

## Play scripts and superheroes: “We are playing PJ Mask!” .... “I’m the princess and you’re the teacher” ....

Gecko, Owlet, Catboy, Mario, Moana, Elsa, teachers, mums, brothers, doctors and animals...what do they all have in common? They are all invented or media based characters that we see being embodied by the children in their play scripts.

We see these characters in what we understand as narrative, dramatic and socio-dramatic play. These are simple play types that can involve the child being themselves re-enacting character storylines but invented in a new way, or dramatic play which builds on this by adding a role outside of themselves and furthermore socio-dramatic play when the play is then shared with others who interact in the roles and help to create the story line. Pretty clever really! Ideas for play scripts for young children can come from many different influences. These can include cultural understandings, real life experiences and quite often the most popular and crowd drawing, are media influences.

This type of play is often referred to as superhero play. Superheroes are larger than life, courageous, powerful, and seemingly able to overcome any obstacle with great physical prowess while doing great deeds at the same time. Young children, facing the challenges of learning many new skills, may often feel small, helpless, fearful, unable to accomplish what they desire, or troubled—in other words, just the opposite of superheroes. It's no wonder that many preschoolers are drawn to superhero play. Through play they can feel brave, fearless, in control of their world, outside of ordinary, and just plain good. Its also really fun.....most of the time.

Ideally, free play should be independent and unrestricted. In reality, adults need to first set up safe environments, provide appropriate toys, set limits, and then monitor play. Beyond this, there are ways to foster healthy superhero play:

\*Help children understand more about “the

good guys” and “the bad guys.” \* Recognize the difference between typical action-oriented play and aggression. \*Understand how best to deal with play that crosses the line to aggression. \*Encourage preschoolers to practice heroism and conflict resolution.

### **Rough and Tumble Play Versus Aggression**

One of the most important steps in fostering healthy superhero play is to be able to recognize the difference between action-oriented, rough and tumble play and true aggression. Dr. Stuart Brown, founder of The Institute for Play, says that most of us are not trained to tell the difference. Typical, exuberant play, which may seem non-sensical and chaotic to adults, includes “falling down, hitting without hurting, diving, yelling or other loud mimicking vocalizations, etc.,” he explains. On the other hand, aggression includes domination, threats, humiliation, or real hitting and fighting. Adults should

step in and stop aggression when children stop having fun, show real anger or fear, or begin real hitting. When action-oriented play is confused with aggression, it's more likely that both types of play will be stopped, and children run the risk of losing the benefits of healthy, free play.

### **What to Do When Play Crosses the Line**

Children learn about limits, mastering impulses, solving problems, resolving conflicts, and controlling aggression in play by trial and error over time. Some children in the learning process will likely cross the line from play to aggression. Make sure that all children understand the rules and the consequences for breaking rules, but avoid shaming anyone who makes a mistake. Typically, preschoolers are more attracted to the action of superhero play than the violence. When killing or harming people dominates play, offer rescue operations or going on an adventure as alternatives.



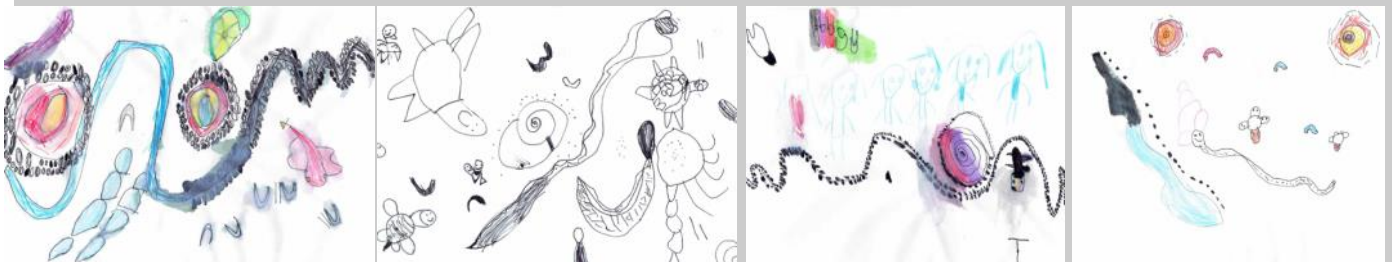
**VOICE  
TREATY  
TRUTH**  
07 - 14  
JULY 2019  
Let's work together for a shared future.

