



Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



Rated
EXCELLENT
by ACECQA



Learning and Living with nature

Gareeal Reflections June 2021

It was wonderful to be able to continue to connect and teach your children at kinder despite the recent lockdown in Melbourne. We thank you for your support in helping your children to navigate the changes with drop off and pick up. They adapted to the changes very well. Over the last month the children have continued to get to share their All About Me pages and get to know each other and build understanding and respect for our differences and similarities with others. This helps to not only build children's friendship skills, identity and wellbeing but also encourages respect and inclusion.

Following a staff PD that all teachers attended recently on social and emotional learning through puppets, we introduced the children to Calm Cat. Calm Cat helps to teach children about managing Big Emotions like when we are upset. He likes a few pats and is very good at taking deep, long, slow breaths. The children really connected with Calm Cat and he will come out every now and then in the kinder room. More friends will join us soon.



Despite a few change of dates with our nature program we did manage to go out a few weeks ago and visited the reserve and pine tree walk next to kinder. The children enjoyed their time on BoonWurrung Country and we had lots of fun, observing nature, looking closely at biik (land) and 'father sky'. We listened and looked for waang (the crow), looked closely at the fungi and berries on the trees and noticed the trees swaying in the wind.



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.



Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



Rated
EXCELLENT
by ACECQA



Learning and Living with nature

Gareeal Reflections June 2021



Having read Benny Bungarra's Big Bush Clean Up before we left kinder, the children had their eyes wide open noticing all the rubbish on the biik. It made us feel sad because we learnt in the story that animals can be hurt by rubbish and that it isn't good for our biik. So we all worked together to clean it up. The children were eager to join in finding and collecting the rubbish in buckets. We talked about being safe and collected the rubbish by using the tongs and learning when we don't have tongs that we need to tell adults rather than use our hands to pick up rubbish. It was a great opportunity to learn about the effect of rubbish on the land, ways to reduce and reuse rubbish and how to take action to help the biik. We will certainly investigate recycling further at kinder in the coming weeks.



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.



Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



Rated
EXCELLENT
by ACECQA



Learning and Living with nature

Gareeal Reflections June 2021

Whilst out on BoonWurrung Country we also found the big hill near the skate park. The children had a great time on the hill. Some watched peers first, held hands with others and staff or walked. In only a short time they had built their confidence in navigating the hill, running up and down. As their confidence grew so did their speed and enjoyment of taking on the challenge and succeeding. We had to not only traverse the uneven terrain and steep slopes but we also had to watch out for others and make sure we were being safe.

We have also been enjoying exploring water colour painting and painting with the dot pens this past month, so much that even when these haven't been out children have requested them. This shows us the children have really built a sense of belonging as they ask for familiar activities they wish to explore further.

Next Friday the 25th June is the last day of Term 2 and we will be celebrating International Mud Day. We are asking families to join us for the last hour of the session in their old, throw away clothes to get muddy with us! Mud Day began in 2009 when Nepal and Australia got together to find a way to help all children and families across the world



come together to feel closer together and with the earth. Mud Day is about encouraging a sense of community and fun. It is a wonderful way to let go, have fun and enjoy the earth and your bubups. So come and slide, jump, sit, lay, hop, splash, paint, throw, splat and mould with us.

THANKS, JILL

Dates for the Diary!

- Friday 25th June - International Mud Day families join us at 10am in their mud gear!
- Friday 16th July First Day of Term 3



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.