

# GUMNUT GROVE Childcare Centre

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## Director's Report



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Belonging, Becoming  
and Being- All children  
experience learning that  
is engaging and builds  
success for life.

Welcome to our April newsletter, we are looking forward to our Mother's day cake stall in the main street, we would love our families to help support us with this fundraiser by providing us with some cakes or slices to sell down the street. We just need the items to be labelled with ingredients, there is more information on the note already given, the money raised will be going towards the kitchen renovations for Gumnut, so please support us.

We still have some boxes of chocolates to sell, so if you are able to take another box of chocolates it would be very much appreciated.

As most of you are aware we are going to be holding a spring ball as a fundraiser for Gumnut this year, it will be held on Saturday 17th September at the Young Services Club. Tickets will be \$50 per person including finger food, and Dj music Springy. Please save the date and if you can gather 10 friends to a table that would be great, alternatively we will have tickets available for people to join a table as well. More details to come soon and tickets available shortly.

We are also looking for donations from businesses either cash or gifts or vouchers for prizes on the night. If you can help us please see me. Thank you!!

Just letting everyone know that I am taking a month off for long service leave from 9th May to 3rd June, after 13 years at Gumnut, I'm looking forward to this short break. During this time Angela is second in charge. Emily is taking maternity leave with her last day being Friday 6th May., we wish her and Daniel good luck with the birth of their first child.

Attached to our newsletter is some drive way road safety, please ensure all children are appropriately supervised at all times, the carpark is very dangerous with cars coming and going, it is very important all children are holding their parents hands. We have also noticed a lot of children running up to the road, please do not allow your child/ren to do this as it is very unsafe, and we do not want any accidents occurring.

Kind Regards

Meghan Pratt

## Caterpillar News

We have been extremely busy this month in the Caterpillar room with our new investigation. We have been learning and researching our natural environment. The children have shown strong interest as we kicked off the investigation by planting new trees and flowers into our playground. We all had a turn of digging holes and watering plants and this has now become a part of our daily routine. We have extended this investigation into our art and craft and play dough play. If you look around the room, you will see different works along with documentation to show what the children have been up to. We had a wonderful time making our very own grass heads using lawn seed. Over the next few weeks we hope to see grass poking out the top of their heads as we water them every day. An investigation like this sparks the children interest in the natural environment where they learn to show respect and care, helping to maintain and preserve the beauty of our natural world. We would love for you to be asking your children questions and talking to them about this investigation at home to help keep their interest afloat.

Over the next month we will be continuing our investigation into our natural world. We would love for any parent input into this as well as resources we could share with our children.

Last week the children participated in the Gumnut ANZAC ceremony held here at the centre. Using their creative skills they painted red poppies to attach to the wreath. The children spoke about the ANZACs and what the Day represents, followed by a moment of silence, showing their respect.

This weekend the staff are attending an EXPO in Sydney where they hope to get some new, fresh ideas to bring back to the centre. Along with some staff bonding, they should have a lovely time. **Reminders:**

As the weather changes we ask that you bring a range of different clothes for your child to accommodate the weather, especially a jumper for the cooler, later afternoons.

Please remind the staff each morning on information regarding your child such as bottle times, sleep times and general wellbeing. This helps us to provide the best possible day for your child.

If your child has had Panadol within the last 12-24 hours it is important that you let the staff know.

Please label ALL items. Clothes, hats, dummies, bottles, sheets ext. Staff at Gumnut always endeavour to return items but it can get quite confusing for busy staff without identification.

## The Caterpillar Staff

## Butterfly News

April was a fun month in the butterfly room with lots of investigations and fun experiences had by all! One of our big investigations this month has been about the body. A big thankyou to Maeve and her "Wormie" for bringing in a book all about our bodies, which has been the base of our month long investigation. We have been learning all about our bones, muscles, nerves, senses and even our brains, hearts and lungs! We also had the pleasure of Emily visiting from the caterpillar room when it was time to talk about how babies grow inside their mummy's tummies. Emily was able to show the children her ultrasound pictures and even let those children, who were interested, touch her tummy and feel her baby move!

The children have loved being able to take this investigation to all sorts of new places, putting dolls up their shirts pretending to have babies in their tummies, and talking about how their brains look like meatballs. They have also been seen in the yard experimenting with different ways to breathe with their lungs!