Embedding Indigenous perspectives is an important part of our educational philosophy. This means that we take steps to identify what children are interested in learning about and then use that as a way to approach learning from diverse perspectives including those from Aboriginal culture. We help the children learn about topics through different lenses other than just the dominant culture. We do this with Reconciliation in mind and as the focal point to guide our teaching strategies. NAIDOC week is one of the times during the year that we can bring this learning to the forefront and celebrate what we know about Australia's first people whilst also building on this knowledge. This year to celebrate NAIDOC week we will be holding two special events.

**FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO COME ALONG TO THESE EVENTS!!!**

**Wednesday 10 July, 2019 – 11.00am** – Bush Tucker BBQ lunch in our big backyard. We will have our BBQ in the backyard cooking some kangaroo sausages and rissoles and other bush tucker foods to taste. We will be sharing some stories, music and dancing too.

**Friday 12 July, 2019 – 10.30am** – Opening of our 'Awabakal Land Mural'. We will be hosting a special ceremony and morning tea in the Community Garden. Aunty Sandra Griffin, local Awabakal Elder will be attending to provide a Welcome to Country and we are hoping that the artist of the mural Tom Croft will be available to come along to talk about the work. We will be cooking some damper in the campfire in the community garden and sharing some biscuits and slices too.



**Partnership with Parents Survey—thanks for your input..**



Great feedback from surveys - positive, constructive and valuable. So what have we heard from families so far??

**Relationships with children**— these are highly valued & families feel confident in their child/ren's time with the educators.

**Relationships with the team**— families feel they have valued & authentic relationships with the team and

that this is supported by families also contributing to the relationship by regular chats, emails, phone calls and genuine interest in this special partnership. THANKS!!

**Educator Communication**— happy with daily catch up, appreciate calls & discussions when needed. Appreciate getting to know newer team members over time—name tags & profiles help—a suggestion for a weekly

team member focus in the weekly check in email— great idea!!

**Local community** - families are happy with our involvement and activities and appreciate efforts made to engage the children beyond the centre gate.

**Parent involvement**— families are grateful for the events that already take place. We had suggestions for more social gatherings outside

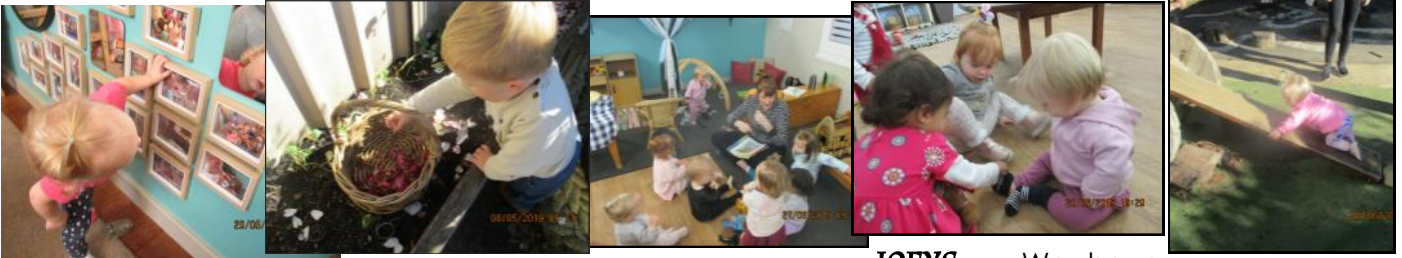
work hours, and a parents-as-teachers program where families can come and help in the classrooms.

**Educational program** - well received and families becoming more familiar with our online server. Unanimous support for reports being emailed. Some families.....

