

Education for Sustainability Report Term 2 2021

The Term 2 focus in Room 3 has been for children to show an increasing awareness of healthy lifestyles and good nutrition and for children to cooperate with others and negotiate roles and relationships in play episodes and group experiences. These two focus areas have been integrated into the Education for Sustainability teaching time in term 2 through the experiences that have been planned and implemented.

With it being the time to plant autumn vegetables, we used this opportunity to remove the summer vegetables that provided some delicious produce and prepare the soil for our autumn vegetables. The children from Room 2 and 3 were very active in this process which took place over a couple of weeks. The children helped to dig the soil and then observed as compost and fertilizer was added. These jobs provided lots of opportunity for conversation and the development of knowledge about the processes needed to create healthy soil for us to successfully grow food. In the following weeks after the soil was prepared, mint, parsley, beans, garlic and a couple of different types of onion have been planted. Over the following weeks, children have been noticing the growth of the plants and commenting on what they are seeing.

Group times each Educating for Sustainability day were also focussed around food and the growing of food. Books were read about where our food comes from and children were actively engaged in games where the sorting of fruit and vegetables occurred. These group times also provided opportunities for children to learn more about the nutritional value of the food we eat through the discussions that were facilitated.

National Reconciliation Week also took place in Term 2 at the beginning of June. A small group of children from each 3 rooms of the centre went on a walk to the community garden to plant some Indigenous edible foods in one of the garden beds. This campus walk provided an opportunity for the children across the rooms to connect with each other, connect to the campus and develop knowledge about growing food, especially native edible food. Future walks to the Community Garden will be planned to ensure we stay connected to the community and also to observe the growth of the plants and engaged in further dialogue about and tasting of the plants we planted.

Lots of spontaneous learning and natural phenomena such as the discovery of insects, the changing colour of the autumn leaves, feeding the worms and Fluffy the tortoise and the collection of our bins were also engaged in by the children during the term. Children are very aware of the need to provide food to our living animal friends and take care of them. They are very hands-on in the process and love to talk about what is occurring. Each time the bin trucks come in now, children are able to correctly name the resource that they truck is going to pick-up e.g. Organics, landfill or recycling. The children are also great helpers of emptying the internal bins to the external bins outside into the right one. This again is a time for conversation and the sharing of knowledge and stories of their bins at home.

In Term 3 there will be a focus on Spring, harvesting vegetables, replanting the veggie beds, children's participation in EfS routines and hopefully more community walks when the weather warms up.

EYLF Links

Outcome 1

- Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency
- Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities
- Children learn to interact on relation to others with care, empathy and respect

Outcome 2

- Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation
- Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
- Children respond to diversity with respect

Outcome 3

- Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing
- Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing

Outcome 4

- Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity
- Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigation
- Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another
- Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

Outcome 5

- Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes
- Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media

Expenses T2:

Apr - July 2021

Water exploration resources	\$317.27
Fire pit	\$71.82
Garden supplies	\$69.47
Plants for Reconciliation Week	\$32.73
Oxfam donations (1 per month)	\$150.00
EfS Teacher Wages Term 2	\$423-63