



# Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

Tel: 82712042 Fax: 82728272

email: Chris.Catt906@schools.sa.edu.au

web: [www.mitchampre.sa.edu.au](http://www.mitchampre.sa.edu.au)



Term 3  
Newsletter 2

## This week at kindy

This week we will continue on with our focus of learning

### "Exploring measurement"

We will continue on with **Linear measurement focusing on length / height**

#### Linear measurement (length, height, width)

- Looking at
- How we measure?
- Why we measure
- What we measure?
- When we measure?

To support our learning we will have inside

- STEM centre—add measuring tools / Challenge task—can you make a camel train longer than this? (photo) (understanding our world)
- STEM champion—How long are these objects? - record our findings (numeracy)
- Play dough (sensory)
- Nature play painting (photos from Nature play day to inspire us) (Observational / recall skills)
- Blocks—add measuring tapes (numeracy)

- Writing table—word cards related to bees to copy (literacy / fine motor)
- Palette 1—letter of the week "Mm" - objects & word cards with items starting with "Mm" (literacy)
- Palette 2—dominoes game (numeracy)
- Home corner (dramatic play)
- Challenge puzzle—(persistence / problem solving)

- Digging patch with large bones to find (gross motor)
- Sandpit—Can you build a cubby? (sensory / problem solving / team work)
- Swings—ladder & trapeze (gross motor)

This week we will also

- have letter of the week on the name board. Does your name have the letter "Mm" in your name? (literacy)
- Complete drawings in our small groups about our "Nature Play and Mobile Junk Day". Look out for them in our folder (recall / language / fine motor skills)
- Measure ourselves in small group times using border tape to record our height. We will use tape measures to find out how many centimetres we are. We will set up a display so that we can observe how tall we all are

Outside there will be

- Fine motor champion—number tracks & stickers (numeracy / fine motor)
- Cutting table—hand puppet making (fine motor)
- Story table—"10 in the bed" (literacy // numeracy)
- Construction set (problem solving)
- Number hunt—subitising numbers (numeracy)
- Physical challenge—sack races (gross motor)
- Basket of balls (gross motor)

**It is another busy week at kindy!**

The Governing Council have approved a pupil free day on **Monday August 24th** for staff to undertake professional development.

**There is no kindy on August 24th.**

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## Mobile Junk and Nature Play Day

## Market Excursion

After many months of having been under COVID restrictions, we have finally been allowed to have an incursion.

And what a wonderful experience we had last Thursday and Friday when Glenn came to kindy with his "Mobile Junk and nature play" adventures. We were lucky with the sunny, dry weather for both days. Both days were filled with wonderful experiences which enabled children to take risks, accept challenges, "stretch themselves", experiment and explore, whilst positively interacting with their peers. Glenn brought with him sticks to use to make tee pees and to use as bridges / structures to climb on. We had mud for messy play in the mud kitchen, old barrels, for musical instruments, rocks to break, large blue drums to jump / climb from or roll in. There were also go cart tyres which were used for a range of proposes. All his resources are recycled or from nature. The children played outside from 9.30am until 2.15pm with 45 minutes break for lunch. The children remained focused, engaged and excited by this wonderful learning opportunity throughout the day. It was truly an amazing experience, evident by the condition of their clothes!!! What a wonderful way to develop a growth mindset!

It was funny to watch the children with the mud. Some children couldn't bare to put their hands in mud, whilst others gleefully made a face mud mask or covered their arms in mud. For some children, they looked like they had been in a mud bath!! Some children finally took a risk and immersed themselves in mud play in the last part of the day!

This week at kindy, the children will complete a drawing of their experiences, recalling their favourite activity / moment of the day. These drawings will go into their folder along with a learning story about their experiences. Watch out for this work / learning story in their folders later in the week.

We will have a slide show on each morning this week of the photos from Mobile Junk and Nature Play Day. We hope you can have a look.

Our excursion to the Adelaide Central Market is fast approaching.

As the children have not yet been on a kindy excursion (and the market is a busy place) we are going to take smaller groups across the week.

**Blue group will attend either Tuesday August 25th or Thursday August 27th**

So some children will attend the market on Tuesday morning and some children will remain at preschool. The children will then swap on Thursday.

**Gold group will attend either Wednesday August 26th or Friday August 28th.**

So some children will attend the market on Wednesday morning and some children will remain at preschool. The children will then swap on Friday.