**Con't on page 6...**

## ROOM NEWS...what's been going on in our rooms for may & june???

**BABY POSSUMS....** Hi everyone! **Possum Song Book:** We are continuing on with the Possum Song Book that began a few years ago. We collect all the favourite songs that we sing throughout the day and collate them into a book. We have left a list next to the laptop for families to add songs that they sing at home to be included. **Sensory Project:** this wonderful project of discovery and exploration continues every day. The children's interest in learning through touch has been such a joy to be a part of. Our teaching strategy of simply watching and listening and resisting describing and interpreting for the children has allowed us to observe the children's responses closely. We have incorporated a range of experiences relating to touch in the environment such as our curtain of ribbons, sensory frames and basket of different textiles. We have also been observing how the children respond to the placement of less permanent substances on the activity table such as shaving cream and simply watching the children watch us do this and deciding what they will do next, without us inviting them to the space. It has been so interesting watching their decision and thinking processes take shape. Our learning goals from May & June were focused on independence and gross motor development. Both of these learning areas worked well together and fuelled confidence simultaneously. The sense of achievement in independence really does build a sense of confidence in attempting other new tasks. Super learners everywhere!! Thanks for reading— Lauren, Carley, Bec & team



### JOEYS.... We have

so much to share!! **Peer Relationships:** We have been supporting the children developing strong relationships and a sense of identity in a Joey group context. To foster this we have played partner games during group time and encouraged the children to use each other's names in conversation (tricky for little people). **Beginning to recognise our written names:** From parent suggestions we have focused on name recognition by including name tags during art experiences and at group time for children to be able to use visual cues to connect to what their name looks like in text. Some of the children have begun to show interest in writing letters to. We approach this from a play-based perspective and follow the children's natural literacy curiosity.

**Education for Sustainability:** this has been a deep focus lately with lots of learning about creativity through reusing. We used bottle lids to create wind chimes and wonderful group collage work. More sustainable practices have been nurtured through connecting the children with nature. We embedded indigenous perspectives into this learning by linking Reconciliation to the planting of our own Truth Tree which represents 'friendship and coming together'. We have been caring for this special tree along with our other plants in the gardens. We have been taking our time to also talk through our Acknowledgement to Country that we say each day. We talk to the children about what each line of the statement means to them to ensure that this is learning that makes sense to them and is not just a token experience. Till next time—Kate, Roxi, Bec and team



**PRESCHOOL WALLABIES...** We are always reflecting and planning on ways to make learning as meaningful as possible for the children. Through understanding and observing the children and exploring with them what influences them whilst in the space of Elder St, we have learnt more about them and their identity. It may be only little things, preferences and interests but all of those little things make us who we are at certain times in our life. As childhood is a time of great significance we want to always ensure that children are connected and respectful of theirs and other's identities. We developed the Identity Wall to meet this objective. This special display demonstrates what the children are connected to, how they are connected with each other and what makes us all individual. Some examples of the display include; some Star Wars and PJ Mask toys as this represents important play connections for the children and are often the social vehicle that they use when they play together, books—as the children are avid book readers, photos of friendship groups, crystals to represent their love of science, the word 'Identity' which represents the children' growing interest in literacy and much more. The children decided where this special display would be and can be found visiting the items often. Our Happiness book project is complete and a proud work of pure joy! The children adore looking through it and remembering what their friends have drawn in their pictures. The process of learning about emotions has not only created this beautiful documentation of the children's learning, but it has also been a wonderful opportunity to explore empathy, wellbeing, emotions and other's perspectives – learning that is so valuable at this stage of life. Even though most of the children no longer have a sleep/lie down, we still understand the importance of some 'down time'. We use this time after lunch for winding down, relaxing and listening to a meditation story. The children respond really well as they recharge whilst listening to the voice of an educator reading a story. It has been a wonderful experience. We have been focusing on the wonderful social skills that the children demonstrate each day. We notice that the children are such amazing, supportive and loving friends to each other. It is easy to only notice the few squabbles that happen, but more often than not, we see kindness, empathy, care, love and deep concern for each other. We are sharing these times with the children throughout the day so they can connect with feeling good about these skills. Our recent Gross Motor Excursion was a marvellous time. The children showed amazing confidence in their climbing abilities. Those who were a little nervous still made great attempts and tried really hard. On the soccer day the children did a fantastic job working as a team whilst running around the field tracking the ball and kicking it into the goals. The children have really embraced pushing themselves with their gross motor skills. The objective for the children to go beyond their comfort zone and work hard to connect their body with their brain has been well and truly achieved! Go kids!! Thanks for reading—Paula, Bree, Jena, Bec, Donna and

team



## Equipment Levy Spends!

### Lots of goodies on their way:

\*Recycle bin sets \*multicultural family sets \* Large African animals \* medium & large dinosaurs \* Australian animal set \* Sea creature set \* Fairies \* New custom made wooden climbing frame and slide for the Nursery playground being designed now too!

