



January Reflection 2021

Welcome to the Koala Room for our 2021 year. We hope all our families have had a lovely break and are ready for a new learning year, full of excitement, adventure and a lot of art experiences.

The Koala Room has had a very busy month getting to know about our new environment and learning spaces. The Children are enjoying the new challenges that the Koala Room has to offer. The indoor space is calm and relaxing, ready for the children to explore learning spaces in their own time and for as long as they want to explore. The children are learning to pack up the play areas once they are finished using them and before moving to a new experience. The self-selection areas include different labelled baskets so the children can find what they want to use with ease and they know where to put items back to, when they are done using them. There is now an art table with a trolley that allows the children to freely source materials during free play. They can choose what paper they would like to use, paint or glue and a variety of items for creating unique art. We even have a separate drawing table filled with pencils, markers and crayons that the children can use whenever they want to.

The children are always eager to go outside each day, scattering to their preferred experiences as soon as the doors are opened. Throughout the day, the children are showing strong interests in the basketball hoop and balls, the bikes and climbing spaces. These spaces are heavily used, especially in groups so the children can show each other all the things they can do. Since last year, the children have been developing their gross motor skills, balance, hand eye coordination and confidence. Jumping from higher platforms onto the pillow is "So Easy", according to many of the children.

Other popular experiences in both the indoor and outdoor spaces are the imaginative play spaces set up. The doll houses, animal experiences, community play space and the home corner are all well visited throughout the day for long periods of time and with a lot of communication among peers. Educators are hearing a lot of mimic play as children recreate experiences they have had with their families during the holiday break. The children are talking about visits to the zoo and the animals they have seen there and visits to the beach while playing in the sand pit.

Each of these experiences are tied together during group time and meal time discussions which the children are showing more interest in as well. In such a short period of time, the children have already developed the skills to assist educators with running group time experiences, help unpack the meal trolleys and assist with clean up and daily tasks throughout the room. The children have now begun to ask educators what they can do to help out in the room. Watch this space as educators create a room task roster so each of the children can choose a task to help with each day.

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

