



REDDAM EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL LINDFIELD NEWSLETTER



REDDAM
ELS

10TH FEBRUARY 2017

Debbie's Message

By Debbie Zerbst, Principal

This past week I reflected on what an early learning school of my dreams would be and feel like for children. I imagine a school where children develop a sense of wonder:

If facts are the seeds that later produce knowledge and wisdom, then the emotions and the impressions of the senses are the fertile soil in which the seeds must grow. The years of early childhood are the time to prepare the soil. Once the emotions have been aroused — a sense of the beautiful, the excitement of the new and the unknown, a feeling of sympathy, pity, admiration or love — then we wish for knowledge about the object of our emotional response. ... once found, it has lasting meaning.

How exciting to think that, as educators, we may be inspiring the world's future leaders by showing excitement for their ideas and enthusiasm in their enquiries and wonderings. Because we see all our children as confident, capable, involved learners, eager to observe and explore the world around them, they will grow into curious and motivated learners.

I have been able to watch our children walk to their classes in the morning at the start of the day. Some run in excitedly, others have been a little apprehensive because it may be their first experience of saying goodbye to their mums and dads. On the way, many of them have noticed something new and very interesting in the piazza. I call it the "Wonder Wall" and I hope it catches their imagination and invites them to stay and play for while.

The intention of the Wonder Wall is to provoke curiosity and create excitement for the rest of the day. Even walking through the piazza our children are learning new discoveries. Learning can occur indoors and outdoors, in the sandpit, in the block area, in the home corner, in the vegetable patch, on a swing, coming down a slide, when caring for a pet, or watching rain.

This has been a wonderful week for all of us as we are united in the process of belonging and becoming familiar with our new Reddam family.

As each day goes by, I have a greater sense of belonging to our new Reddam family.

Stage 1

By Lauren & Rujuta

As you all know our provocation for this term is "What's in the Garden?". The reason why I decided to explore this question is because our babies in The Nest absolutely love the outdoors and getting in touch with nature.

It is important children at a young age learn to appreciate our environment and how important it is to maintain and keep sustainable. How can children be involved in this process? Easy. They learn to nurture our environment and a vital part of this could be as simple as watering the garden. This Thursday, our children were very enthusiastic to head outdoors with some gardening gloves and shovels, along with some watering cans to do some gardening. What a great time they had nurturing our beautiful environment.

Berry and Olivia found some beautiful flowers in their garden and decided to bring them in to share with the rest of the class. We will be extending this interest on flowers next week. If you find any interesting plants, flowers or insects please bring them in so we can observe them as a class.

Have a wonderful weekend.



Stage 1: Photo Gallery



Stage 1: Photo Gallery



What a great week it's been, busy meeting new families and excited to be welcoming new children to our Reddam Community. This week we welcomed Joshua, Ameya, Annaleigh and Amos. We look forward to learning more about you and your families in the coming term. Our Wednesdays and Thursdays are now almost full so if your thinking of increasing days please contact our Enrolments Officer, Lisa at lisa.bates@reddamels.com.au as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!

"Music Makes Us Happy" - Our Term 1 Provocation. We are excited to explore Term 1 through music. Over the last few weeks we have observed the interest, excitement and passion the children show when we play music, play different instruments and move of bodies to the beat.

Music is the universal language. Regardless of your background or culture, a good melody is something that everyone can enjoy and understand. We find that music in our class is a great way for the children to express themselves without navigating around language barriers. It's lovely to watch them socialise with each other with ease.

Clay

This week we introduced clay into our environment. Clay stimulates children's curiosity. Intelligence, imagination and creativity are engaged and fostered. Manipulating a piece of clay develops children's large and small muscles. Clay play also fosters eye-hand coordination. We found it interesting to watch the children play with the clay moulding, rolling and squeezing it. We watched how the clay allowed some children to focus and concentrate for long extended periods.

Leonie bought in a huge sunflower from her friend's garden. We explored the sunflower, touching, feeling and smelling it. We used it as inspiration at our art easel painting with green and yellow.

Thank you for another great week. We look forward to seeing you next week have a great weekend.



Stage 2: Photo Gallery



Stage 2: Photo Gallery



Stage 3

By Rochelle & Lucy

Since the beginning of our Term last week, a common theme amongst the children has been the children themselves, their bodies and their families. As a result, a number of the children have taken opportunities to draw themselves during free play, whilst also indicating a number of the body features they have also drawn (i.e: leg, arm, eyes). Not only this, but the children have also been observed balancing stones on their bodies and creating dramatic play with Drs on their peers. They are very inquisitive learners and are becoming more and more aware of what their bodies can and cannot do.