## Happy Birthdays to....

### May

Eve turned 1, Elliot turned 2, Bonnie turned 2, Hamish turned 3, Max turned 3, Ming-Ai turned 4, Anders turned 4 & Evelyn S turned 4

### June

Isabelle turned 3, Alba turned 3, Flynn turned 4, Cruze turned 4, Patrick turned 5, Abbey turned 5

### July

Kenzie turns 3, Cruze turns 4, Lawson turns 4 & Oxley turns 5

## Planned Professional Learning

**August 12—24**—Mel attending EECERA Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece— to present a paper 'Having Conversations that matter': Critically reflective mentorship for leading with intent.

**September 23—27**—Kim attending ECA National Conference in Hobart.

**September 25**—Lauren attending Planning for Infants & Toddlers in Newcastle

**October 29**—Donna and Bree attending Moving Beyond Activities in Sydney

**November 13**—Jena attending Rethinking Behaviour—whose problem is it anyway? in Newcastle

### REMINDERS & NOTICES

- Make sure your child has a full set of spare warm clothes in their bag each day
- **PLEASE LABEL YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS**—it is like a form of torture to try to remember what belongs to who
- Wash your child's hands on arrival and before departure each day
- Now that plastic bags are being phased out by supermarkets in NSW (YAY!!!) we will require families to provide their own solution for the storage of wet/soiled clothes. We would appreciate families either investing in a "wet bag" of some sort that they could purchase, or providing your own plastic bags. There are some bags on the market that you may want to check out
- <https://www.bambooty.com.au/bambooty-large-wet-bags>



Roxi and Bec have signed up for the wonderful initiative known as **The Great Book Swap** in support of the **Indigenous Literacy Foundation**.

This foundation aims to bridge the literacy gap in remote Indigenous Australia. We have chosen a week in August that coincides with National Book Week for our big Book Swap event. It is really easy to become involved. You can visit the link below to make a donation to our event or you can donate a book to add to our book swap event week. We welcome any type of book that is in good condition (doesn't have to be a children's book) to add to our book swap table.

During the week of the event which is **Monday 19 to Friday 23 August**

we will have a big long table in the Joey's room set up each day from 3pm till 5pm with all the donated books for families to come in and choose to take home for a gold coin donation. We are aiming to raise \$200 and have already raised \$60—thanks to Oscar's mum and dad and Zoe's Nan and the wonderful Roxi!! So please get involved by either jumping on the site to donate money or donating a book or coming in to buy a book that week. It will be lots of fun for such a deserving cause!! Donated books for the event can be given to any team member :)

<https://go.greatbookswap.org.au/EventDetail/7011J000000x4TnQAI/elder-street-echc-great-book-swap>

## Partnership with Parents Survey—thanks for your input..

### From page 2.....Educational program....

asking for support with ideas for developmental goals and some more clarity around whether behaviours at home are worth being focused on as educational goals in care or whether other areas may offer more educational support. **Safety & Resources**—positive responses and confidence in practices. **Food and Menu**—overall families are happy with the food provided. We did have some responses that indicated families would like to know more about our menu and some suggestions for inclusion of more fruit and veggies and replacing some sweeter desserts with other whole food options. **Office and Policy issues**—families were happy with processes and policies in place and a number of families have agreed to join our Policy Review Committee—thank you for your support!

**Where to now????** We take this information and review it as a team and see how we can best meet the needs of our community. We will filter our responses, solutions and any changes over the coming months through emails and newsletters. Some of these suggestions will be included in our Quality Improvement Plan that we work on year round. Thanks again for your input and remember if you haven't responded yet, there is no cut off, we welcome your feedback at any time.



entertainment  
School Holidays?  
Sorted!  
Keep the kids happy  
with these offers



**Newcastle School Portraits** have been booked in for our School

Photo Day on **Wednesday, 20 November, 2019 from 8am**. We will send a reminder out with some information closer to the date.

Help support  
Elder Street Early Childhood Centre and save a  
bundle in the process

Enjoy thousands of offers for everything you love to do  
2-for-1 offers, special rates and up to 50% off on activities, dining, shopping, travel and leisure.



To buy go to <https://www.entbook.com.au/360s27>

