



Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

Tel: 82712042 Fax: 82728272

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

web: www.mitchampre.sa.edu.au

Term 1 Newsletter 5

This week at kindy!

Can you believe that we are now in week 10 of term 1. At the end of this week, we will have 1 week before we break for the autumn holidays.

This week we will continue on with our focus of learning

"My place in the world"
A focus on Cultures around the world.

We will continue to explore

What do we know about our community cultures?
Indian / Pakistan / Nepalese / African focus

To support our learning we will have inside

- Home corner—with pets (dramatic play)
- Mark making table—writing media and Easter themed paper (fine motor / literacy)
- Numeracy table with white boards / dice / number pebbles (numeracy)
- Cherry blossom painting (observation skills / fine motor)
- Playdough (sensory / fine motor)
- Dramatic play table with logs, trees, and African animals

(dramatic play)

- Story table—Bear Hunt (literacy)
- Palette 1—tinkering table (fine motor)
- Palette 2—fine motor activity
- Quiet corner—Easter small world (sensory)
- Challenge table—100 piece animal puzzle (challenge task)
- STEM centre—STEM challenge—Which jar has the most? - Jar 1 or jar 2 (STEM)
- Topmarks gam eon the screen—Teddy egg counting game (numeracy)

Outside there will be

- Box making (problem solving)
- Fine motor challenge—Easter puppets—chick / bunny templates (fine motor)
- Sea creatures mural & gems (numeracy)
- Sandpit with loose parts (sensory)
- Easter egg pattern hunt (observation skills, challenge & persistence)

- Platform—dress ups and musical instruments (Literacy)
- Mud kitchen (sensory)
- Fire truck provocation & fire fighter hats and hoses (dramatic play)
- Rick shaws (gross motor)
- Shed area - fire station (dramatic play)
- Dome—with teddies, sea creatures felt board (literacy)
- White boards & pens under trees (literacy)
- Measuring bags (numeracy)

Literacy focus

- Identifying name cards
- Practice writing our names
- Identifying rhyme in stories
- Book making—publish children's books

Numeracy Focus

- Number recognition, counting
- Number sense

Challenge tasks

- Easter egg pattern hunt
- Fine motor challenge (Puppets)
- STEM challenge

It's another busy week at kindy.

Inside this issue:

Creek and park walk	2
Tired children	
Celebration days week 11	2
Oral language	3
Fine motor development	
Advanced notice	4
Pupil free dates	
After kindy play and picnic in term 2	4
Term 2 calender	4

Creek and park walk

Last week, we took our first walk to the creek and park, for the year. There is a lot of learning that takes place, even for a "simple" walk to the creek. For example

- What types of clothes and shoes are appropriate for investigating the creek
- The teachers and children wear a safety vest, so we can always be seen
- When Walking to the creek, you have to hold a partners hand and follow the teacher / children in front (this is easier said than done!!)
- When the teacher blows the whistle, you need to stop playing and go to the teacher
- You can only play in the section of the creek, between the teachers (it's not safe to be out of the teachers vision)
- The bottom of the creek is very rocky so you have to negotiate / balance on rocks to keep yourself safe.
- You cannot go to the toilet without an adult

There is so much to do in the creek, such as building with rocks, balancing, noticing nature in the creek, investigate different areas of the creek including the bushes on the banks and the large boulders that lead into the creek. There are wonderful social skills opportunities such as collaborative and cooperative play, sharing, taking turns, listening to each other and discovering together.

The children only managed 30 minutes in the creek, on their first visit. We then played some fun games on the lawn, before returning to kindy. We cant wait for our next visit to the creek!

Tired children

Parents have been commenting on how tired their children are and the negative behaviours they are seeing at home.

We are now into our 10th week of preschool. Term 1 is a long term, with 11 weeks. There has been so much the children have had to adapt to, learn and cope with in 10 short weeks of preschool.

The second newsletter of the term described the things children have had to adapt to. That newsletter is still on the APP and website if you want to revisit it.

Please remember they are only 4 or 5 years of age (and some are still 3 years old). They have only been on this earth for a very short period of time and are still building their resilience to cope, manage change and to develop persistence.

In 2 weeks time, the children will be on school holidays. It will provide an opportunity to rest, relax and revitalize. Until then, if your child is showing signs of tiredness, keep life simple. Allow them time to rest on the weekends and after preschool. Reduce the number of outings and extra curricular things they do. Ensure they go to bed early (eg 7-7.30pm) rather than later in the evening.

They will "bounce back" after a rest over the holidays.

Celebration Days in week 11

To conclude each terms, learning focus, we always have a special celebration just for the children and educators.

Next week is our last week of term, and we will have our celebration days on

- **Blue group** -Tuesday April 12th
- **Gold group**—Wednesday April 13th.

Each term, the celebration varies. However this term we will have a teddy bears picnic at the creek.

Look out for a note in the children's note pockets this week.

It promises to be a wonderful way to finish our focus of learning on

"My place in the world

A focus on cultures around the world"

Underpinned by Bookmaking.

Please note, that our last days of term 1 are

Gold Group—Wednesday April 13th

Blue group—Thursday April 14th

Good Friday is April 15th and is a public holiday.

We are then on 2 weeks of school holidays and return on Monday May 2nd



**NO ONE HAS MORE
ON THEIR TO-DO LIST
THAN A TODDLER
AT BEDTIME.**

 big little feelings

I think 4 year old's have a to-do list at bed time too!!

