



Newsletter

OCTOBER 2021

What outcomes can families expect for their child in early learning?

By Wendy Boyd

It's natural for families to discuss with friends what their young children are doing and learning in early childhood education and care. But it can be unsettling too and it can prompt many questions for early childhood educators, directors and managers. In this blog, DR WENDY BOYD demystifies 'real learning' and developmental milestones. She examines ACECQA's five domains checklist to make it easier to identify and demonstrate for families what quality early learning experiences look like for children aged three to five years.

Families often have different expectations for their three- to five-year-old children when they attend an early learning centre or similar service. Some parents expect their child to engage in academic learning activities or 'real learning'. They associate academic activities with formal school-based learning such as writing, reading and knowing their numbers.

(Cont'd...Page 6)



FROM THE NOMINATED SUPERVISOR'S DESK

The countdown to Christmas is on! Cannot believe that we are approaching the end of 2021 already! Our Kindy class is getting ready for their graduation, practising their song/dance daily. They are getting so good!!

Fortunately, our Kindy class is able to resume our visits to St Brendan's School for the 4th term. We have missed going every Wednesday. Our first session back over showed us that we were very missed too. **Mrs B, Sister Bernice** welcomed us so nicely and even the principal, **Mr Marty**, made a special effort to come to see us. We feel very lucky to be made so welcome.

Just a reminder – we are approaching summer and with that the temperature and UV rises. Parents it is extremely important to remember to bring your children dressed in sun smart appropriate clothing. Sleeve shirts please – no singlets. Please remember to put sunscreen on your child at arrival to the Centre and if you don't have time, please let a staff member know and they will do it for you.

Parents, because we take your children's sun safety very seriously, we are implementing a rule of No Hat No Play. If

your child comes to the Centre without a hat, they will not be allowed to play outside and will need to sit on the veranda and miss out. It is your responsibility to ensure your child brings everything they need to the Centre for their day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Recycleman Show
Wednesday 3rd November

Melbourne Cup Celebrations
Tuesday 2nd November

Diwali Celebrations
Thursday 4th November

Thursday 11th
Remembrance Day Activities

COMMUNITY LINKS/EVENTS

Grab a blanket, picnic basket and rally up your mates to enjoy an afternoon of **Gigs & Picnics in the city**.

Think mellow jazz sounds, modern reggae and dub vibes, gypsy swing and more, against the lush backdrop of the City Botanic Gardens. Plus, you don't have to worry about bringing snacks as there will be an array of food trucks slinging delicious bites throughout the afternoon. It's all happening from 12:00–4:00 pm on the last Saturday of every month, so make sure to pencil this relaxing event into your calendar!

LOCATION

Brisbane City Botanic Gardens
147 Alice Street, Brisbane City

Afternoon Live at the Planetarium

Join Brisbane Planetarium's expert astronomers on an exciting 'live' full dome space flight every Saturday and Sunday afternoon at 3 pm. Chart a course through the wonders of our solar system, past the most distant space probes, beyond the stars that form the familiar constellations, and out of the Milky Way galaxy. This family-friendly event runs for approximately 50 minutes and is inclusive of the night sky tour.

LOCATION

Mt Coot-tha Road, Toowong

Family STEM morning

Join us in the park outside Annerley Library for a morning of games and activities exploring science, technology, reading and art. There will be different activities to challenge your thinking and bring out your creative side in a fun environment. Ideal for all ages. Bookings essential.

Sat November 13, 2021, 10:30 - 12:30

LOCATION

Annerley Library
448 Ipswich Road, Annerley

As the warmer weather approaches, we will be having water play more regularly, so please ensure your child has an extra set of clothes packed. Please ensure you are bringing a drink bottle for your child. If you forget, please let a staff member know and we will provide a cup.

Just a reminder that we are teaching all classes about different cultures and **Miss Bella** has put a note on OWNA asking parents to bring in a family photo and a little write up about where in the world your family is from. This gives all your children a sense of inclusion within our service.

