



Mitcham



Preschool
Centre

Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Term 2
Newsletter 2

Off to Kuitpo Forest this week!

Our much anticipated excursion to Kuitpo forest is this week

Blue group—Thursday May 27th

Gold group—Friday May 28th

Just some reminders of the excursion Time—

- Please be at kindy by 8.30am to prepare for the excursion.
- We will leave to walk up to the bus stop at 8.50am.
- the bus leaves at 9am
- We cannot wait for you beyond 8.50am

Wear warm clothes

- Closed in shoes or boots / NO BALLET FLATS OR SANDALS
- BRING A WATERPROOF COAT
- Warm clothes—dresses are not advised as the children will be climbing trees
- Beanie
- NO CLOSED IN SHOES NO GO
- NO WARM COAT, NO GO

Even if it feels warm in the city, it will be much cooler in the forest.

Adults joining us are expected to wear closed in shoes and bring a coat.

Bring

- Your child's back pack
- Enough food for the day
- **As this is a special occasion, we allow children to bring some times food for snack or lunch**
- Water bottle
- PLEASE MAKE SURE EVERYTHING FITS IN YOUR CHILD'S BAG. They will carry it to and from the bus.

Please note, Adults joining us may want to bring their own thermos / tea / coffee. We are not near shops!

Thankyou to everyone who has offered to volunteer on the excursion. A note about the excursion (and your role on the day), will be distributed to you early this week.

We are looking forward to our wonderful adventures in the forest. Rain or shine we will go to Kuitpo. If the weather is very wet, we have a "back up plan".

Children's work

Have you seen the "Guess the baby" photos and stories? They look adorable!

At last weeks Funtastics, the children completed a self-portrait. They drew their self-portrait with black cray-pas, then painted it. The paintings are now hanging up at kindy. Those children who did not attend funtastics, completed their portrait during the week.

Come and have a look at our wonderful art gallery!

Work folders

Have you seen your child's work folder? There is a learning story from Mobile Junk and Nature Play day. There is a learning story about our campfire last week (to practice keeping safe for our campfire at Kuitpo). Some children have added some of their work to their folder as well. Come and have a look with your child. They will be proud to show you!

*When your child
Is having a meltdown
Don't talk,
Don't reason
Don't get angry.
Your child cant hear
you.
Just be silent and
loving,
Until the storm
passes.
Words Come later.*

By InyardProducts.com

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This week at kindy!

This week, we will continue on with our focus of learning

"All about me and people in my world, underpinned by the Child Protection Curriculum"

We will move onto the next aspect of the curriculum being

"Early warning signs"

These are the feelings you get when you are feeling unsafe, worried, scared etc such as butterflies in your stomach, sweaty palms, shaky.

It is how our body tells us, "I am unsafe"

To support our learning we will have inside

- Block building with selection of books, measuring tapes, Kuitpo photos (numeracy)
- Numeracy table—2D shapes and pictures
- Book making—shape books (literacy / numeracy / fine motor)
- Home corner with dolls (dramatic play)
- Writing table with a range of writing tools / words to copy (literacy / fine motor)
- Fine motor activities (grip strength & control)
- Palette—felt board—Goldilocks and 3 bears (literacy)
- Palette—Tap tap (fine motor)
- Quiet corner—tree house and sensory adjuncts (sensory)
- Challenge puzzle—60 piece puzzle (challenge & persistence)
- STEM centre—exploring weight- basket of adjuncts / balance scales / unifix cubes & gems (numeracy)

Outside there will be

- Box construction with range of collage resources (problem solving)
- Sandpit—loose parts and boat provocation (problem solving)

- Magnet tiles construction set (problem solving / numeracy)
- Story table—3 bears (literacy)
- Board games (cooperative play)
- Shape hunt—add complex shapes (numeracy / challenge task)
- Loose parts—barrels for jumping challenge
- Guinea pigs—representative drawings (fine motor / observation skills)
- Mat with Feelings books (literacy)
- Digging patch with small diggers (sensory)
- Mud kitchen (dramatic play / sensory)
- Travel agents (dramatic play)

