



REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL LINDFIELD NEWSLETTER



REDDAM
ELS

2ND SEPTEMBER 2016

Beryl's Message

By Beryl Cappello, Principal

What a wonderful week for a walk in the park. Every child has been to the park this week. They have explored their surroundings, met the locals and took part in risky play.

While the aim of our "walk in the park" was to collect sticks to make something for Father's Day, it turned out to be so much more. The children just loved playing on the equipment, climbing the sandstone wall, watching the train go by and interacting with other children in the park.

"Risky Play" is a hot topic in early childhood, as society is fixated on safety. I remember when I was seven I used to ride my bike to school independently void of adult supervision. We would never think of allowing our children to do this today. However, I do believe that children should have the opportunity to engage in risky play. Why?

Our children need to learn to negotiate a risk, to watch out for hazards and to make informed discussions. It is up to us to create the opportunities for them to test their skills, learn to be resourceful and think about what they are doing. Not allowing them to take part in risky play proves to be a greater risk, as they don't accumulate the knowledge to be able to trust their own intuition.

Our "walk in the park", was filled with risks. Watching for cars on the path, being mindful of each other on the swing, taking turns on the slide. Climbing the sand stonewall was easy, getting down took skill and concentration. Even being aware of strangers was an important lesson for all our children.

We have to say a huge "thank you!" to all our families who are giving their children the opportunity to engage in our local excursions. Hence providing them with skills for life, and the chance to build wonderful childhood memories.

WELCOME TO PAULINE

I am very pleased and excited to announce we have a new member of staff who has joined us this week. Pauline is an Early Childhood Teacher and will be permanently in stage 3 & 4. We welcome Pauline to join our team and hope she enjoys Reddam Lindfield. The children in Stage 3 & 4 have already made her feel part of the family, telling her their interests, helping her to remember their names. Please get to know Pauline and feel free to ask questions about the program and your child.

Speaking of programs you may have noticed, now that we are in our own age stage rooms.

More documentation is beginning to appear on the walls, both inside and outside. Documentation is an integral part of making our learning visible.

Our documentation gives you the opportunity to see what is happening in the classroom. Please visit the documentation with your child, give them the opportunity to tell you what they know and understand and ask questions about what they are yet to comprehend.

Talk to them about what they did and how they did it. Read the explanations, stories and references so you understand the reasons we do things. If you have something we can add to our documentation about your child please let us know.

Family input is the most important validation of learning we have, so be part of the process. If you have not yet commented on your child's on line Tapestry feel free to add

points of interest that we can incorporate into our learning journey.

FATHER'S DAY

The first Sunday of September is traditionally observed as Father's Day in Australia. A time to show our Dads, Grandads and father figures how much we love and appreciate them. So to all the important men and our children's lives we say "Happy Father's Day."

Enjoy, relax and remember our children are only little for a very short time, make the most of this precious time together.

Hope you like the gift your child has made for you inspired by our "walk in the park".

Have a wonderful weekend.

Beryl



Stages 1 and 2

By Rochelle

One thing that we have been so encouraged by over this last week is how our children are adapting to their daily routines and growing through our learning experiences. Not only have our children been seen mixing colours together on our art and craft table during play, they have also begun developing an understanding of when our transitions occur, lining up appropriately, sitting cross-legged on the mat during group times and beginning to proceed to wash their hands prior to meal times without being asked. Our Stage 1 & 2 kids have come so far since opening 8 weeks ago & we believe that they will only continue to grow in these areas and many more, over the coming months. We can't wait to see how!

Each of our children's current interests are sky rocketing and are enabling us to look at a number of different things, both individually and as a class. This week, science experiments have been a huge hit & the children have been fascinated with these activities. Carrying on from our coloured milk experiment last week, we have enjoyed continuing to incorporate colours in a number of other ways this week.

As we have begun focusing the different shades of colours, the children enjoyed creating their very own musical instruments

(rice shakers) during our time together. Adding rice to each of our plastic bottles followed by drops of colour, the children then shook their bottles, seeing first hand how they were the same colour, just of a different shade. With their newly created instruments, the children have then gathered together & participated in music routines with their educators throughout the week.