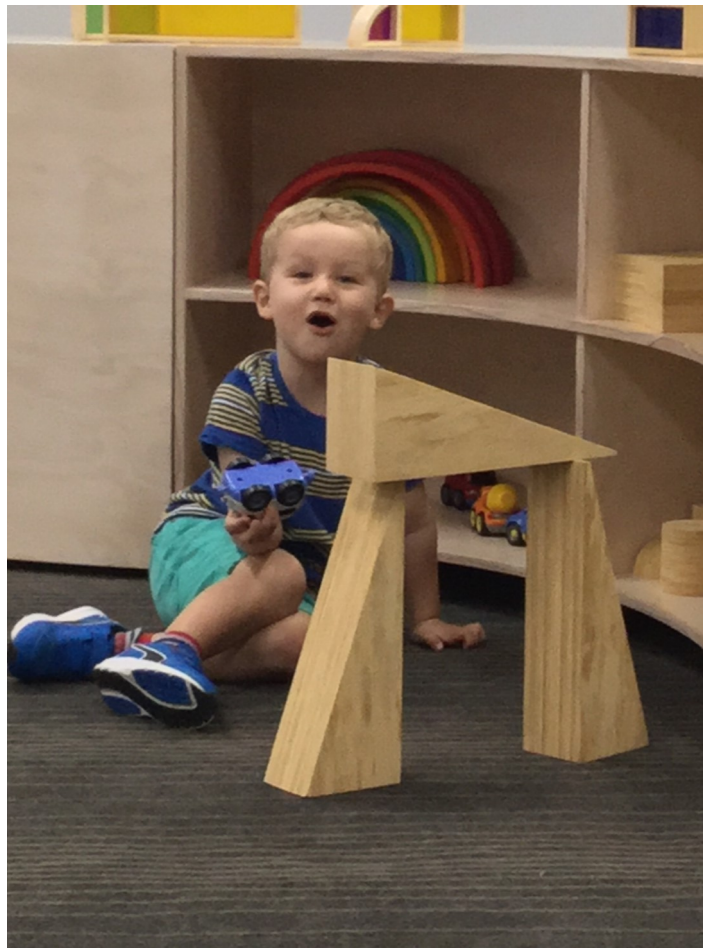
To share a brief insight with you into the children's growing interest within this area, George was approached during free play and was asked what he was drawing. "Bones, bones in our legs", he stated: "When you have a broken bone, you go to the hospital. The doctors fix our bones". With excitement, George conversed with his educator within the room and continued to liaise with her regarding this interest. As we take on board these observations from the children, we realise just how quickly they absorb the information and teaching around them. The educators of Stage 3 are excited to share with you our Term 1 provocation, flowed from the children themselves, "Who am I?". We look forward to a fun-filled and excited Term as we look at who we really are...

Our first week of our provocation has been a huge success and our Stage 3 children appear to be thriving - they really are loving discovering facts about their bodies! Based directly off the children's interest, we have started looking at bones and our facial features this last week. The children have participated in a number of hands-on creative experiences some of which have included children painting their bodies and sticking on their own bones, along with created their own portraits. We have also enjoyed exploring clay along with getting innovative during sensory play with rice. Julie Wren from Edith Cowan University talks about the benefits of including art in the program for young children. Introducing artworks in an early childhood service allows children to use creativity and imagination as a way of making meaning. Art provides young children with the opportunity to turn their feelings and thoughts into something physical.

Hope you all have a great weekend - stay cool! Look forward to seeing you next week.



Stage 3: Photo Gallery



Stage 3: Photo Gallery



Stage 4

By Pauline

The children have settled well into their Stage 4 room. We welcome Riley, Lucy and Pippy to our Reddam family and hope that they will have a very happy year in Stage 4. We look forward to spending time getting to know our new families.

I have been listening to the children's conversations and interests. They have many stories to tell about their holidays.....some going to China, some to Japan....some camping...and some doing special things with their families in Sydney.

