



February Reflection 2020

It is hard to believe that it is already February. The Possum room has been very busy showing their educators the things that they are interested in and what activities the children enjoy. The month started with a new plan where we have begun our first STEM project. The children's interests in things such as sand play, water play and enjoying the environment and all the animals in it, have guided our program into deciding our STEM project will be learning about protecting our endangered flora and fauna. With this in mind, the children have been enjoying exciting experiences involving bugs, ocean and beach wildlife, farm animals, and native Australian animals, and we have begun exploring our garden beds.

These experiences aid children in exploring the life and elements in their environment at their own level of understanding and development. The children are developing language and social skills, fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and pincer grip.

Additionally, the children have been exploring colours as they use a variety of artistic materials in daily play. Crayons were introduced in January where many of the children were eager to have the opportunity to colour both inside and outdoors in the Art Studio. This interest inspired educators to lay the large paper outside on the wall and allow the children the opportunity to explore painting with a variety of colours each day. The children start with a clean sheet of paper and 3 paint colours, shared between 2 children at any one time. Each child is offered the opportunity to paint for as long as they would like. This allows them to develop their creativity, technique and attention span as well as exploring sharing and turn taking with other peers also painting.

Our STEM themes have made our way through the room as well. Puzzles, and imaginative play spaces have been swapped out to inspire interest such as farm and animal puzzles, animal themed pop-games, sorting games and books are getting a lot of attention. These experiences are giving educators an opportunity to develop even more verbal skills while asking questions such as, "What colour is this?" and, "Can we count the cows?". These experiences are also simply being played with peers and those interactions are priceless to watch. Friendships are already starting to form and settling into care each day is becoming more relaxed and enjoyable for each child. Well done to all the Possum children and their families!

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

