

Kindergarten News June 18th

We have welcomed several children back to kinder over the past 2 weeks and now have 21 children regularly attending. I have been very proud of the way all children are showing independence and resilience with saying goodbye to families outside. I would also like to thank families for their continued support with adhering to social distancing and staggering arrival and pickup times. This is very important and will continue till further advice is given from the health commission and Education Department. Please continue to keep children home if at all unwell, during these times we need to take extra caution to be staying home if unwell, especially with increased community contact now being allowed.

Maths in kindergarten is a constant part of the program with mathematical concepts being learnt while constructing with blocks, manipulative equipment, cooking and puzzles. I have recently observed children extended mathematical skills and bringing together concepts such as size and shape relationships, balance, design, counting.....

Here are some photos which show children exploring maths through play



exploring symmetry, block size, balance, using a large base for stability

exploring direction, pattern shape, matching, size



Board game- recognising numbers 1-6, matching written numbers with dots, Counting 1:1

Creating patterns using colour and shape



OUTDOOR PLAY

Outdoor play is equally important as indoor play. We have seen lots of imaginative play outdoors using the loose props which have been placed around the playground and yummy 'food' cooked with sand and water. Our new basketball ring has seen children developing throwing skills, eye hand coordination and turn taking.



DAILY GROUP TIMES

Every day children experience a structured group time where educators have set intentional teaching goals. Young children learn best in these situations when in smaller groups. We have recently introduced a time in the middle of the day where children rotate through 3 different experiences within a small group. These groups change around and are based on the activity which I have planned. Some activities aim to develop language and conversation skills and so children benefit from being in a group with others having similar language development. I can then choose 3 different stories and lead discussion to extend all children. At other times I may group children according to friendships or motor skill development.

The 3 rotations each day are

1. Indoor which involves music/dance/discussion/group game/drama/puppets and implemented by myself(Karen)
2. Book time with Katherine or Kirsten – reading a few books and discussing the story
3. Sport with Kirsten or Katherine group outdoor games – obstacle course, ball games, active games such as poison ball, Whats the time Mr wolf, Follow the leader....

LUNCH and MORNING TEA

Educators talk with children daily about healthy eating to encourage awareness of nutrition and healthy lifestyles. Please remember to send along healthy food in your child's lunch and snack. We discourage sending chips, sweet biscuits such as tiny teddies, cakes etc no matter how small. If children are requesting these in their lunch box perhaps you can suggest that these foods are saved for an after kinder snack at home. Also please remember that we ask families to refrain from sending NUTS, PEANUT BUTTER, NUTELLA in lunch boxes as we have children with allergies to these foods

FLEXI BUZZ

Unfortunately, the makers of FlexiBuzz will be stopping the App from June 30th due to costs. We will no longer be using this for communication from the end of term 2. Moving forward we will continue to communicate via email only FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. Please email kinder any time with photos, questions, reply's to newsletters etc and remember to check regularly for kinder correspondence. This kindergarten program news will continue to be sent fortnightly unless anything urgent arises. The white board communication with some notes on each session will resume next week, with more families now attending you can scan the board to read what has been happening throughout the day.

CATCH-UPS

We do not offer formal 'parent -teacher' meetings in our programs. I aim to share children's learning informally through the year and within their kindergarten books. Should any families wish to make a time for a catch-up on their child's learning or anything else please either ask me or send an email. We can then organise a time for early term 3.

FIRST-AID

Next Wed June 24th I am attending First Aid training which is updated every 3 years. This covers basic first aid, Asthma and Anaphylaxis training. Regulations require 1 staff member to be present at all time with first aid training, we are very fortunate at Brentwood as our committee supports and requires all educators to have first aid training which is always upto date.

TERM 2 HOLIDAYS

Term 2 ends on June 25th for us. Term 3 begins on Tue July 14th . Please have a safe and happy holidays. Upon returning can parents continue to social distance and stagger arrival/departures and I will provide any updates once we start term 3.

Karen Newton