Our provocation for this term is**"What's in a Name?"**

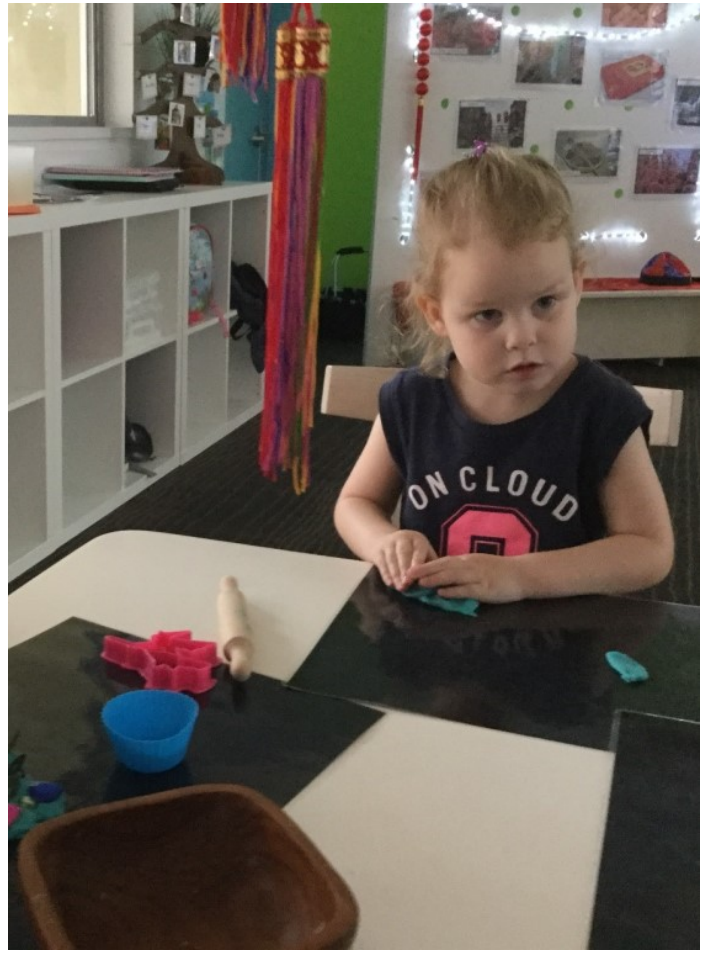
Names are very important. When we talk to someone, we call them by their name. Some of our children have a Chinese name and an English name. The children have been encouraged to learn the names of the other children in the group .

The children have been looking at the mirror in the classroom and drawing pictures of themselves. We have been focussing on the different body parts, naming the body parts and discussing what we use them for. The children confidently share their ideas with the other children.

We have new lockers in the classroom for the children to put their bags, shoes and other belongings in. The children are encouraged to use their lockers throughout the day, teaching them to be look after their belongings. Please remember to apply sunscreen to your children before they come to school.



Stage 4: Photo Gallery



Stage 4: Photo Gallery



Stage 1 & 2:

Our older children sang their own name as part of the **Calypso song** "Hey Lolly". They also led the group in an action that could keep the beat... all part of the song. Then they pretended to sleep as we sang "Are you sleeping". But in the middle of the singing, the **Alarm Clock** rang and we were all suddenly woken up (all part of the plan of course). We then pretended that the fingers were slowly waking up. First was the thumb, then the pointer etc. This was a new experience for some of the children as they discovered they could independently control the individual fingers. **This development of fine motor skills is essential for formal playing of musical instruments in the near future.** We are also working on inculcating a **good singing voice** from this early stage with a familiar song, "Twinkle, Twinkle". It is encouraging to see these little ones already trying to sing along. Our children were also given the **bells** and **egg shakers** to explore and experience the metallic and plastic sounds. Eventually, we will teach them that different instruments have different "**timbre**"... that's in the near future. The younger ones explored with the **bells, shakers** and **scarves** and experienced the concept of "high" and "low" through a variety of **different styles of music**. They ended the lesson with a "peek-a-boo" activity while we sang "love somebody". They loved that game. You should try it with them at home!

Stage 3 & 4:

We walked, jumped, skipped and shook in the grass in order to get to the music farm. **Children learned to follow instructions through song and fun actions.** They were having lots of fun and probably didn't realize it. But the **positive experience** of following instructions given by teachers is going to give them a **head-start** in school for sure! At the farm, they drew circles with scarves, noses, elbows etc., then they met the donkey who ate with a knife and fork and a mouse who went "Round and Round the haystack". Did they play the **musical game** with you yet? Ask them to show it to you. It'd be good fun! The class ended with another creative song where **children gave suggestions of actions** to include in the song. Because this was done last week, children readily gave very good suggestions of **very creative actions** which were included in the song. What creative children we have this year!