Literacy Focus

- Mark making & fine motor skills
- Syllables—clapping the beat of their names
- Consolidating rhyme
- Sound discrimination

Numeracy Focus

- 2D shape focus—identifying, naming, describing properties of shape
- Reinforcing number recognition

Challenge Tasks

- Shape hunt
- STEM challenge
- Mark making challenge

For the next 2 weeks, we will have 2 Guinea pigs from the Nature Education Centre. We will spend time caring for them, do representative drawings of Guinea Pigs and even get to hold them.

It is a busy week at kindy.

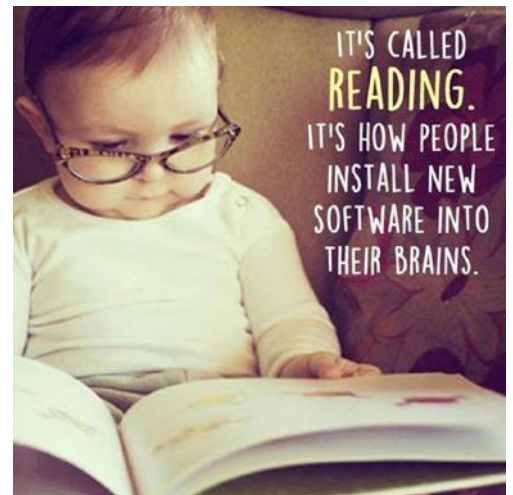
Name card board

Next week, we are going to introduce a new activity, involving the name card board. It will be a challenge task....matching / finding letters in their name.

Each week there will be a sign on the board "Does your name have the letter in it?"

Your child will need to check their name card and the sign. If their name has that letter it goes on the "Yes" side. If they don't, their card goes on the "No" side. Each week, there will be a different letter to look for.

It is one way that we support children in developing their skills in letter recognition.



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.

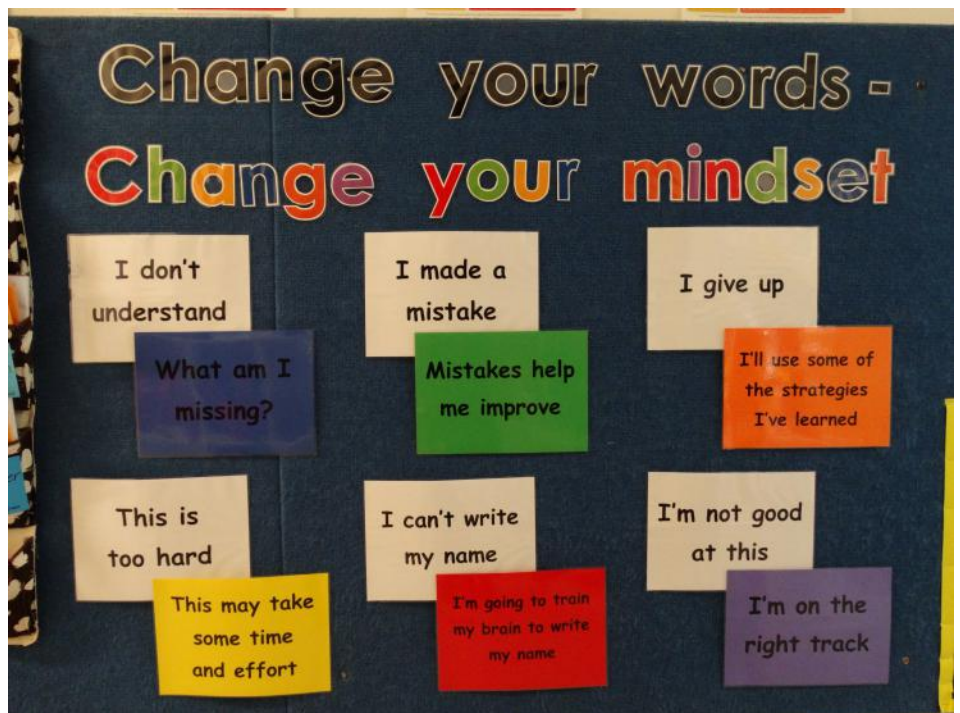
Here are some examples of how we (children and adults) can change our words—change our mindset. The statements on the white background are the fixed mindsets (the negative). The statements on the coloured backgrounds are the growth mindsets (the positive). When children make statements such as "This 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 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, physical challenges etc.

