News at Epping Views Kindergarten

Since our last newsletter the children at Epping Views Kindergarten have been extremely busy. Our 4 year olds have been learning about emergency services, which has now led on to community helpers. Our 3 year old children have been learning their colours and shapes.

The 4 year old children had a practice fire drill recently and did a fantastic job at getting to our safe area 1, which is the kinder car park. They lined up at their kinder room door and stayed in a very straight line and meet at the safe area and stood and listened for their name to be called off the roll. This will be something that we will practice each term and our 3 year old children will complete a drill soon too.

The staff had a curriculum day last Wednesday which was a very busy day. We started looking at we believe our values and philosophy of Epping Views Kindergarten should look like. This will also go out to all of our families so that you can all have a say too. We also looked at our Quality Improvement Plan. This alerted us to the things we are doing really well and things we need to improve on. We also did some planning for what we are going to do with the children after these current topics have finished. It was a very eventful day!

Reminders

- **Lost Property**— please remember to check the lost property box as we have too many items without names that must belong to someone. The box is located in the kinder foyer.

- **Food**— please remember that we are a “Nude Food” Kinder, which means no wrappers. We also are a healthy kinder so healthy food only. Remember no tiny teddies, sweet biscuits, French fries, chocolate, shape biscuits, etc

- **Warm Clothing**— now that it is Winter please send along a warm jacket and beanie for your child to wear outside.

- **Toys from Home**— please don’t send in any toys from home for your child to use at kinder. We have plenty of toys and equipment at kinder for the children to use. And do not want any toys that have come from home to get lost.

Diary Dates

- 19th June—Local Excursion to Woolworths in Lyndarum
- 27th June— Dress Up Day—What I Want To Be When I Grow Up?
- 27th June—Last day of Term 2
- 14th July—First day of Term 3
Echidna News

Time really does fly when you’re having fun and school holidays will soon be upon us. The Echidna children have well and truly earned themselves a break as they have been busy playing hard and learning lots this term.

We had been focusing on an interest in Emergency services and were lucky enough to have a fireman and a police woman come and visit us. The children loved trying on the uniforms and hearing the sirens. We have been able to introduce the children to the importance of knowing how to dial 000, knowing which service to request, as well as knowing their own addresses. The children were taught to stop, look, listen and think before crossing the road and other various ways to stay safe. We also had a very successful emergency evacuation drill which demonstrated the children’s comprehension of the information we had given them over the previous weeks.

One of our main goals for this term has been for our children to cooperate with others and negotiate roles and relationships in play episodes and group experiences. To achieve this Melinda and I have been encouraging the children to participate in small group experiences, to assist one another in the packing up of the room and yard, and to sit with different children each day at snack time.

Through some observations and assessments we have discovered that the majority of our children are now able to identify and recognise their own names while nearly all of them are able to write their names successfully too. We are continuing to work on our pencil grip and scissor skills and will be providing the children with many opportunities to engage in a literacy enriched environment, learning new alphabet and number songs too.

Just a few quick reminders too. The cold weather is well and truly upon us now so children need to be bringing warm jackets and hats if they are to be allowed outside to play. We have also noticed that some unhealthy snacks have snuck their way into lunch boxes over the past few weeks so we ask again to please only send your children to kinder with healthy options. And finally please take some time to go through the lost property box as it is overflowing with misplaced items.

Thanks - Melissa & Melinda

Joey News

Can you believe in a matter of weeks, we will be at the end of Term 2 and haven't the Joey children been busy!

We are also continuing on from our focus of name recognition, now to the children being able to identify the first letter of their name and being able to write this. Some of the children are even attempting to write their own names and names of others. We have set up a permanent writing table in our room that includes various writing materials for the children to practice their writing skills. The children are exposed to common words that we have learnt so far as well as name cards and alphabet cards. We have introduced to the writing table some community helper tracing word cards, for the children to practice some community helper words such as doctor, fireman, teacher etc.

Moving on from transportation, the children have started to learn about emergency services. We have spoken to the children about three emergency services that can be contacted by phone, which are Police, Fire and Ambulance. We have had a fireman come into the kinder on Monday 26th May and speak to the children about what he does as a fireman and how he helps out in the community. The children also had a Police woman come in on Tuesday 3rd June, to talk to them about what she does in her job and how she helps in the community.

