Weekly Wrap – week ending 21 October 2016

Dear Families,

Teddies, puppies, tigers and even a rhino visited Preschool this week for our Teddy Bears Picnic! Our pre-schoolers and their furry friends enjoyed picnics throughout the week. We found it very relaxing and enjoyable for all children to come together for a leisurely lunch.   After lunch we played outside for a little longer and then came inside.

Our art and craft, literacy, music and numeracy this week featured bears. Children had a wonderful time at group, ensuring their furry friends were listening to the stories.

The Kangaroo and Wallaby groups were very engaged in the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". This was read quite a few times with literacy activities emerging from this story. Children along with their teacher-narrator became very skilled in echoing the story; we acted out the story as well. A CD version of the story was also listened to with the Kangaroo children engaging in sound discrimination, by hearing the sounds of the story in isolation and guessing what they were.

Transition to school was a feature of the week with many children attending their first orientation day at their primary schools. Children returned to Preschool with stories of their visits and we will start to document the children's experiences and their voices over the coming weeks to support this important stage of their lives.

Many children used their experiences of school visits and Preschool in their play, with children role playing teachers, students and parents taking their children to school.   Through role play children make sense of new experiences and revisit known experiences, expanding their knowledge and understanding. Throughout the play children took their roles very seriously and became characters within the play, creating rules and expectations of what each should do. This required negotiation skills and opportunities to resolve conflicts that arose.   The children involved in this play displayed complex cognitive and language processes.   As the teachers observing them, we provided resources to support and extend on

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their play, was able to step in and assist as co-players and we gain insights into the children's funds of knowledge on their understanding of school, which can be further enhanced by considered programming and planning for future learning for these children.

In our STEM program this week we have looked at wet and dry materials with children adding water to the sandpit, created goop from dry ingredients and then adding water; most children and teachers went home with lovely green hands that day!   We also measured the length of our teddy friends, predicting how many blocks to measure the length of bears, children used measurement terminology of long, short, more, less, biggest and smallest as well as counting and number work.

Parent/Teacher meetings – on our term outline these were tentatively planned for week 3. Information will go out through the week to book in a time over the next few days with Miss Sue and Miss Namita to talk about your child's progress and discuss and goals for your child.

What's happening next week? We will be focusing on Machines – things that make our life easier, posing questions for children for creative thinking and predict outcomes. Miss Namita attended professional development on Friday with the topic of STEM experiences, so we are looking forward to some exciting experiences, experiments and technologies and science.

Our casual educators: Miss Benaifer, Miss Louise and Miss Leah will be supporting through the week again.   We will be readvertising for our replacement Diploma position this week.

Enjoy your weekend, take care.

 From the Kings Road Long Day Preschool Team