Our walks in the creek pose 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 as 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.



Our special person's mornings will be held in week 8, from Tuesday June 15th to Friday June 18th. In previous years, we would have special person's days held over 2 mornings. However, with COVID restrictions and the numbers of adults allowed into the room at one time, it will be best that for this year, we spread them over the week.

It will mean that your child will be able to invite one adult to share the morning with us at preschool. Details are still being finalised. Once our trip to Kuitpo is over, I will finalise the details of special person's morning, including the day your child will bring their special adult to kindy.

So look out for details mid next week.

Making mistakes

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.

His 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" / 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 spilt 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!!

School Information

The schools have started contacting me about enrolments for 2022 as they are starting their planning for the new school year. (It seems hard to believe when term 2 has only just commenced). However, this is always the case, collecting information on numbers of children and names. It doesn't mean that you have already needed to make a decision on schools. It is just an early indication. Some families wait until they have done a tour of the schools, later in the year before a decision is made.

I will put out a sheet on the sign in table, for you to indicate the possible school for your child.

My Leave

I am going to take 2 weeks long service leave, commencing June 21st. (Last 2 weeks of term 2) I had planned to be in France last year, in the middle of the year, but due to COVID, I couldn't travel. Instead, my family are going to Darwin for 2 weeks. We have chosen to travel during the term, to fit in with my children's university commitments. We cant wait!!

One thing COVID has reminded us of, is the importance of family!

The preschool will be in good hands. Maddie is going to take on the directors role in my absence, ably supported by the staff team. Sara will also support the staff team, during this time.

I will return for the start of term 3.

Pupil free day

Just a reminder there will be a pupil free day on

Tuesday June 8th.

There will not be kindy on that day as staff will be participating in professional development, that supports your child's learning.

Funtastics

Our first funtastics was much loved by the children. You will see their beautiful work hanging around the kindy!

Our next funtastics will be week 6, **Monday May 31st**

Again, we will just have the educators run funtastics. It is the Monday after Kuitpo and many parents are volunteering for this excursion.

However, I know parents have been keen to help with funtastics, so will involve parents (who wish to) in funtastics next term, when I return from Long Service Leave.

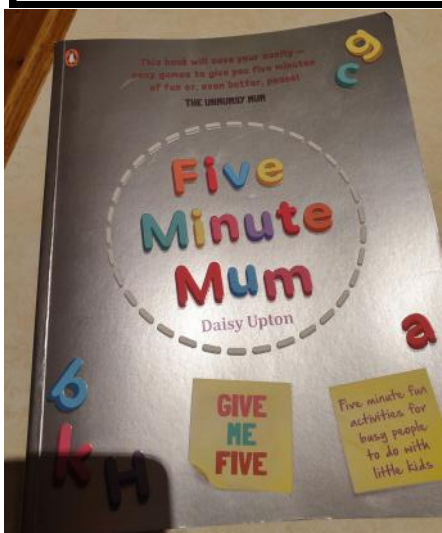
Funtastics is a great way to build children's skills through, fun activities where everyone is participating.

Finally

Thankyou as always for your continued help and support.

Kind regards

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



If you are looking for a book with some great activities for your children, that are easy to organise, I can recommend the "Five minute Mum". It isn't always easy to come up with ideas to keep children busy. This book is simple to use and has lots of great ideas.

Thankyou to Hana Silvy for sharing this book.