NURSERY CURRICULUM NEWS!

We have made some changes to the room this month. We were lucky enough to be able to buy some new toys so we used these as inspiration to create some new spaces. When choosing the toys we focussed on maths and science for babies as we feel we needed some more ways to teach our babies basic maths and science skills such as making sounds, sequencing etc.

Traci has finally returned fully recovered! She has been spending her time getting to know the children again and working out each child’s individual routines.

Emma and I attended the personal development day “Strengthening planning and documentation” in Bendigo. It was a great day and gave us some confirmation that our practices are right where they should be, as is our documentation.

We are always very lucky to witness some wonderful milestones in the nursery. This month we have seen Evan standing unassisted. He will stand up against furniture then let go and look at us with a big grin on his face as if to say “Look at me!” suggesting he can persevere and experience the satisfaction of achievement. Charlie has been using representations from play to make meaning as she has been seeing the dinosaurs in the toddler room and saying “Di-dor” and pointing at them. We have recognised this word as being “dinosaur” and decided to set up a dinosaur cave especially for her. She has spent lots of time in this area and has been showing us the “Di-dors.” Garth’s Mum told us he has been rolling over at home. We will be giving him some more tummy time and floor time to encourage this milestone.

As you know TCC was closed on Friday May 15th to attend a PD day in Melbourne at the Lady Gowrie centre docklands. Lady Gowrie docklands is one of the centres with which we get ideas and inspiration from. We were able to have a centre tour and also attend a workshop about “Relationships with children” This was a very informative session and we are going to begin to make some positive changes to our room routines based on this new learning experience.

EYLF: Communication & Learning

PRACTICE PRINCIPLES: 1. Family Centre Practice 2. Partnerships with professionals 5. Respectful relationships and responsive engagements. 8. Reflective practice

NQS: 1. Educational program and practice. 5. Relationships with children 6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

THEORIST LINK: Piaget.

TCC PHILOSOPHY: Learning through play, emergent curriculum and environment is the third teacher.
As you are already aware we closed the centre on May 15th to attend a PD day in Melbourne at Lady Gowrie Docklands. This was a great day networking with one another and upskilling ourselves on the new techniques centres are using to create a sense of belonging within long day care centres.

As Lady Gowrie is also a “teaching centre” they took us on a tour of the centre and took us into some observation booths so we could watch the general running of a room and how they go through their routine times. One thing that really stood out for all of us is that they do not have any set meal times or sleep times. Children are able to eat when they get hungry and sleep when they get tired (we call this progressive meal times and progressive sleep times) This may seem like a strange concept but it actually seemed to work and the rooms felt like very calm places to be. As you can probably imagine, sleep times and meal times can be a very busy time for both children and educators but this centre have almost stopped this busyness and created a sense of calm within the entire room. I actually witnessed a toddler putting himself to bed after some quiet play therefore making this choice himself.

Although we already do progressive meal times as we always work around all babies sleep times, Emma and I decided to start progressive sleep times. We feel that by introducing this, we are respecting each child’s individual needs for sleep and rest. This process will involve us reading the needs of each child rather than us making the choice for them. Normally we begin putting children to bed at around 10am and 1.30pm, and they all tend to sleep at the same time. This process can sometimes be busy and some might call it crazy, and it’s a routine that takes around half an hour. We recognise that each child has their own individual needs and we feel that we need to respect that by allowing them to make the choice when they sleep. Of course if you wish for your child to be put to bed at a certain time, we will always respect your wishes.

We begun the progressive sleep routine on Monday the 18th of May and the children responded to this new process really well. They still all slept how they should and for as long as they normally do, we just allowed the children to make the choice as to when they slept. This will obviously be a process that will take some time to perfect, however we think it is in the best interests of the children to do this. It is also a step forward to continuing to strive and maintain our exceeds rating in the national quality standards and continue to make TCC a leader of innovative practices.

If you have any queries or ideas about the progressive sleeps, we welcome them.

EYLF: Wellbeing
PRACTICE PRINCIPLES: 2. Partnerships with professionals
NQS: 6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
Belonging, Being and Becoming

BELONGING: This month children have discovered their family photos on the wall. Charlie was observed pointing up at her pictures and saying “Nonno, Nonno” We have decided we will use some of these family photos to place into plastic frames for the children to look at, at their own level.

BEING: we created an open ended experience for the children by giving them the empty boxes from our new toys, children stack them, drag them around, get in them, whatever they wish to do.

BECOMING: We begun transitioning Liam into the toddler room, he has enjoyed this process and begun one day in there this week. We have recognised that Willa prefers to feed herself, so to encourage her independence we have been providing more finger food type foods for her and she seems to love this.

Belonging: Charlie saying “Nonno!”

Being: Jordan playing with the boxes

Becoming: Willa feeding herself

Circle of Security
Parent Attending to the Child’s Needs

Ever heard of the circle of security? Check out this website, its fascinating stuff!
http://circleofsecurity.net/resources/treatment-assumptions/
Nursery Term goals.

Every room has term goals. Term goals are based on the Early Years learning Framework and are used as a focus for all of the children’s learning.

This month children have been finger painting. This observation fits in with the term goal: “Are open to new challenges, make new discoveries” which comes from the outcome Identity. This was a funny experience as children were given pieces of paper with a blob of paint on it. They were encouraged to put their hands in the paint and smear it over the page. Some children decided to taste the paint, thank goodness its non-toxic paint! Bentley really enjoyed the painting experience and used all of his senses to paint his picture (especially his sense of taste!) By the end of the experience children were covered in paint! It was fantastic!

Finger painting is a delightfully messy activity which encourages exploration through the senses of touch and sight. Manipulating the paint with their hands and fingers assists children in the development of fine motor skills and also encourages them to become curious and enthusiastic in their learning.

EYLF: Identity & Learning
NQS: 1. Educational program and practice.
PRACTICE PRINCIPLES: 3. High expectations for every child.
THEORIST LINK: Piaget
TCC PHILOSOPHY: Atelier space.

Dates to remember

The Nursery will celebrate these days with arts and crafts, experiences and activities.

May
20th - Pre-school information night at 5:30pm
27th - Reconciliation week begins.
29th - Vivian’s 1st birthday!

June
3rd Reconciliation week ends
4th - Willa’s 1st birthday!
22nd - Liam’s 2nd birthday!
25th – Pyjama day. Come to care wearing your pj’s
26th - Red nose day and National sorry day
MOTHERS DAY !!
Thanks so much to all those families that came to the Mothers day afternoon tea! And to those families that couldn’t make it, due to work or other commitments- We hope to see you next year!

Riley and her Mum Kristy

Billy and his Mum Leanne

James and his Mum Lydia

Willa and her Mum Michelle, her Dad Allan and her Grandparents

Evan and his Mum Karen

Liam and his Mum Cecile