of our body

- Privacy—what does private mean? (this is your body. It belongs to you)
- Recognizing abuse

"Everyone's got a bottom" is a book aimed at 3 to 8 year olds and was the 2007 winner of the Child Protection Week Award for an Education Initiative.

"Everyone's got a bottom" is a collaboration between Family Planning Queensland, writer Tess Rowley, illustrator Jodi Edwards and experts from the early childhood and child protection sectors

We all have bodies and we all want to keep them safe.

"Everyone's got a bottom" is a story about Ben and his brother and sister learning and talking together about bodies. It is a tool for parents and carers to gently start a conversation with children about self protection.

It's about children keeping safe in a style that is fun, positive and protective

If you would like to purchase this book go to www.fpq.com.au and follow the links.

I will put a copy of the book on the outside white board for you to look through.

This topic is a challenging one. However, if you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to come and speak with me

Special Person's morning

Just a reminder as mentioned in the last newsletter, special person's morning has been changed to

Tuesday July 3rd—blue group

Wednesday July 4th—gold group.

A note is in the pockets today about special person's morning and the children will make their invitation at the end of this week.

Due to our limited space this year, **it is one adult (special person) per child.**

Also we cannot invite babies and toddlers to special person's day. It is a special morning for kindy children and their special adult. We will have 2 events later in the year, when the whole family is invited!

No more boxes for the box construction activity.

We have plenty at the moment. We will let you know when we need more.

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This week at kindy (cont)

To support our focus of learning this week, we will have inside

- Letter of the week is "T t" for trust (literacy)
- Writing table with our house activity—follow on from funtastics (literacy / fine motor)
- Challenge puzzle table with 35–60 piece puzzles (numeracy / problem solving / challenges)
- Playdough with cards (sensory)
- Dome—forest theme (dramatic play)
- Soccer table with kids on the blocks / designing soccer uniforms (dramatic splay / fine motor)
- Easels with Kuitpo forest photos to copy (observation skills)
- Light table with stacking cups (problem solving)
- Construction table (problem solving)

Outside there will be

- Cutting activity—bird & cage (fine motor)
- Subitizing table (numeracy)
- Tray with measuring tapes (numeracy)
- Magnetic shapes for construction (problem solving)

Waiting list

If you have a child who is 2 or 3 years old, it is not too early to complete a waiting list form for them, for commencing preschool in 2020 / 2021. There is no need to complete a waiting list form until they are 2 years old. Don't hesitate to speak with one of the staff if you have a 2 or 3 year old and wish to complete a waiting list form.

- Gross motor tasks—weaving through cones
- Sandpit with buckets, spades, trucks (sensory)
- Tools table with hard hats & vest (dramatic play)
- Games tables (numeracy)

Two other special activities the children will complete with staff this week are

- Trust balloon activity
- Special person's day invitations

It is another busy week at kindy

Thankyou to the wonderful helpers at funtastics this week. Your help was very much appreciated.

Kit lending

Kit lending will occur for blue group for the following 2 Thursdays (June 21st & June 28th). All kits must be returned on **Monday July 2nd**. There is NO Kit lending in the last week of term or over the school holidays. Lending will commence after the holiday break.

Many thanks to Bec Richards for her wonderful support with lending & checking kits for blue group.

Art work/Folders

Our kindy is certainly busy with all the wonderful work the children have completed as part of the Child Protection Curriculum and our focus "All about me and people in my world".

At the end of the term, the baby photos and kindy stars will be placed in the children's work folders. The posters and self portraits will go home. This will occur after special person's day.

The work completed at funtastics this week, will also go into the children's folder, during this week. The children's work folders are certainly gathering collections of art work, learning stories and children's voice photos. Come and share the work folders with your child. They are kept in the literacy room.

Artist at kindy

Last week the children participated in a wonderful art experience with Sam Wannan, an artist. Sam worked with the children throughout the day, to look at photos and recall their experiences from Kuitpo Forest. They worked collaboratively to develop a collage of their thoughts and experiences from their adventures.

It was a truly wonderful learning opportunity. Blue group collage is on the wall in the main room. Gold groups can be found in the passageway. Sam will be back again next term.

