

Kindergarten Program
Newsletter
February
2010



I would like to say hello and welcome to all the new 2010 kinder children and families. I look forward to a wonderful new year with your eager and enthusiastic children.

Over the first three weeks of kindergarten we have been very busy.

Recently we discussed feelings. The children looked at pictures of feelings and put these pictures on a table to distinguish between the different feelings. We considered the way that a person's mouth looks, the way that a person's eyes look, and even what a person's eye brows look like to determine how the picture people felt. We talked about many different feelings including feeling sad, happy, frightened, angry and surprised. We even talked about some of the things which make us feel these different ways. We also practiced making faces which looked like the feeling we talked about. This was lots of fun.

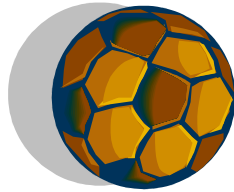
I showed the children some puppets and the children were able to correctly identify the feelings of the puppets, which was great. It can, however, be more difficult for children to identify feelings in a "real" situation. We said that sometimes others can make us angry when they take a toy from us without asking however we need to use words to say "Stop, I'm playing with that" rather than hitting the other person. We also talked about if we are feeling frightened it is important to tell your mum or dad or a teacher. In order to help the children learn to use words to express themselves we also role played some situations in which we need to remember to use words.



Earlier in the year we also worked on sitting together, as a group. Most of the children already understood this concept. However we encouraged concepts such as, mouths closed so we aren't talking, hands in laps as when children touch each other they become distracted, and ears listening. During kinder time the children also participate in many experiences which require movement such as group singing and group dancing so they need to develop good listening skills in order to participate in these experiences. It's great to see the children becoming much more confident with singing and dancing experiences. They are now joining in and participating with all of the kinder songs and games.

We also talked about our full names. We talked about first names and last names/ surnames. Some of the children know their own first, last and middle name. Some of the children however are unsure because children rarely need to use their surnames.

We have also been developing the children's ball skills. We played ball games which involved catching and throwing the ball and we also played pass the ball games. Ball games are important for developing co-ordination skills and specifically the children's fine motor skills as the children are required to track the ball with their eyes in order to catch the ball.



We have lots of kinder rules which we have been teaching the children. The children have to keep all the kinder equipment at kinder and they are not allowed to put kinder equipment into their pockets or bags. The children have to use listening ears, use walking feet when inside, use inside voices when we have inside kinder time, play inside in kinder area when we have inside kinder time, use words and not hands to talk and pack up at the end of kinder.

We have also continued to develop the children's social skills. Role modeling and rich environments which promote interaction are important for developing the children's social skills however it is also important to use language to explain to children how they should be interacting or behaving. So we practiced using a loud voice to say "hello" or "good morning" when we see someone and I explained to the children that it is important to look at the persons face when you talk to them so the person knows that you are talking to them.

During each of our kindergarten sessions the children have also been marking the days off on a calendar. We talked about what a calendar tells us. Calendars tell us the days of the week. They also tell us the date that is the number of the day. They also tell us the months of the year. We talked about the different months of the year and some of the children were even able to tell us the month that their birthday is in.

The children have also been hosting a weather report each kinder session. During the session with the aid of some pictures one of the children has the opportunity to describe the weather for the day. The children have had opportunities to develop conversations related to rain, wind, and the cold. The children have also had opportunities to talk about the days of the week as these form a part of the weather report. The children are enjoying this experience and are not only learning about the weather and the different sensations the weather produces but are also developing their confidence and language skills.



The children have also been participating in our kinder book holder project. Each session a different child gets a turn of taking home the book holder and choosing a story from home to read at kinder. We have had some great stories so thanks to all the mums and dads who have helped the children choose great books to read at kinder. The children are so proud and excited to share their story with their friends and they are thrilled when it gets to their turn. I have explained to the children in great detail that not everyone can have a turn on the same day but that everyone will eventually get a turn. "It's just that it will be on different days" I explained to the children. The children also know that I have a list that I tick off once they have had their turn so no one will miss out.

We have been singing a song called Hello and this song allowed us to talk about different languages. It also allowed us to learn how to say "hello" in a couple of different languages. In Spain to say hello they say "Buenis Dis". In France they say "Bonjour", in Japan they say "Konichiwa" and in Australia we say "G'day".

We have also enjoyed singing 3 Little Monkey's, 3 Fat Sausages, 3 Jelly Fish and 2 Fat Gentlemen. These are great action songs for the beginning of the year as they are simple but lots of fun. We have also enjoyed dancing to You Can Stamp Your Feet and an action song called Dingle Dangle Scarecrow.



Things to remember:

- **Term Dates** - Kindergarten program operates to school terms

Term 1 : 1st February – 26th March 2010

Term 2 : 12th April – 25th June 2010

Term 3 : 12th July – 17th September 2010

Term 4 : 4th October – 17th December 2010

There is no kindergarten on the first day of each term as the first day is allocated to teacher professional development.

- ***Email*** - The email address specifically for the kindergarten program is:
kinder@geelongchildrenscentre.com.au
- Thank you, also to all parents who returned their child's background information sheets at the beginning of the year as this enables me to get to know your child better and gives you an opportunity to have some input into the program. If you have not yet returned this information sheet please do so immediately. If you require another copy please see a staff member.
- We have begun taking observations of the children in an effort to develop appropriate and beneficial goals and objectives for the children to work towards. We welcome any

conversations you would like to have with us in regards to information or concerns you may have about your child. Please feel free to approach us to do this.

- *Kinder Session Times –*
Monday – 9am – 12pm
Tuesday – 1pm – 4pm
Wednesday – 1pm – 4pm
Thursday - 1pm-4pm

Finally, I look forward to a great year with you and your child.

Until next time.

Olivera (Ollie), Deb, Carrie & Cheryl