



September 2020

# Sustainability Newsletters

## The Nursery

Over the last few weeks the children and educators in the nursery have been using the creative arts to express their appreciation of the recent sunny days, by upcycling our donated materials from families to create sun's. The children enjoyed building upon their fine - motor and hand eye coordination skills while painting their picture. Then later choosing strips of different coloured material to glue from it with assistance from their educator ( VEYLDF: Communication and Community).



Nursery sun display



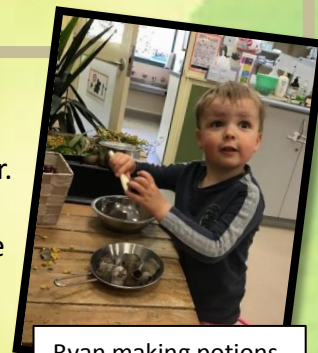
Van with the lava lamp

During science week the nursery children were able to repurpose some old plastic bottles to participate in a rich and meaning inquiry based experience where they experimented with making a lava lamp. The children were able to experiment and hypothesise what would happen when the oil, water and food colouring were mixed together. This has been an excellent way for the nursery children to explore the purpose and function of a range of mediums from both naturally sourced and processed materials as well as partaking in basic sustainable practices (VEYLDF: Learning & NQS: 3.2.2- resources support play based learning).

## The Toddler Room

The Toddler room children have recently enjoyed engaging with natural materials sourced from their yard and the nature strip to create potions in their cooking corner.

The children used gumnuts, wattle blossoms, leaves and sticks to create their individual potions, during this play they were observed mixing the gumnuts with the sticks, and wooden spoons provided. This learning supports children to develop stewardship for their surroundings and become respectful and responsible for their environment, while recognising and appreciating their natural beauty (NQS: 3.2.3- environmentally responsible).



Ryan making potions

Sarah and Vicki. P have put their handy woman skills to the test as they recently made a music board for both the Nursery and Toddler room children to share while playing in their outdoor environment. Sarah sourced the pots and pans from the local opportunity shop and Vicki picked up a wooden pallet from a local shop not needed it. All the children have loved using play to investigate the different sounds each pot and pan makes, when tapping them with the spoon (Practice Principles: Partnerships with professionals & VEYLDF: Community).



Archie making music

## Community Input

We have been getting lots of donations from the community lately and appreciate these contributions very much. The children are able to use lots of these resources in their arts and craft, which is great. Thank you to Mac and his family for bringing in some craft supplies to share with your peers, they had a great time creating stick people with these (Practice Principles: Partnerships with families).



The new obstacle course

**The Fun Group**

With the weather warming up, the children in the Fun Group room have been spending lots more time outdoors in the physical environment. This extra time outdoors has prompted the rearrangement of the obstacle course. With the help of the children the climbing frames were set up around the existing logs in the garden, incorporating them into the course. This has been a favourite area of play as the children have been active contributors and influences in their world around them, by ensuring the planks are stable and safe for them and their peers to use (NQS: 3.2.1 – Fit for Purpose).

The children have also been developing their sense of agency as some of them have been assisting the educators hang the washers on the drying wrack. As the days get warmer educators are able to use the dryer less and utilise our natural resources of the sun and breeze (VEYLDF: Identity).



Hanging the washing out

**The Preschool**

Recently the Preschool children have been learning about recycling, and how every day items can be repurposed into something else. This activity provides opportunities for the children to use their cognitive skills to problem solve and be creative in ways that develop their respect for the environment and thoughtful use of limited resources. The Preschool children decided with the help of their educators they would create some working diagrams of the human body, such as the heart, lungs and the kidneys. These were all made with old bottles, glass jars, straws and pipes. The children also decided to make paper as they love drawing and found there was a lot of shredded paper in the office. This has been a great learning experience as not only have the children learnt about renewable resources, but they have developed from their interests and ideas (NQS: 3.2.3- environmentally responsible & practice principles: integrated teaching and learning approaches).



Diagram of human kidneys



Making paper

**QIP: Working Towards**

Sheree and Terriane have been working with a builder (Aaron), in regards to the construction of our chicken coop. Everyone at TCC is excited to see this long awaited project begin to take shape over the next few months.

This will be another great way to incorporate our sustainable practices at TCC, as our scraps will feed the chickens and we will use their eggs in the kitchen. The children will also learn to care and show respect to our new pets (VEYLDF: Community).



Lakyn watering the plants



Alex and Ollie planting tomatoes



Mac helping plant veggies

**Intentional Teaching**

Tamara has been working with the children in all the rooms lately to get our veggie gardens up and running ready for our spring/ summer crops. Tamara had discussions with the children from each room about what their favourite vegetables are and what they would they like to grow in our gardens. This was a fun way to incorporate the children's voices into the program and ensure we as educators are providing them with a range of healthy eating options while in care. A small group of children from each room helped plant the new vegetables, mulch the top and water them in (VEYLDF: Wellbeing).

**Fathers day**

Well done to all the educators at TCC for collecting materials and repurposing them to provide gifts to use for fathers day celebrations.