We would also like to invite all families to come in and share a cultural experience with the staff and children. It can be

anything - cooking, story, music, or dance etc. We want everyone to feel united and we really want all the children to learn about cultural diversity.

As always, if you have any questions, feedback or suggestions on what you would like to see included at our Centre, please contact **Candice** or **Brooke**.

SIGNIN AND OUT

Parents, please reminded that you must sign your child/ren in each time they attend the Centre and also sign them out when they are picked up. This is important as our record for COVID sign in and out as well as it being a requirement for you to receive ongoing Child Care Subsidy.

We will be doing an audit and contacting any parents not meeting this obligation. Thank you in advance.

Brooke and Candice NOMINATED SUPERVISORS

NURSERY NEWS

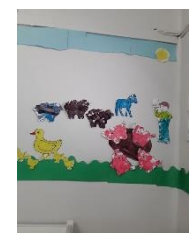
We would like to welcome **Florian** to the Nursery room. We hope he settles in quickly and enjoys his time with us.

All our new children are settling in well and eagerly exploring all we have to offer in the baby room.

I can hardly believe we are nearly at the end of the year. But remember, we have many fun-filled learning days ahead!

This month we were all very excited playing with and painting different kinds of animals. We even made an animal farm on the wall by putting our collections together on the wall.

We also celebrated **Father's Day** and created several handmade crafts for Dad on his special day. We hope you enjoyed your day with your dads!



(Analysis of learning: Children develop relationships with others and share the joy of their family relationships with their friends. Their social skills are developing as they engage others in their interests.)

Red Nose Day

All our children and teachers were wearing something red and played with big, red blocks.

10th September **White balloon day**.

To celebrate this day all our children and teachers were wearing something white. We also decorated our playground with white balloons and white string. The children were very excited when the teachers were blowing up the balloons. They enjoyed holding the balloons and choose their own coloured strings.



World Peace Day We made a handprint wreath for "World Peace Day". All the children made handprints out of bright coloured paint. We then turned this into a wreath around a picture of the world together!



We had **Crazy Hair Day** on 15th September To celebrate Crazy Hair Day we brought in many coloured hairsprays and colourful hairbands. The teachers were having fun spraying different coloured hairspray on the children's hair. The children were very excited and they chose the colour they wanted on their hair and smiled in the mirror when they saw their reflection. Our teachers also came in with different, funny hair styles.

"Talk Like a Pirate Day", we spent some time playing with our large wooden boat toy and tried to identify all the different animals on it. We also placed pirate stickers onto a piece of paper using our fingertips.

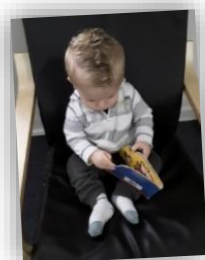
(Analysis of learning: Children learnt how to engage in events in the world around them through creative play.

Learning outcome: 1: 3C: Share aspects of their culture with the other children and educators.)



Reading books

Reading books is a comforting and relaxing experience. Babies enjoyed reading books with the teachers and loved seeing the pictures in the book. Reading helps build their knowledge of the world in a creative way.



(Learning outcome: 5:2A: Listen and respond to sounds and patterns in speech, stories and rhymes in context.)

We are continuing to learn about shapes, colours and numbers. We will try to build the babies' knowledge regarding some aspects such as:

- Helping to pack away indoor toys
- Sharing
- Cooperating with other children

Babies are also busy having fun drawing on the chalkboard, playing dress-ups, exploring the home corner area and much more.



Ocean Life Visit

We had a visit from Ocean Life Experience. We learned about sea molluscs, turtles, baby sharks, sea cucumbers and starfish. It was a hands-on experience providing an opportunity to touch and feel the starfish, sea cucumber and sea molluscs.



Just a small note from us – as the weather is warming up, please send your children with a spare set of light clothes which they can wear if it gets too warm. Please ensure these are clearly named.