Growth mindsets

One of the many focus's of our work at preschool is supporting children in developing a growth mindset.

If you have a Fixed mindset

- you believe that you can not change, "you are the way you are"
- intelligence is static
- You avoid challenges
- Give up easily
- See effort as fruitless
- Ignore useful constructive criticism
- Can Feel threatened by the success of others

If you have a growth mindset

- you believe that intelligence can be developed
- Leads to a desire to learn
- Embrace challenges
- Persist in the face of setbacks
- See effort as the path to mastery
- Learn from criticism
- Find lessons and inspiration in the success of others.

Most people do not have a 100% fixed mindset or a 100% growth mindset: most of us have both. However it is possible to change from a fixed to a growth mindset.

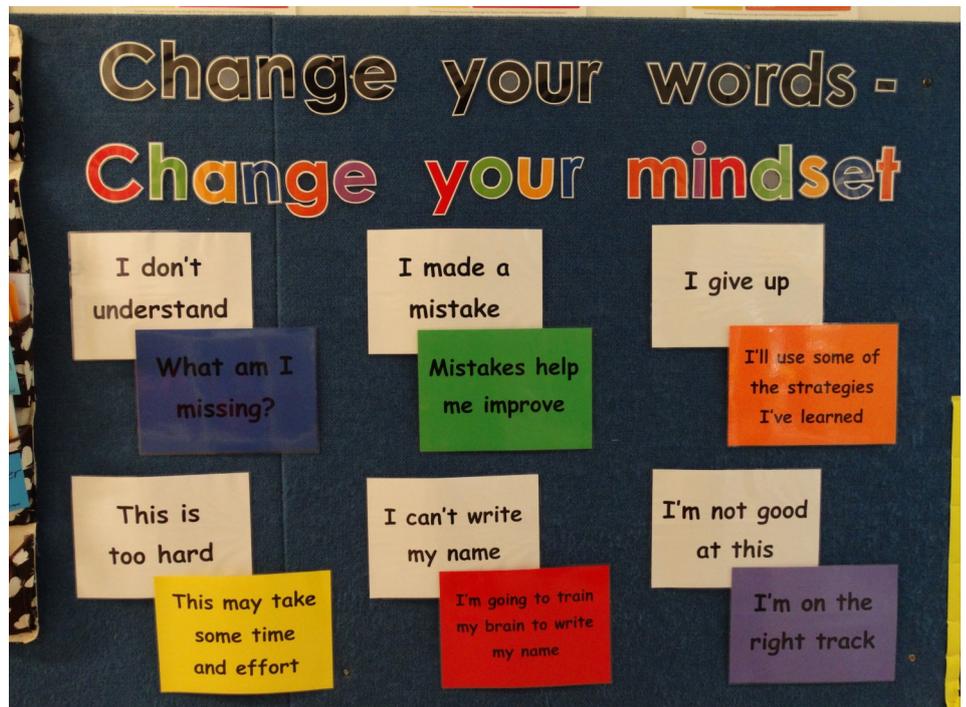
It is really important that we (parents and educators) support children to develop a growth mindset—a belief that they can learn more, to accept change, persist, take risks in their learning, learn from constructive criticism, learn from and be inspired by others.

Here are some examples of how we (children and adults) can change our words—change our mindset. The statements on the white background are the fixed mindsets (the negative). The statements on the coloured backgrounds are the growth mindsets (the positive). When children make statements such as "This is too hard", we can support them by saying "***This may take some time and effort...*** but persist, don't give up, have another go"

Each week / fortnight we will introduce an activity or experience that is challenging and will require some risk taking. These may include challenge puzzles (35–100 piece puzzles), cutting activities, writing your name, drawing detailed pictures, putting your name on the name board but checking each week for the letter in your name. In term 1, we had physical challenges such as climbing on the slackline, jumping a hitting a ball in the moving bag. Our day at Kuitpo Forest presented many physical challenges. Each time, we present a new challenge task, there is a sense that this may be hard work, and "***It may take some time and effort***" but once achieved it will mean success and "***I'm on the right track***". This not only builds a growth mindset, it builds confidence, self esteem and a belief in yourself that with effort you will achieve mastery.

