

# Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



Learning and Living with nature

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by ACECQA



## Gareeal News -February 2019

Welcome to our first newsletter for Gareeal group. I wanted to start by thanking everyone for their support, enthusiasm and assistance in helping their children transition into preschool. It is a huge milestone for everyone and your support and trust in Lisa and I are appreciated and assists in creating a positive start to the year. Lisa and I have enjoyed spending the first four shorter sessions getting to know the families and beginning to build relationships with the children. We will continue to focus on children's sense of belonging at kinder and making strong connections throughout the term and rest of the year as well.

We have begun to establish routines with children and help them to learn kinder routines with visuals, songs and rhymes. Lisa and I will work in small groups with the children and discuss, share and model kinder expectations with the children. We have introduced board-maker which are visual pictures showing what happens at kinder (schedule), how to wash hands and go to the toilet and how to be a great listener using our high 5 hand listening rules. We have also been learning about how not to be a space invader at kinder especially during mat time. Please feel free to take your child to the orange board maker board which we display near the piano at the beginning of each session. It often helps children to feel more settled and secure knowing what is happening and when they will be collected.



The children worked together in the sandpit with Lisa today. They were curious learners and after making a pond they started exploring and noticing how things would float or sink in the water. They scoured the outdoor gardens for natural materials to test and Lisa encouraged them to guess what would happen before putting the object in. What clever budding scientists we have in Gareeal hard at work.



*Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.*

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We are looking forward to our first full session this Friday with the children and I have put Gareeals 'Stay and Play' roster on the sign in book for families to sign up too and join us. You should have also received this terms plan to keep you up to date with the kinder activities. For those not on duty, you are more than welcome to join us at the end of the session for our group time fifteen minutes prior to the end of the session.

In the next couple of weeks, we will send the children home with a social story about kinder. Please read the story with your child and share it with family and friends to help familiarise your child with kinder further. They will also receive a group photo of all the children in Gareeal group which you can look at with your child to help them become more familiar with other children in the group.

Thanks again for a great start to the year Gareeal, we are excited to spend time with you all again this Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> February at the 3-year-old Womin djeka night for a special evening with Lionel Lauch a Gunditjmara Kirrae Wurrung-Bundjalung man.

Thanks, Jill



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