We are now extending this investigation by using our senses at morning group time. This week we have been closing our eyes and doing taste testing of yummy things from the kitchen and we are planning a touch experience next week for the children.

We have found that the children have really enjoyed this experience and loved being able to learn new things about our bodies. Please have a look at our display in the foyer in relation to this investigation and make sure you have a chat with your kids about it..... it's amazing how much they have taken in and retained in those clever little brains.

We have also been able to help Deb out in the garden as she has been growing our garden by adding broccolini, Brussel sprouts, spinach, beetroot and cabbage. Our new herbs are lemon balm and parsley. The children always love being able to contribute to the gardening, helping to plant and care for our plants with Deb and talking with her about how they grow and what tender care they need to thrive. Deb has also created an archway in our yard and is planning sweet peas over the top of it (or as suggested by Max, beans for our toast or some tofu for his Dad).

We also had a visit from Mr Bamboozle, a magician who had the children in stitches. Mr Bamboozle was great fun and had the children laughing and guessing the whole way through his show, all the while learning the valuable lesson of how to be a great friend and the importance of great friendships and kindness.

We are currently painting poppies and preparing for ANZAC day celebrations. We have plans to hold a little service in our yard and talk with the children about ANZAC day, and remembering those who served for their country.

We are now looking forward to enjoying our yard through Autumn as the leaves are starting to change and the children prepare for all the new exploration opportunities outdoors.

Until next month,

Meghan, Deb, Carlie, Danielle, Jill and Ashley.



## **Food Awareness Activities**

By helping to prepare food for eating, children can develop and refine various motor and co-ordination skills. Food handling skills need to be tailored to the level of muscular development of the young child. Consider the choice of kitchen tools appropriate to each child.

Plan activities that will minimise adult participation. Adults should be prepared to give positive instruction or provide hints on how to get the job done.

### **Two year olds**

Big muscles: for example the arm

- \* Scrubbing, wiping, mopping- vegetables, bench tops, floors
- \* Tear, break, snap- lettuce, cauliflower, green beans
- \* Dipping- Use fresh fruit and vegetables from the tear, break and snap activity

### **Three year olds**

Medium muscle : for example the hand

- \* Wrapping- Vegetables in foil or dough around filling
- \* Pouring- Liquid into sink or sand base to begin with. As skill develops children could pour liquid from a jug into a tumbler. Mark the side of the tumbler to show children when to stop pouring. Children should clean up their own spills.
- \* Mixing- Easy to mix batters
- \* Shaking- Use a small jar to shake whipping cream until butter is produced. Shake coconut and food colouring in a jar to tint coconut.
- \* Spreading- Use a dull knife or spatula to spread bread.

### **Four year olds**

Small muscles: for example the fingers

- \* Peeling- Hard boiled eggs, oranges, mandarins, bananas
- \* Rolling- A round shape between two hands such as meatballs, dough balls
- \* Juicing- Use a hand squeezer
- \* Mashing- Use forks or hand held mashers (not electric) to mash vegetables or fruit.

### **Five year olds**

Fine muscle co-ordination

Measuring- Using spoons and scales

Cutting- Using dull knives and semi- soft foods such as bananas, cooked potato and cheese.

## Play dough Recipe

Ingredients:-

4 Cups Plain Flour

3/4 Cup Salt

1 Large dessertspoon cream of tartar

1/3 Cup oil

3 Cups boiling water

Colouring

Method:-

Mix flour, salt, cream of tartar and oil together, and then add water with colouring. Mix together in a bowl as it will be quite gluggy. Begin to knead in the bowl then turn out onto the bench and knead again.

*We have had a parent request for the recipe of curried sausages*

### Curried Sausages

Ingredients:

8-10 fat sausages

1 carrot- diced

1 medium potato- diced

1/2 cup peas

2 dessertspoon onion flakes

Pinch salt

1 dessertspoon sugar

1 packets continental curried sausage mix

2 dessertspoon tomato sauce

Method:-

Boil sausages in a pot until the oil is out of them. Let cool and peel skin of them. Cut the sausage into inch size pieces and place in a frypan on low heat, add carrot, peas and potato to frypan. Mix and add onion flakes, salt, sugar and curried sausage mix. Stir all dry ingredients until mixed. Then add hot water to cover 3/4 of mixture. Stir until all dry ingredients are completely mixed. Add tomato sauce, mix and leave to simmer on low until all vegetables are cooked through. Stirring occasionally. Serve with boiled rice.