The joys of parenting!

Oral language

I recently read an article on children's oral language (spoken language) and reading. I thought I would share excerpts of this important information with you.

Oral language abilities are closely related to the development of early reading skills and there is a correlation with reading in the middle years of primary school. It is impossible to understand the written form of language without a wide vocabulary. These are in most cases, already developed before a child begins school, therefore parents are regarded as a child's first teacher. As parents interact with their young children, they shape their foundations of language development. Certain features of these early interactions are particularly important

- The frequency on one to one or small group interactions
- The quality of language, that is the number and variety of words that children hear
- The reading aloud of story books
- The quality of play experiences

If children participate in rhyming games, singing and word play, English language skills are further developed.

Oral language builds children's vocabulary knowledge. The explosive growth of vocabulary that occurs between the ages of 2 and 6 has a direct influence on their later reading. Preschool children with strong vocabulary tend to have better listening comprehension, word recognition and reading comprehension in the later primary years.

As children engage in early social interactions, they unconsciously come to understand various aspects of language that will support their reading development.

Fine motor skill development

During weeks 5 and 6, we informally assessed all children in literacy / numeracy and fine motor skills. One aspect that we noticed that many children had trouble with, is in their fine motor development. That is the ability to hold and manipulate pencil, textas and scissors successfully. Fine motor skills are so important not only for preschool, but school and in life.

I have included some information with this newsletter on fine motor development and some activity ideas to assist you at home. I hope you find the information useful.

We have noticed over the past few years, as iPads & touch phones have become part of children's world, there has been an increase in the number of children commencing preschool with limited fine motor skills. For many children, they prefer to spend time on touch devices playing games, rather than using good old fashioned paper & textas. An Ipad or touch phone provides children with instant satisfaction. However, if they have limited grip strength & control in using writing tools, it is hard work and they will avoid drawing & writing. Ipads are great for learning about the world. However, they don't teach our children how to hold & use pencils & scissors—necessary for school & life. Allow your child the time to use Ipads & touch phones. But also provide them with the opportunity to use pencils, textas & scissors in preparation for tasks at kindy & then at school.

What textas etc help pencil grip?

To help support an appropriate grip, it is important to make sure that children use pencils & textas etc that will enhance their development.

Faber-castel have 3 sided pencils (triangle) that automatically put a child's fingers in the correct position. They are not expensive and can be purchased from "Big W". Fat textas are also more beneficial to developing children's pencil grip instead of thin textes. Faber castel have some textas that click together. There are thin and fat textas. The fat textas are the better ones to purchase. A thin texta will not be as easy to use as a fatter texta. Again these textas can be purchased from Big W. If you have any questions about the appropriate writing tools, please see one of the staff.

Advanced Notice

In term 4 each year we have 2 very special events—

- our Celebration day (kindy concert followed by a special lunch)
- and our graduation days.

Whilst term 4 seems a long way away, families in previous years have appreciated knowing dates in advance so they can book time off from work.

So this years celebration days will be

- Blue group— Tuesday November 29th
- Gold group—Wednesday November 30th.

So this years graduation days will be

- Blue group— Thursday December 15th
- Gold group—Friday December 16th

Obviously, details of times etc, will be out in term 4, but for now mark these very special events in your diary.

You wont want to miss them. They are very special occasions.

Term 2 Calendar

Term 2 calendar will be a busy one with 2 excursions and some special activities.

Our first excursion will be to the Living Kaurua Culture Centre at Marion.

Blue group—Tuesday May 17th

Gold group—Wednesday May 18th

A note will be out in week 1 of next term. If parents / carers would like to support us on this excursion, you will be most welcome. But just a reminder that you will need to have a WWCC and participated in online RRHAN-EC, plus be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Look out for a note in your child's note pocket in week 1 of term 2.

Pupil free dates

Each year, we are entitled to 4 pupil free days for the purpose of training and development. This means that the preschool will be closed whilst staff participates in professional development.

We have not had any pupil free days in term 1, due to the COVID interruptions. Therefore, we will have 2 pupil free days in term 2.

So at the last Governing Council meeting, the following pupil free days were approved

Term 2—Tuesday May 24th

Term 2—Friday July 1st (To be confirmed)

Term 3—Monday August 8th

Term 4—Monday November 7th.

On each of these dates, there will not be any preschool sessions. The staff have fabulous professional development planned, that will support your child's learning at preschool.

After kindy play and picnic

In previous years, we have a family picnic in term 1 that provides an opportunity for families to meet and to build a sense of community. COVID has prevented that so far this year. Now that day light saving has finished a picnic dinner and play is a bit tricky!!

Therefore I have organized a coffee, play, meet and greet at the creek after kindy in week 1 of next term.

Gold group—Wednesday May 4th

Blue group—Thursday May 5th

- *immediately after kindy.*

Families can bring afternoon tea for their child / children. I have organized a coffee van and coffees etc will be FREE. The coffee van owner, will provide pop top drinks for children, but there will be a small cost for them.

Children will need to have an adult (this can include parents or grandparents) with them to attend the after kindy play and picnic. I realise that some families will need to collect children from school. And I also realise that this wont suit all working families.

However, I am hoping that many people can gather for the play and picnic, providing an opportunity to meet other parents / carers, whilst children play. Babies, toddlers and school aged siblings will be very welcome.

A note will be out next week.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

It is always appreciated.

Chris, Maddie, Suzi,

Lyn, Robyn, Sara