Also, just a quick reminder of the events coming up in November.

- Tuesday 6th November Melbourne Cup Day
- Sunday 11th November Remembrance Day
- 13th -19th November Recycling Week

Throughout the rest of the year, the children will be encouraged to begin Christmas arts and crafts. There will be lots of time available for the children to do spontaneous activities and take part in what they enjoy most.

Until next time

Miss Sylvia, Miss Rehana and Miss Suvada.

TODDLER NEWS

We would like to welcome **Maple** and **Sabreen** to the Toddlers room

Introducing Awareness Days

We introduced the toddlers to some ideas and awareness days that provided fun and educational experiences for the children.' Our goal was for the children and families to experience an environment where they could affirm and extend connecting with the wider world. We also encouraged the children and families to feel comfortable with routines, customs and regular events. At the Centre, for the last two months we had White Ribbon Day, Red N Nose Day, Crazy Hair Day and also Talk Like a Pirate Day.



Spring has sprung. The toddlers were very active with their physical and fine motor skills. In the last few months they have been engaging in a lot of activities involving fine motor skills. These are the skills that allow them to use their hands to manipulate materials like pencils, containers, clothing fasteners, and little objects. There is so much more to it, though! Areas of development like pinch and grip strength, separation of the sides of the hand and fingers isolation all play a role in refined use of the fingers and hands. Fine motor skills are necessary for every task that a child completes. From play, self-care, to managing clothing fasteners, and colouring, motor skill development is needed for every aspect. Fine motor skill development is essential to pencil grasp and handwriting. The activities they liked most were playing with magnetic tiles, chalk drawing, playdough and collage activities.



Thank you,

Miss Anna and Miss Nusrat

JUNIOR KINDY NEWS

The Junior Kindy children are enjoying their learning journey with their friends and educators. We are providing rich meaningful learning experiences to the children to enhance their overall development. Here is the summary of children's learning for the last few weeks:

Nature: The children love to play outside and exploring nature. They have been very interested in looking for insects in the garden. They found some caterpillars, spiders and grasshoppers. So, we followed up with children's interests and organised different activities to intentionally teach them about different types of insects. We also discussed about eating habits of insects. An insect garden was set up in the room for children to learn more about insects.



On the farm: Evander and Thomas showed interest in animals. They loaded some animals on a farm and told the teacher that they were taking these animals to the farm. We set up an indoor farm and children moved their animals on that farm. We talked about pets and wild animals to develop children's understanding about the habitats of animals.

Sea Life: The Ocean Life show visited the service, giving the children a chance to touch and feel some sea creatures and explore relationships with other living things (*Learning outcome 2.4F*). The children learned that they should never throw any rubbish in the sea as it can cause harm to sea animals, so they promised not to discard rubbish into the sea. They also learned that a shark's mouth is a teeth factory. Whenever shark's teeth fall out, they are replaced by new teeth naturally. So, a shark never runs out of teeth throughout its life.



Healthy eating: To promote healthy eating, we organised activities to explicitly teach children the health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables. We showed some fruits to the children and asked them about their favourite fruits and vegetables. The children decided to eat fruits and vegetables every day. Later, children performed pretend cooking in the home corner where they used toy fruits and vegetables for their cooking.



Rainbow house: Rainbow house is a popular area in the junior kindy room where children relax on the pillows, play with the toy babies and read books. They love to spend time in the rainbow house.

I would like to thank the parents for providing books and other resources to include in our programming. Family inputs are always welcomed and appreciated.

Thank you very much.

Miss Pari, Miss Tania and Miss Penny

KINDY NEWS Bees and Honey

The children were curious about honeycomb. **Mr Andrew** did some investigating and after speaking to a local beekeeper from **Suburbeea Honey**, **Mr Andrew** was able to help the children understand where honeycomb comes from. **Mr Andrew** explained how bees collect nectar from flowers and take it back to the hive. In the hive that is where the honey is made by all the busy bees. **Mr Andrew** was able to borrow a beehive drawer from the hive, some beekeeper books, some beeswax and some honey to show the children. After the discussion the children watched an educational video on how honeycomb and honey is made and then had the opportunity to taste the honey from the local area. The children really enjoyed the honey tasting experience.