Having these special visits from people in our community, has given us the opportunity to focus on Community Helpers. The children have quite enjoyed having group discussions about all the different people that help us out in the community and have learnt about so many that they didn't even realise where community helpers!

Please ensure you are reading our Joey reflection book to keep up to date with our program and the children’s learning and progress. Last but not least, we would like to thank all of our parent helpers who have been coming to kinder and experiencing our kinder days with us. If you are interested but not yet signed please speak to Amanda or Laura.

Thank you - Amanda and Laura
**Koala News**

The Koala children have been focusing on emergency services and have just progressed into people in our community. We explored the roles of police, fire and ambulance and how they help us to keep safe. We took this opportunity to have many class discussions as well as books to help us understand their place in our community. We had a visit from fireman Steve who was able to give us an insight into their everyday lives as firefighters and what types of emergencies he may respond to. We were able to look at fire safety such as ‘get down low and go, go, go’, as well as ‘stop, drop and roll’. We also had a police visit that introduced us to the concept of ‘stop, look, listen and think’ when crossing our roads. As well as this we practiced our own fire evacuations drill at kinder and what we should do in an emergency (calling triple 000).

From emergency services we are heading into community helpers. Who lives in our community and the different jobs in our community? We will also be heading over to Woolworth’s to take a look some different jobs in our community, like the bakers and butchers. The children will be able to choose a piece of fruit during our visit to bring back to kinder to be apart of our snack. There will also be a ‘What I Want To Be When I Grow Up’ dress up day. Through activities from these themes we have been practicing our cutting skills, pencil grip and oral language.

Casey and Melyssa

**Cockatoo and Rosella News**

The 3 year old children have continued on with their letter recognition but also extended this out to colours and shapes. We have looked at different shapes in our room and in our outdoors and documented this in a large book. We have been using group times to extend on these through discussions, books and even the interactive TV with games. All the children partook in craft which encouraged them to use different shapes to mimic a picture that Casey had created. This was a great way to see how children are able to follow a template as well as how they interpret the picture. We have seen children’s art and drawing developing in past weeks with more shapes being used as well as a variety of colours. We will continue to look at this with discussions about how to draw a person and what shapes and colours could we use.

We have also explored colours with colour matching and using water paints to make secondary colours. We conversed about the different colours we seen in the pictures of our books and did some simple science activities such mixing coloured water together to make new colours.

Casey, Melyssa and Melinda

**Magpie and Kookaburra News**

We have been focusing on shapes, colors, numbers and name recognition over the last month. The children have been provided with many activities within the program to support their learning in these areas.

We set up a sorting activity to get the children to sort the different shapes and colours, provided shape cards at the playdough table encouraging the children to make different shapes and the children participated in shape and colour sponge painting and a cut and paste activity. Throughout these activities, I took observations on the children’s understanding of the topic and was then able to extend upon this at our group times by showing the children our shape and colour rhyming poems. The children are starting to recognize most shapes and our rhyming poems have helped the children distinguish the different between the tricky square and rectangle shape.

We have also been focusing on providing more larger group discussions, getting the children to be involved by expressing their own ideas and knowledge. We played a game, which involved the children identifying different shapes on a dice. As we rolled the dice numerous times we graphed how many times we saw each shape. At the end of the game we counted how many of the shapes we saw. The children were really involved and enjoyed counting from 1-10 seeing which shape was the winner.

Name recognition has also been a focus at our group times. We have been using name cards with their picture and getting them to say their name as they see their picture. They then stand up and put their name card on a board. Not only are the children becoming familiar seeing their name in written language, it is also giving them exposure to the letters in their names and the letters in their peers names. We will be providing more name recognition activities in term 3.

If you have any questions regarding your child or the curriculum please feel free to speak with Catherine or the Assistants after the session.

Catherine, Laura and Donna
Over the past month the children have been learning about emergency services such as police, fire and ambulance. We began this topic by speaking about emergencies and getting the children to identify what an emergency is. The children became familiar with the emergency number “zero, zero, zero” and learnt what to do in case of an emergency. We made our own emergency contact cards where the children put details such as the emergency number and their name. We sent these home for you to become involved in their learning process by teaching them their home address and to add this to the card as a reminder of some questions they might be asked if they call the emergency number.

