



Kookaburra Room October 2023 Reflection

The Kookaburra room has had a massive jam-packed month this October. We began with the new room leader Donika, followed by the introduction of day time savings (DTS) including spring-time activities, busy bags, happy helpers, Australian animals, children's week and ended the month with Halloween activities.

Daylight savings began on the 1st of October and to mark the occasion the educators in the Kookaburra room decided that it would be a topic of interest to discuss the time change and what it all means. Donika and Harriet explained to the children that Daylight Saving Time (DST) is a practice of setting the clock forward by one hour during summer months to make better use of natural daylight which means that people will have more daylight in the evenings and less in the mornings. As the focus of the conversation regarding DST was that the sun sets later in the evening. We offered some activities such as painting and pasting the beautiful sunsets. The children were provided with red, yellow, orange and pink paint to create their artwork.

Our main focus this term is to prepare the Kookaburra children for the transition into next year in the Purple kinder, a part of that transition focus was the introduction of the busy bags as this will be a regular activity offered to all the children next year during quiet time. We set up the table with 4 to 5 busy bags and allocate 4 to 5 children to sit at each table. We give the children 10 minutes at every table and then ask that they swap with someone on their table to ensure that the children have the opportunity to play with all the busy bags that are available. The children have responded so well to the busy bags that they often ask the educators to bring them out throughout the day regardless of the time. The busy bags are also a means for the educators to encourage the children's imagination as well as to practice on their long-term focus skills, patience and acceptance.

Another introduction in the Kookaburra room this month has been the "Happy Helpers". This was an idea brought on by Harriet who already has this activity implemented into her Kinder program. The idea is to teach the children independence, responsibility and accountability. The children decorated their own paddle-pop sticks which has their name on it and we place them in a jar to be chosen each morning at group time. There are two different happy helpers chosen everyday to ensure all the children have a turn. The happy helpers are responsible for saying the acknowledgement at every group time, spray and wiping tables before and after every meal, watering the plants with the left-over water from meal times, leading the children to pack up after they've finished playing with an activity as well as reminding children to put on their sunscreen, keep their hats on the heads and putting their socks and shoes on at the end of the day. We hope that by giving each child the opportunity daily to have the responsibility of the "happy Helper" that we teach them responsibility for themselves and their peers and accountability for their actions and impact they make in the world.

We ended October on a massive high with Childrens week 2023, there were designated activities for everyday of the week. Monday was games day, Tuesday was pyjama day, Wednesday we had a teddy bear picnic, Thursday was crazy hair day, nail painting and face painting and finally on Friday it was dress up day. The children arrived everyday with excitement to the Kookaburra room about what the day had to offer. We ended October with special Halloween activities where the children got to make 'Monster Cookies!!' the children took it in turns to decorate their cookies and create their own monster! What a wonderful month we have all had!

Learning Outcome 3: CHILDREN HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF WELLBEING

Children become strong in their social, emotional and mental wellbeing.

This is evident, for example, when children: Seek out and accept new challenges, make new discoveries, and celebrate their own efforts and achievements and those of others.

Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.

This is evident, for example, when children: Recognise the contributions, they make to shared projects and experiences.

Linked to the National Quality Standards: Quality Area 1- Educational Program and Practice, and TRCC Philosophy.

