

Education for Sustainability 2020

Education for Sustainability (EfS) continues to be of strong focus at Waite and even though I was absent for a period of time at the commencement of Covid, many fantastic learning experiences were actively participated in by children across the centre for the rest of the year.

After my first year as EfS teacher, I set a goal to spend more time during my EfS time with Room 1 and Room 2 to ensure they had the opportunity to be engaged in learning. Towards the end of the year, I feel I had developed relationships with Room 1 children and they were confident and comfortable to engage in the learning with me. Feeding the tortoises was one of the favourite things to do as was spending time planting different seeds and plants and the sensory aspect of watering them.

There were many highlights from across the year and especially the Room 3 children like to revisit some of the learning that has been documented. This has included our walk around the campus to pick up rubbish as a part of Clean Up Australia Day, playing the recycling game, sessions of bird watching during Winter Bird Week and National Bird Week and going on walks to the Rose Garden and Community Garden. All of these have provided opportunities for children to connect with nature and to learn about their impact on Mother Earth and how we can help to keep Mother Earth healthy.

During 2020 there have been many discussions about the vegetables that the children wanted to plant. We were very excited with the addition of the four new wicking beds thanks to our successful Green Adelaide grant in late 2020. The children from across all three rooms have actively participated in the planting, observation of growth, harvesting and most importantly the eating of the produce that we grew. We have grown carrots, potatoes, snow peas, spinach, lettuce, coriander, basil, oregano, sage, parsley and our favourite vegetable broad beans. The demand outweighs the supply each year so we will definitely be planning more broad beans again this year. We also were excited about our apricot tree this year as it produced more apricots than we have ever seen. We observed the changes from the beginning of spring from bud to flower to green fruit to ripe and ready to eat fruit. Fingers crossed we have more delicious apricots next year.

Pilyabilyangga continues to be a space loved by the children. They have actively taken care of the area by weeding it, helping to remove dead plants and planting new plants. The space also provides the home to many little creature that the children love to discover and observe including koalas, possums, geckos, numerous insects and of course butterflies.

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to spend time with the children and extend the learning opportunities associated with EfS. The commitment of the centre to allow this time means we are able to teach the children about the wonderful planet we live on and more importantly connect with the land that we play and learn on and how to have a positive impact on it.