We will go in the morning on all days and return to preschool for lunch. We will have appropriate staff to child ratio's at preschool and on the excursion. Plus some parents have already offered to support us on the excursion.

We are using our market excursion to explore our focus of learning on

**"Measurement".**

We will have research photos and questions that relate to measurement (eg weight & length) and we will search the main area of the market, looking for the answers.

We will also purchase some food items that we will use for cooking, (weighing & measuring) in the following week back at kindy

Look out for an information note and permission form in your child's note pocket, at the end of this week.

It will be a wonderful morning out.

## Friendship lists

Based on the information parents shared with me late term 2 / early term 3, of the school their child will attend in 2021, I have updated the friendship lists.

The friendship lists can be used to organize play dates with parents / children whom they are going to school with. Having play dates are a positive way of making connections with families, prior to school. Play dates at school playgrounds are an in formal way of becoming familiar with the environment they are moving on to next year.

If you **do not** want your details recorded on the friendship please let me know by the end of this week. I am planning to distribute the friendship lists in the next week, via your child's note pockets.

## Term 3 Fees

**Term 3 fees are due by this Friday August 7th.**

Fees for term 3 are \$200.00. We have only included the \$20.00 excursion / incursion levy in term 3 fees. We have not included the fundraising levy. If you have queries about paying the fees on time, please do not hesitate to come and speak with me. All conversations will be in strictest confidence.

## Family night

Every year at Mitcham Pre-school, we have events to support families in building friendships within our community. These events include the family picnic in term 1, wheels day in term 1, and family nights in terms 3 and 4. However, 2020 has been a different year with COVID. It has meant, that we have been under restrictions as stipulated by the Education Department & health authorities.

We had a family night tentatively booked for September 1st (blue group) and September 2nd (gold group). The family night involves the community coming together, children sharing in a pizza dinner followed by watching a Bubble Show in the main room. Whilst the children watch the bubble show, adults gather in the 2 front rooms to eat their pizza and socialize.

At last weeks Governing Council Meeting, after much discussion, we have decided to move the dates to week 9

**Blue Group—Tuesday September 15th**

**Gold Group—Wednesday September 16th.**

The reason being, under current regulations, there can only be 1 adult per 2 square metres. So there is not enough space in the 2 front rooms, for all adults.

We have moved the event to later in the term which will allow adults to be outside, with more day light hours, rather than in the 2 front rooms.

We will have the event in some form, however we will wait until closer to the date to make our final decision. The Governing Council will meet in week 6, to make a decision. It will be based on what DECD stipulations are in place and of course, what has happened with COVID in our state.

So the family night may look like one of the following examples.

- Every family is invited to attend, with their children. It will mean adults remain outside at all times, and only children will go inside to see the bubble show

Or

- Only kindy children attend with one parent. Adults still remain outside at all times. But it means less adults & children are here.

Or

- It will be a special night at kindy just for kindy children.

We will also make a decision on what happens re food, as we want to minimise food handling.

We will also put in other COVID safe strategies, such as

- Adults social distance
- Everyone uses hand sanitiser as they enter & leave

COVID certainly challenges what we do. However, the Governing Council and staff have the welfare of all children and adults in the fore front, when making these decisions. The members of the Governing Council are keen to have the event for the children's and communities sense of connection and wellbeing. We have had to miss out on so many things this year. However, we will always make a decision based on the information at the time and put strategies in place.

So for now, keep the revised dates free. These events are always much loved by the community.

## Parking bikes

The weather is certainly changing. We are starting to get a few sunny days. As a result, several children are riding bikes and scooters to kindy. It is such a wonderful way to start the day!

Some families are parking the bikes and scooters in between the 2 kindy gates. Some days there are a number of bikes parked there. This is creating a safety issue

- Blocking the pathway in and out the gates—access in and out of the gates is compromised
- Causes a bottle neck of people dropping off / collecting bikes
- Creates a trip and fall hazard for adults and children
- Makes it difficult for families to get prams in and out of the centre
- In an emergency, it would be difficult for emergency services to access the centre eg bringing in a stretcher

If your child rides a bike or scooter to kindy, please secure them to the outside of the fence using a bike chain & lock. I have noticed some families chain the bikes to the poles on the verandah (on southern side of building).

For safety of all children and adults,

**PLEASE DO NOT PARK  
BIKES AND SCOOTERS  
BETWEEN THE 2  
ENTRY GATES.**

We appreciate your support.

