

Reflections Of Our Week

Educators: Lorina, Maddie, Estelle

Week Beginning: 06/01/2014

Week of Follow-up: 13/01/2014



The week brought a spontaneous experience as Sophie and Eve were very excited to share their news with us today. "Me and Eve went to the zoo together yesterday" Sophie said. "We saw a baby monkey, the giraffe and the baby elephants" Eve commented. This turned into a great discussion between the children about the natural habitat of animals. "Lions, elephants and tigers live in Africa" Todd explained. "There are elephants in India too" Manu commented. "Is there a jungle in Africa, that's where they live" Molly questioned. The children were eager to find out more information on where the animals lived. "Can we make our own animals?" Sarah asked. "What do we need" I asked. "The children thought up of a list of things they need to make their animals. "Boxes, colored paper, textas, glue, scissors and paint" Sara said. We all searched for our materials to make our animals. Once the materials were found the children spent most part of the morning planning and creating their animals out of boxes. While creating the animals this lead to the children working together to work out how they will get the boxes to stick together. "The glue doesn't work, the head keeps falling off" Lei commented. "I will hold the box, you try taping it" Harvey suggested. With a little effort and a lot of sticky tape the head was finally in place... "Let's make a zoo tomorrow for the animals we made" Maria asked... Tomorrow will be the creation of the "Preschooler Zoo".

Outdoor play was mostly lead by sand play with the animal figurines. The children also added blocks and pipes to the sand to create habitats for their animals. This lead to ongoing conversation about how to best place the blocks around the sandpit to create the animal homes and which animals were going to be used. Some of the children also spent their time drawing pictures of animals in their habitats which lead to discussions on the best habitat the animal should live. "The tiger lives in the jungle" Steven said. "My tiger lives in the mountains" Fred described. We can't wait for the discoveries and learning next week will bring...

Learning Outcome 1
Children have a strong sense of identity

- 1.1 Children feel safe, secure and supported.
- 1.2 Children develop their autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency.
- 1.3 Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities.
- 1.4 Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.

Learning Outcome 2
Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- 2.1 Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation.
- 2.2 Children respond to diversity with respect.
- 2.3 Children become aware of fairness.
- 2.4 Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.

Learning Outcome 3
Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

- 3.1 Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing.
- 3.2 Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing.

Learning Outcome 4
Children are confident and involved learners

- 4.1 Children develop dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity.
- 4.2 Children use a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating.
- 4.3 Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another.
- 4.4 Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials.

Learning Outcome 5
Children are effective communicators

- 5.1 Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.
- 5.2 Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts.
- 5.3 Children collaborate with others, express ideas and make meaning using a range of media and communication technologies.

Extension Ideas

- Add materials, animal figurines, animal pictures in block area.
- Animal dress ups and making animal masks
- Group time to Google different habitats.
- Add extra blocks, pipes and animals to sand

Curriculum Reflection Questions:

1) Is the current setup of the environment working? Are there any changes that need to be made? Yes No

2) What teaching strategies worked well? Is there any need to implement any new strategies? Yes No

Used the calming box within the room today. Worked well for a couple of children who needed to take some time to themselves will continue this tomorrow. During morning group will need to explain what the calming box is and how to use items inside.

3) How was the overall atmosphere in the room? Yes No

All children were settled and engaged in experiences provided for the day.

4) Do routine and transitions run smoothly? If not, what changes need to be made? Yes No

5) Are all educators within the room interacting with each child on an individual level? How can it be improved? Yes No

6) What are the strengths and weaknesses within the room? Yes No

Strengths - children were cooperative, engaged, involved in small group work, educators interacted well
Weaknesses - pack away time needs to involve all children not just a few

7) Do all educators within the room communicate effectively with each other and parents? How can it improve? Yes No