At school, there may be many instances where the work is hard, such Learning the process of reading, or how to add numbers together to make bigger numbers. So it is important that at preschool, we are supporting children to accept that sometimes work can be "hard" but if we accept a challenge, persist, take risks, have a go, learn how to gain help (from an adult or peers), then children will be "***on the right track***".

If you have any queries about growth & fixed mindsets or how to support your child, don't hesitate to speak with one of the staff.



Making Mistakes

For some children making mistakes can be very challenging. They often feel like a failure when they make a mistake. For example, if they have got an answer wrong, or they don't know an answer to a question, or made a mistake on their drawing, or their writing doesn't look perfect or they perceive they can't do something as well as their friends (eg catch a ball) Often adults or other children don't even notice a drawing doesn't look perfect. But the child just feels a failure. They will believe they will be judged for what they perceive as an imperfect drawing. They will often be very anxious about failure.

As a result making a mistake can become debilitating. It will stop children from having a go, trying new experiences, putting up their hand and answering questions, solving a problem, joining a team, going to Auskick etc. This in turn inhibits their growth and development. And whilst they do definitely have the ability and capacity to flourish as a learner, their learning is inhibited.

We can refer to fear of failure, fear of making a mistake as a fixed mind set. It inhibits growth and development. When children (and adults) see making a mistake or failing as a learning opportunity, we can refer to this as a growth mind set. Making a mistake means you have learnt something—what to do next time, how you will do it next time, who to get help from etc. Making a mistake can be seen as an opportunity for growth, learning and improvement.

Children who can make mistakes, who aren't anxious when a mistake occurs, who will have a go no matter what, can develop a growth mind set about learning.

Often parents want to rescue and help children, prevent them from making mistakes. They want their child's world to be perfect!

However, we know that the world isn't perfect. Allowing children the opportunity to make mistakes and learn from them, will only enhance your child's ability to develop that positive growth mindset. Shielding children from making mistakes will mean that making a mistake at kindy, school, university / TAFE and in later life at work, will be debilitating and inhibiting.

My son was a perfectionist prior to school. Making a mistake or failing was always a challenge for him and us. And he was (and is) highly competitive. He only wanted to play Yahtzee with his dad. He couldn't stand losing especially to his older sister. If he wrote something on a piece of paper or did a drawing and it wasn't perfect (in his eyes) he would screw it up and put it in the bin.

reception teacher began the journey for him of recognising that making a mistake is ok. She taught him that crossing out an incorrectly spelt word was fine- it didn't make his work look "bad" or To continue on with the drawing despite the mistakes as the drawing could be changed. Whilst we had "battled" the fear of mistakes and failure with him, and tried many ways to overcome it, it was his teacher that made a difference.

Helping children to accept mistakes has a positive outcome, whether you are a parent or teacher. So how can you help. Try modelling making a mistake with your child, eg dropping a catch, crossing out a word on the shopping list, losing a game of Yahtzee etc. If children see adults can make a mistake and that adults can cope with that mistake, that there is an alternative, that something has been learnt from making a mistake, children will learn from that experience.

Acknowledge that making mistakes is a really good way for us to learn something new—a new way, a new possibility, new information.

Assisting your child to develop a growth mindset about their learning, is such an important thing that you can do. It is a positive outcome for their future!!

There is a wonderful book called the "Beautiful Oops" by
Barney Saltzberg.

It is a book about mistakes. We all make mistakes—grown ups and children. But children sometimes have trouble dealing with their mistakes, whether it is a piece of art work they have torn by accident or juice they have spilled on their favourite drawing. In this book, each page begins with a mistake. Children see firsthand as they go through the book that any smudge, smear or stain can lead to something absolutely marvellous. This interactive book teaches a valuable lesson "When you think you have made a mistake, think of it as an opportunity to make something beautiful"

Being a parent is full of challenges!! Being able to support your child to make and accept mistakes, to grow and learn from these opportunities will provide your child with experiences to develop that positive growth mindset.....and this is so important for life long living!!

Finally, thank you as always for your continued support. It is very much appreciated.

Kind regards

Chris, Laura, Amber,

Carol, Lyn, Robbie and Debbie