We then went in more depth about each emergency service - their role on the community, what equipment they use and how they help people. We were able to explore this topic through literature by reading non-fiction books about each service where the children became involved by asking questions or relating their own knowledge of the topic.

We provided many experiences for the children to enhance their interest in the topic such as; tracing words of emergency services in our writing area, emergency services matching games where the children identified each emergency service and their role and cutting and pasting activities of emergency services.

Our most popular area was our hospital set up. The children were provided with uniforms and equipment and were able to role-play in this area. We included signs and posters of opening and closing times and words with pictures related to a hospital (stethoscope, needle, bandage) in the area extended the children’s oral language as they used these words in their play. The children also learnt numeracy concepts as we had a waiting area where the children had to take a number and another child had to call them out in order as it was their turn.

To extend further we have had a visit from the local fire station and police station where they have explained their roles and the children have been able to ask questions. They even got to try on their uniforms!

This has been an enjoyable topic for the children as they have shared their own knowledge and their own experiences with community people during our group times and have also broadened their understanding of the world in which they live.

We are now moving forward focusing on other community helpers such as a dentist, vet and postie and are hoping to have more community visits.

Another focus has been getting the children to recognise the first letter of their name and be able to write their own name. The children are starting to recognise the first letter of their name through the use of our name cards at group time. The children’s name card is shown and they have to tell us what letter their name begins with. The children are becoming more and more confident with writing their names. This is not only encouraged at our writing table through the use of their name cards, name tracing cards and our alphabet book but also at our art and craft table where the children are encouraged to write their name on their art work and are able to use their name cards as a guide if needed.

We have also been practising our scissor skills by providing scissors at our collage table for the children to experiment freely with cutting. They are able to use the scissors to cut different types of materials such as; paper, straws and felt and paste these onto their creation. We have also provided planned cutting experiences using a variety of templates for the children to practice cutting in straight lines and have also introduced templates with curvy lines to extend the children’s cutting skills. We are working towards the children acquiring these skills to develop the necessary tools for handwriting.

Wally the Wombat has been on many adventures so far and is looking forward to many more with your children. The children are encouraged to bring back a poster to kinder of what they did with Wally to put in Wally’s adventure book. The child then shares their poster with the group. We have introduced question time where other children ask questions about your child’s time with Wally. This encourages the children to engage in enjoyable reciprocal interactions with their peers using verbal language.

Thank you to our parent helpers who have joined us during our sessions. Your help is much appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding your child or the curriculum please feel free to speak with Catherine or Donna after the session.

Catherine and Donna
National Quality Framework

The National Quality Framework came into effect on 1st January 2012 with key aspects being phased in over time. Qualifications, educator-to-child ratios and other key staffing arrangements will be phased in until 2020.

This new system replaces existing state and territory licensing and national quality assurance processes.

The objectives of the National Quality Framework are:

- to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of all children attending education and care services
- To improve the educational and developmental outcomes for children attending education and care services
- To promote continuous improvement in the provision of quality education and care services
- To establish a system of national integration and shared responsibility between participating jurisdictions and the Commonwealth in the administration of the National Quality Framework
- To improve public knowledge, and access to information about the quality of education and care services
- To reduce the regulatory and administrative burden for education and care services by enabling information to be shared between participating jurisdictions and the Commonwealth

All kindergartens in Australia are now part of an accreditation process. This involves each kindergarten submitting a Quality Improvement Plan. This is completed by staff and our management body. Our kindergarten will be told when we are due for an assessment. Once we have been notified, 3 months later an assessor will come out to our kindergarten and spend at least 2 days here conducting a formal review. We will then be rated on our overall performance and then given a rating that will be made available online, which is similar to the ‘myschools’ website.

This is a lengthy process which will involve the staff, children, families and management. Throughout the year we will be asking for our families to assist us with this process. We have just sent home a letter in regards to our values and philosophy that we are asking for you to complete and return to the kinder by 18th June. We will then collate this information and from the staff opinions also come up with our values and philosophy for Epping Views Kindergarten.