



Being, Belonging, Becoming together

Dear Weelam Group 2021,

As we reflect on the past month, we have so many stories of our times learning and being together that we would like to share with you. The group are actively engaging within all experiences, their learning environments and working positively together within small groups of peers. We are observing many positive relationships developing between children who share similar interests and sense of fun. They are beginning to call others a friend and with our support are building the skills to work collaboratively with others, share experiences and support each other. The team have been intentionally teaching the children to be respectful and to understand their responsibilities to be a friend and member of the group. Learning how to express your feelings verbally, negotiate turns with others, to share play materials and problem solve challenges assist us all to be active members of our communities. It has been terrific to be able to share our sessions with the families again and invite you to join us whenever you are able to. We have begun our 'Come and Play' and PMP rosters, please add you name on the days you are able to assist in the program. The children are always excited to share their kinder times with their families and it is a terrific way for you to meet all their friends in the group and learn more about the kinder program and what we are doing.

Who could live here?



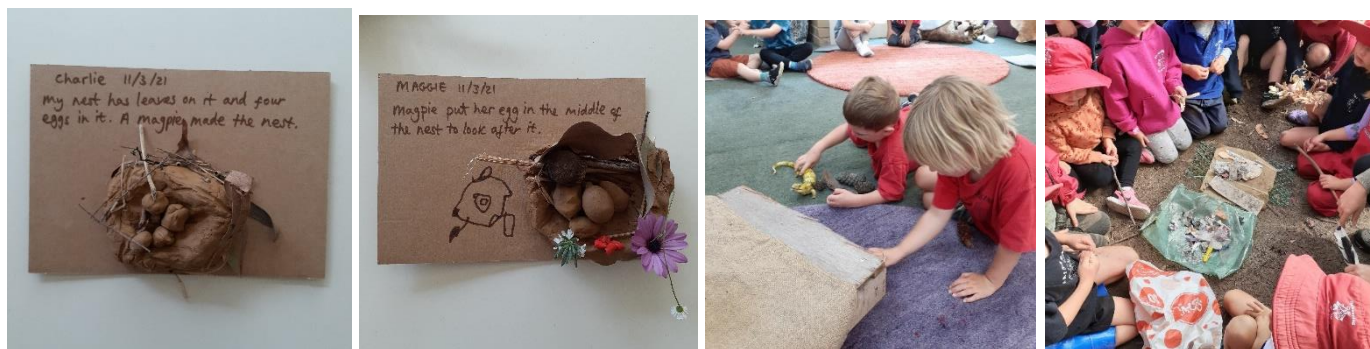
The children's interest in the homes of animals and their habitats has continued both at kinder, Bush camp and the beach. They are finding creatures in our garden, are recognizing the nests made by walert (the possum) finding hollows, burrows and wondering who maybe inside? We have begun visiting the rockpools when the tide is low. As well as learning how to carefully find the crabs so as not to hurt them, we are teaching the children the importance of moving with care around this environment to ensure they do not harm this precious habitat and home of the creatures who live in these spaces.



The children are actively exploring the rockpool areas and beginning to understand the changes in tides that allow us to visit these habitats. Everyone is supported to explore, make discoveries, to watch quietly, ask questions, share with others and to show care for all creatures, ensuring they are returned safely to their habitats and we don't step on their homes.



Extending our learning: *Throughout the past month we have explored habitats in many ways.*



The teaching team have been supporting the children to explore their learning experiences and developing knowledge further within the creative and imaginative play experiences. We have been creating small group discussion and art times encouraging the children to share their thoughts, listen to others and express their ideas both visually and verbally. Nests have been created in clay, we have begun learning about lizard habitats (thanks to Jim who will also be teaching us more about the nesting boxes in our garden), presently we have set up a space for the children to play imaginatively with our pretend Blue tongue lizards. In the future we will be creating our own lizard home in the garden. Recently at Bush camp the children discovered the previous campers had left many pieces of rubbish around the campsites. We took responsibility to pick up this rubbish and talked about the impact each item could have on the creatures who live in Bush camp. We are continuing this discussion at kinder beginning to learn about soft plastic recycling and how we can show care for the Land and the creatures by sorting our rubbish for reuse.

