

Education for Sustainability Report Term 4 2021

Well another year is behind us and I can honestly say that what a challenging but fantastic year it has been.

This term during Education for Sustainability time, there have been a number of special events and the children have built on learning that has occurred throughout the last 3 terms.

A highlight of the term was the celebration of National Bird Week. The children were such enthusiastic participants and were eager to learn about birds and observe them in the natural environment around the Centre. Children were able to recall knowledge from last year and many new children were engaged in bird watching sessions for the first time. The children were able to identify birds, recreate their birdcalls, identify the birds that belonged to feathers that were found and learnt the Kaurna words for Magpie and Rainbow Lorikeet. The bird watching and interest in birds continued long after the week of celebrations were over.

A whole centre picnic to celebrate Australian Pollinator Week was another highlight of Term 4. Australian Pollination Week provides the chance to raise awareness, learn about and explore the pollinators that live around us. Pollinators play an important role in the food that is grown for us to eat and we need to protect these insect pollinators in order to safeguard our food security. The picnic food that was cooked by Grace, highlighted food that needs to be pollinated by insects. We were also able to observe and discuss the different pollinators such as bees, butterflies, flies and ants that we saw during our walk and picnic. The walk and picnic also provided a wonderful opportunity to connect as a whole centre and some parents also joined in the picnic which enabled us to further build partnerships with the families that use our centre.

During the term we have continued to care for the garden and we have harvested some delicious strawberries, beetroot, onions and broad beans, fed the worms and cared for them, fed and cared for Fluffy and engaged in many spontaneous experiences involving living creatures.

Unfortunately the year ended early in regards to EfS as I injured my ankle in Week 7 and I was taking on a more leadership role in Eleanor's absence, firstly for her annual leave and then during her quarantine period in weeks 8 and 9 respectively. I very much look forward to continuing on the EfS role in 2022 and building upon the learning that has occurred in 2021 and also exploring new topics of interest over the year.

One of the goals that I set myself last year was to spend more time connecting with the Room 1 children. I am proud to say that this was definitely achieved. After the first initial visits in Room 1, the children slowly warmed to my presence in the room and began interacting with me. Now, at the end of the year, many of the children call me by name and invite me into their play. Fluffy the turtle is a favourite visitor to the room and the children have learnt to interact with him and observe him with respect and care. With new children starting in Room 1 in 2022, this will again be a focus.

Finally, one of the comments from a parents that filled my heart with joy, was that their child calls me 'Mother Earth'. Through role modelling, discussion, intentional teaching the children are able to learn about our wonderful planet and hopefully I can instil a love of our planet, that I have, and the need to care for it in that will last a life time.

EYLF Links

Outcome 1

- Children feel safe secure and supported
- 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 engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts
- Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media