As this has occurred, we have discussed the dark and light shades of each of the colours. The children have also enjoyed watching volcanos erupt in different shades, along with mixing oil & water together with drops of colour & transferring this effect onto paper towel.

The children have appeared to have absolutely loved watching each of these reactions occur & we look forward to continuing to carry this into next week.

This past week, the children have been fortunate enough to participate in their very first excursion! Over the course of the week, each of our children have stepped outside our campus, into the local park behind our school & enjoyed exploring this environment. The purpose of this task has enabled the children to continue developing an awareness of their local community and how they can interact with it in a wide variety of settings.



Stages 1 and 2

By Rochelle

As we have discussed this with the children, it has also helped them continue recognising the importance of road safety, along with stranger danger and following instruction. Each of the children have thrived participating in these activities throughout the week & have particularly enjoyed playing on the swings, slides & saw-saws. Many have also loved collecting sticks, rocks & building their own structures with materials around them. We can't wait to see where our next excursion might take us!

FAMILY PHOTOS:

We would love to create our very own family tree within our classroom to help both our children and their families gain a sense of belonging and connect with one another here at Reddam ELS. If you haven't already provided a family photo (thank you to those who have) to your child's educators, can we please ask that you bring one in for your child so that we can place this up in each of our rooms.

DAILY ROUTINE CHART:

Within our classrooms, we are trialling a new routine chart, detailing basic information regarding your child's day. This chart is a trial and we would love your feedback as to what you think and if it is useful for each of our families. Please let us know thoughts regarding this and if it assists you.

DRINK BOTTLES:

Can we please ask that you bring in a "well-labelled" drink bottle for your child to remain at Reddam throughout the week. Educators will wash these daily and the children can help prepare these in the mornings when they arrive at school, furthering their self-help skills in this way.

NEXT WEEK:

Towards the end of the week, our children have expressed an interest in shapes during one of our group experiences as they identified a circle. Next week, we will begin focusing on shape recognition with our children as we begin helping them recognise the many shapes around them. Along with this, we will continue incorporating a variety of science experiments into our day and seeing what other interests our children express throughout the week.

We have been blown away by just how quickly our children are learning and absorbing information discussed through many of our international teaching experiences. As educators, this has helped us realise just how important it is for us to be preparing programs for children that stretch their learning and challenge their little minds. Which in turn, enable them to become bright, bold and little learners.

Look forward to next week!



Stages 1 & 2: Photo Gallery



Stages 3 and 4

By Pauline

Hi, My name is Pauline and I am the new Early Childhood Teacher for Stage 3 & 4. I am an experienced, professional Early Childhood Teacher who has been teaching for more than 20 years.

I believe that children learn best through play, in a loving and nurturing environment. Knowing what play is, why it is important and how to implement it is one of the main principles of our framework (EYLF). I believe all children are unique and special. They have different likes, dislikes and interests. I look forward to getting to know each child and their families. To be a part of their lives as we work together to assist them to develop their full potential.

In the room this week I have been welcomed by all of your children and I am slowly getting to know each one. We have talked about what interests us, who our friends are and what we like to do. I have observed how they play and what they like to play with.

One of their main interests is in letters. They have looked at the letters in their name. They have sequenced the alphabet through song and through looking and letters. We have looked at our names and the patterns in our name. Who has the same letters, which letter comes first or last? Whose name is the longest and shortest? All these things teach them about words and how letters form new

words. These are all important first steps in learning to read.

One of the children wanted to sing "Advance Australia Fair". Mum said it was due to the interest in the Olympics. So we sang together. Each child then took turns in singing a song for the class. This was a good opportunity to show leadership skills and independence. All children took part in this experience some sang a whole song, while others only knew parts of a song. When they didn't know the words the other children helped them out. This showed a good sense of identity and belonging knowing when to assist and when to wait.

The other big interest in the room is construction. They have been making things out of sticks and nature, and are very good at design and make. I decided to bring leggo blocks in to challenge them. They all loved the leggo blocks and made very detailed designs. Once they made their designs they used them to play and interact with each other. Becoming very social and playful together.

A big happy birthday to Isabella who turned five this week!



Stages 3 & 4: Photo Gallery