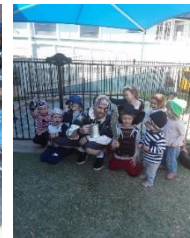
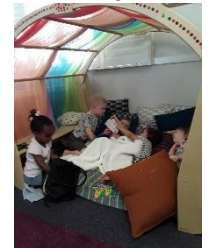


Pirates

Arghhhh, Here be pirates!! The children celebrated Pirate Day in style. The day started with everyone arriving in their best pirate outfit. Hats, bandanas, eyepatches, face painting and other accessories were made



available to the children. **Louis** brought a pirate flag that he made at home, and we attached it to the fort which became our pirate ship. The children went on a treasure hunt after they found a map in the playground and with the help of the educators after searching far and wide the children made a discovery in the sand. In the sand they found some pirate treasure that we all shared together.



Fruit Bats

The children were hanging upside down on the bars of the play equipment. "We are fruit bats!" said **Emily**. **Mr Andrew** followed this up with an introduction into fruit bats using inquiry and discussion. The children shared their thoughts on fruit bats and then Mr Andrew extended their understanding through diagrams and educational information. The children then made bats from paper plates and explored the shape of bats. The children learnt lots of fun facts about bats using an educational program called **Sci Show Kids**.

Let's go fly a kite

The children were very interested in the kite that came from the bookman. We took the kite outside and as a class we looked at it and the paper that came with it in the package. **Mr Andrew** explained that the paper was called instructions and the instructions help you to understand how something goes together. We watched a short educational video on kites and how they fly and then as a class we put the kite together. It was a nice windy day which was great weather for kite flying so we set up the kite and it lifted into the air.



What outcomes can families expect for their child in early learning?

.... (Cont'd from page 1) by Wendy Boyd

Parents are reported to feel concerned if they visit their friend's home and see their friend's child brings home worksheets (for example dot-to-dot of their name, colouring in of Easter eggs, or other adult-directed products) from their early childhood service. They may worry their child is being left behind because their child is 'only playing' and not engaging in real learning.

Other parents focus on their child being safe and secure in a stimulating environment where children make choices about what they will play. Such learning environments are supported by educators who are responsive to the child, and socially construct the child's play.

The tension lies between teacher-directed activities where children are perceived to be doing 'real learning', as opposed to children making choices to play according to their interests.

So, what should three- to five-year-olds be learning?

Developmental milestones provided by the Australian Children's Early Childhood Quality Authority (ACECQA) state:

Children's learning is ongoing and each child will progress towards the outcomes in different and equally meaningful ways.

This milestones checklist covers five domains of learning, which is linked to the curriculum and the National Quality Standards:

1. physical
2. social
3. emotional
4. cognitive
5. language development.

The checklist indicates what a child should be able to do by a certain age, and this is linked to the early childhood education curriculum.

Transition To School

This term we are excited to announce that the children will attending once again the Stay and Play Program in partnership with our local school, St. Brendan's. The children will have the opportunity to develop an understanding of the school environment and explore a variety of planned activities that are both interesting and educational.

Transition Reports

As mentioned previously this is the time of year that we begin the transition reports. There was a form sent to all parents of graduating children. This form gives permission for a transition report to be created. If you have any questions regarding transition school, please don't hesitate to ask.

Birthdays

Congratulations to **Harper, Ozair, Bogdan and Emily** who all turned 5 this month.

Hot Weather

Just a reminder to parents that we are experiencing hotter weather and to pack appropriate clothing. Please encourage your child to wear sunscreen, a hat and to drink plenty of water.

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the program in any way, please see myself or any of the friendly staff from the Kindy Room.

The Kindergarten Team
Andrew and Bella