Our Rainbow stories:



Many children have been very interested in rainbows, their shape, colours and the stories they may tell. We have developed this interest in many ways within our sessions. In the natural environments we have been discovering many colours, exploring the shape of rainbows and how they are created. We have been sharing many rainbow stories, learning the rainbow song and have extended this to include AUSLAN signs.

Rainbow fruit and vegetables:

Weelam group have been developing their understanding regarding the importance of 'eating a rainbow of fruits and vegetables' as this gives them a healthy variety of vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants for their bodies to grow. In order to explore this concept, we read the books, 'What Makes A Rainbow?' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' We learnt that a rainbow is made up of the colours red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. We learned the 'Sing A Rainbow Song' to help us remember. Here are the words for you to practice at home.

Sing a rainbow song:

Red and yellow and pink and green
Purple and orange and blue
I can sing a rainbow
Sing a rainbow
Sing a rainbow too.



Blue

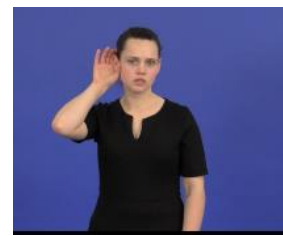


Yellow

Listen with your eyes
 Listen with your eyes
 And sing everything you see
 I can sing a rainbow
 Sing a rainbow
 Sing along with me.

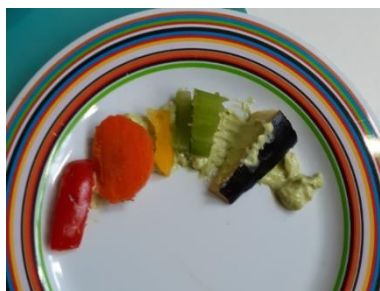


Sing



Listen

To link the colours of the rainbow to fruits and vegetables, the children played with the 'Goodness Gang', toy red strawberries, orange carrots, yellow bananas, green pears, and violet eggplants. We engaged in several cooking experiences, such as making rainbow fruit kebabs, rainbow vegetables with dip and sushi making with rainbow veg. This allowed us to use our fine motor skills for cutting, threading, spreading, rolling and of course, the best bit, eating. Our cooking experiences are very social, we talked about the colours of our food and the benefits of eating an array of fruits and veggies.



Rainbow Veggies and dip, making sushi, fruit kebabs and Volcano scones have all been made by our Chefs.



We have been exploring the changes in the garden, picking tomatoes and gathering the Murnong seeds.

Shared learning times with friends, new challenges and inspiring each other.



Story making on the beach: *the beach environments support us to develop literacy skills in many ways.*



Sharing our discoveries: *(do you know what these are?)*



The children are developing their abilities to look and listen within all environments, their curiosity is creating many questions and ideas about what they have discovered and what might be happening. We take the opportunities as they arise to connect the children to their wider community members as we meet them, learn more about what they are doing and understand more about others do. We have been seeing Bundjil flying above our Kinder and listening to Waang as we walk along. We have discovered if we sit quietly we can see the animals we share Bush camp with.



Come and Play roster:

Please add your name to our roster and join us for a session or two. Family support enhances the quality of the programs we can offer. All family members are welcome.



Important Dates for your diaries:

- **PMP program continues: Thursday 25th March and 1st April (9:15 to 10:45pm).**
- **Welcome to Country Ceremony Family event Thursday 25th March (5:30 to 7:30pm)**
*Bring along your picnic tea, rug and family and join us around the stage behind the preschool.
Please let us know if you need another Flyer and invitation.*
- **QIP (Quality Improvement Plan) meeting Tues. 30th March (7 to 9pm)** *see Committee invitation.
We encourage you to join us and support us to reflect on ways to improve our service.*
- **Last day of term One Egg hunt Thursday 1st April**, *please join us for the last 30 minutes of the session for the Egg Hunt, surprises and say Happy Holidays.*

School Holiday break: Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April, Term Two begins Monday 19th April

We highly value the opportunity to support teaching students to develop their practical skills to be future teachers and educators, please say 'Hello' to the students as they join us. We have several students who will begin placements with us soon and throughout term two. On behalf of the Weelam group teaching team we look forward to sharing these last few weeks of term one with all the families and children. Please let us know if you have any questions and we welcome your thoughts on how you can support the program. Kind regards Ann and Sarah, Beth and Kim.