



## January Reflection 2020

Welcome to the Possum Room for our 2020 year. We hope all our families have had a lovely break and ready for a new learning year, full of excitement, adventure and a lot of art experiences.

The Possum Room has had a very busy month getting to know about our new environment and learning spaces. The children have been participating in a lot of outdoor play this month which has sparked the idea for our Stem Project for the first half of the year. Our Stem project is a science: Nature: the role we play in our environment and how to take care of our flora and fauna to help them thrive and avoid becoming endangered. Watch this space over the next few months to see all the wonderful opportunities we will explore. Over January we have already explored our mud kitchen and sand play, home corner and baby play spaces and started to explore water play through an ocean experience at the water table. These experiences have touched on each of our senses as well, which has shown educators where each child's interests, development and confidence level are so we can build on that information for future experiences.

Our children have been enjoying the nice weather and the opportunity to eat afternoon tea outdoors. Afternoon tea is a particularly enjoyable time to have in our garden space. These experiences have allowed for educators to talk about our environment and have conversations which aid in building strong relationships between peers and educators. This helps develop belonging and being and provide a sense of security and confidence in each child.

Other popular experiences in our outdoor play area have been the balls and climbing frames. The Possums are eager to manipulate their bodies in order to climb up to the platforms and bridges so they can climb back down the other side. Educators have already observed who is secure in their abilities and who prefers assistance. These physical play experiences are assisting the children in both fine and gross motor development as well as hand/eye coordination, balance, muscle development and confidence.

Our indoor play has been equally busy as the days often become too hot for us to stay outside all day. Educators are noticing a lot of interest in puzzles, connector toys and duplo vehicles which aid in developing fine motor and hand/eye coordination. We have also begun introducing art play through the use of playdough and using the art trolley as a sensory table filled with the materials the children will later use in future art play. These experiences aid in building creativity as well as pincer grip and fine motor development. Our routine has become consistent in the Possum Room as everyone is beginning to develop their understanding about what we do during group time and how we get ready for our meals. Toileting and handwashing routines are smooth as the children are enjoying the independence of collecting their own hand towels after hand washing, and even throwing them away properly.

All in all, a very good start to our new year and all the educators in the Possum Room are looking forward to a fantastic year!

*Links to the National Quality Standards: Quality Area 1, Educational Program and Practice and Quality Area 1 Program and Practice and TRCC Philosophy*

