

## **Fortnightly Journal**

**15/03/16 to 25/03/16**

### **What is happening at our Centre?**

#### **Dear Families,**

We have had a very busy time with children while Preet is away enjoying her holidays. We recognise that learning occurs in social interactions and the children have been distinguishing the difference between “big and small,” pretending to be giants and then butterflies. This extends children’s thinking and questions. Happy Feet incursion on Tuesdays has helped the children to explore these new ideas with song and dance where Miss Tina has provided many props. Children have also had the desire to learn how to put on their own sunscreen which in turn has led to many discussions about the weather, what we should wear? and how we take care of ourselves. We have had “indoor/outdoor” play and taken many of the experiences into the outdoor playground area where they have used their play to investigate, imagine and explore ideas. Both morning and afternoons have been very relaxed. At lunchtime the children are very settled and begin to take care of their own lunchboxes and drink bottles. Little vases were made by the children so we can have a small posy of flowers on each table, giving this time of day a more relaxed feel after a busy morning. Please send along nutritious food for the children as this promotes their wellbeing and is essential to the children being active participants, as well as learning about food choices and gives them energy for the afternoons. Lesson Themes on a Friday with Justin from Active Sports gave a “car racing theme.” Children were keen to understand about traffic lights, having a fun warm up game that meant following instructions, following the race leader and of course, driving the car around the race track. In such a small amount of time the children were extended in their thinking skills learning many new words, following directions, group discussions, balancing and “freezing” exercises. Children’s physical activity and attention to stop and start skills are the foundation for their growing independence and satisfaction in being able to do things for themselves. It makes a child feel in control of their body when they perform these exercises.

We celebrated Harmony Day on 21st March. Children engage in relationships with communities from birth and as they move into early childhood settings they broaden their experiences with others. Harmony day to us at 325 Early Learning gave the children a sense of belonging showing the children that “everybody is different, every boy and girl, in every country around the world. But we are all the same on the inside and how we can help each other.” A great message! The children then made their own multicultural people and are

presently preparing their own body outlines of themselves to paint and display around the Centre.

The computer program of Reading Eggs is experienced by some of the older children of the group. Please try to work with your children at home on this worthwhile “phonics” learning objective. The program builds vocabulary, auditory processing skills and is the basic foundation for their reading skills. If you have not already received your “password” please see one of the Educators. In conclusion, you may like to know some of the songs that the children have been learning. Miss Tina has concentrated on “counting,” making it fun through music. Counting fingers, count toes, count to 5 using one hand, also dancing and singing the Hokey Pokey. Music! How can children learn or live without it! Music Educators have known for years that a quality music experience enhances listening, invites responses and learning of vocabulary, memory and hours of fun for children. Hokey Pokey teaches the children body parts, by asking them to “put their elbow in” and Miss Tina places a “scrunchie” into the middle of the circle, asking that the children point towards this article. Miss Tina also provided a large dice; each part of the dice had a special movement to perform. This was fun learning at its best. Children did arm circles, push-ups, touching toes and sit ups, to name a few.

Congratulations to Benjamin’s family on the arrival of their new baby Samuel born on the 15th March. Birthdays celebrated this month with their friends at the Centre. Cejay turned 2 years of age on the 20th of March. JJ on the 25th of March being 3 years of age Diyanna 10th of March and turning 2 years of age. Children are given a choice of what they would like to do on their birthday, (and other times, of course, too,) they feel special on this day. Mostly they say that they would like to play with their friends!!

**Learning outcome:**

1.1.9 Children confidently explore and engage with social and physical environments through relationships and play.

2.2.2 Children explore the diversity of culture, heritage, background and tradition and that diversity presents opportunities for choices and new understandings.

Happy learning We wish to remind everyone that we are closed for the Easter Holiday Break on Friday, 25th March and Monday, 28th March. We re-open on Tuesday 29th at 7am. We wish you a safe and happy Easter.

**Staff at 325**