(Signs are now placed on the gates to remind everyone)

## Numeracy—understanding number

We are surrounded by numbers—in books, on signs, on packages, in the newspaper, on scales, on cars & buses, in shops, on clocks, radios, on phones etc. Where ever we look there are numbers.

But how do we help our children recognise numbers? How can we help our children understand the pattern of counting? These are essential skills for higher level maths task.

Below are some simple ideas that will help them develop these really important skills

## Recognising and reading numbers

- Play games such as Snakes & ladders, Junior Rummicking, Junior Monopoly, Trouble
- Play card games such as Uno, Snap, Memory
- Read books such as "One is a snail, ten is a crab". Read "Hairy McClary" and look for the numbers on the letter boxes,
- Read numbers on pages of books, magazines, newspaper
- Go for walk and look for numbers on letterboxes, signs, shops, bus stops, speed limits, car number plates
- Look for numbers in the pantry on packages etc
- How old are the people in your family? How many people in the family?
- look for number patterns on charts
- Use "junk mail" catalogues (toy catalogues) to find numbers. Cut them out and glue them on some paper
- Go on a number hunt at the shops eg go to Banana Boys or the Central Market and find all the number "8's"
- Play I spy eg I spy a number that comes after "4"
- Find numbers on a calendar
- Find numbers on clocks, watches, mobile phones
- Look at numbers on money

## Counting

- Count everything
- When out driving count how many buses you see (or red cars, or trucks, or bikes)Count on, backwards
- Ask what number comes after... / what number comes before....
- Play "What's the time Mr. Wolf"
- Count in 2's, 5's, 10's—
- Let your child set the table—count how many plates / spoons etc on the table
- Do dot to dot puzzles
- When reading stories ask questions such as how many frogs / pigs / ducks / children etc. Cover one up and ask how many now.
- Pose and create sum stories eg if there are 5 plates and I put one in the dishwasher, how many will there be. If there are 2 red blocks and 2 blue blocks how many will I have

## A poem

### IF I HAD MY CHILD TO RAISE OVER AGAIN

If I had to raise my child over again  
I'd build self-esteem first and the house later.  
I'd finger-paint more and point the finger less.  
I would do less correcting and more connecting.  
I'd take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes.

I would care to know less and know to care more.  
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.  
I'd stop playing serious and seriously play.  
I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars.

I'd do more hugging and less tugging.  
I'd see the oak tree in the acorn more often.  
I would be firm less often and affirm much more.  
I'd model less about the love of power,  
And more about the power of love.

By Diane Loomas

## Work folders

Following our wonderful Nature Play and Junk day last week, Maddie will put together a learning story for each child. It will go in their work folder over the next week. The children are also completing a drawing of the reflections of this special event.

Also added to their folder this term, is a photo and drawing of themselves in their "Mark Making Journey". Please come and share the folder with your child. They are so proud of their work.

## Subitising

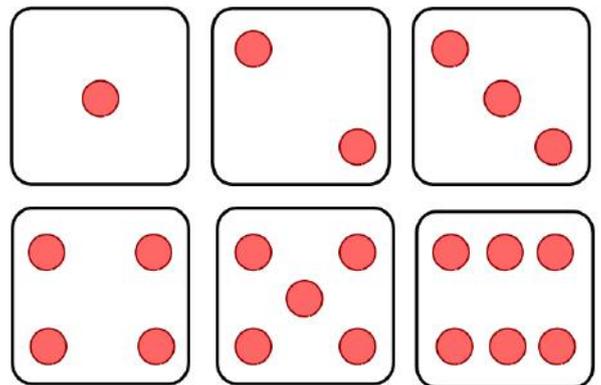
What is subitising? Subitising is being able to recognise a pattern of dots or a number of objects and knowing its value without touch counting. For example

- looking at a dice and recognising the pattern of dots without having to count each dot.
- putting up 4 fingers on your hand and knowing its 4 with out counting.
- Observing 6 blocks on a cupboard and knowing it is 6 by looking and not touch counting

Being able to subitise, it a very important skill, for higher order maths problems at school.

Playing dice games such as Snakes and Ladders, Trouble, Yahtzee or Dominos is a great way of developing this important skill.

If you want more information on subitising, come and speak with one of the staff. We have been subitising at kindy, this term.



As always, thankyou for your continued support. It is very much appreciated.

Kind regards

Chris, Maddie, Suzi, Lyn, Robbie, Karen,  
Jan & Nat.