

Country Bumpkins Early Learning Centre: February Addition 2022



Covid Safe Reminder

Just a reminder that any child who is feeling unwell (including mild and the slightest symptoms) must remain and home and is strongly encouraged to get a COVID test (a rapid test is fine) and not come back to the centre until all symptoms are gone away and there is a negative result.

If you are unsure whether to send your child to preschool, please call the centre and we can help you determine the outcome, alternatively you can seek advice from your local GP.

We understand these measures are tough, however with recent cases becoming closer to the community we want to ensure the wellbeing of all families, children and staff is maintained.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

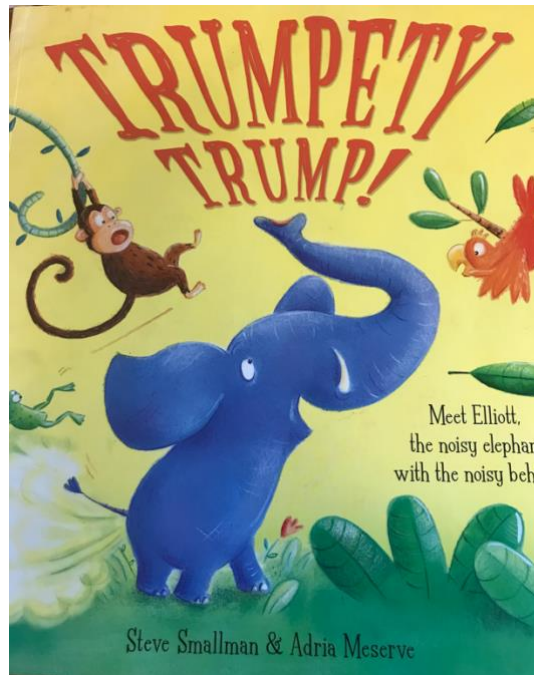
Birthdays

Country Bumpkins would like to wish the following preschoolers a big Happy Birthday! We hope you all had a fantastic day!

- Junior
- Hallie
- Eva
- Ida
- Henry N



Book Review:



Each month I have decided to do a picture book review based upon the pre-schooler's interest. This month the preschoolers have displayed a strong interest in reading "Trumpety Trump"

This story is about an elephant called Elliott who was rude to all his friends in the jungle. After a series of events the animals came together and supported Elliott to acknowledge his behaviour and how to be a good friend.

Educators love to read this story as it supports the preschoolers to learn about the following concepts:

- Being a good friend
- Understanding the importance of respect, kindness and how to value each other
- How actions can affect others
- Learn how to identify emotions
- Understand the importance of being in a community
- Learn and explore different animals

Here are some of the preschoolers responses about the story:

"I like Elliott because he learns how to be good"

"I like this story because of the pictures"

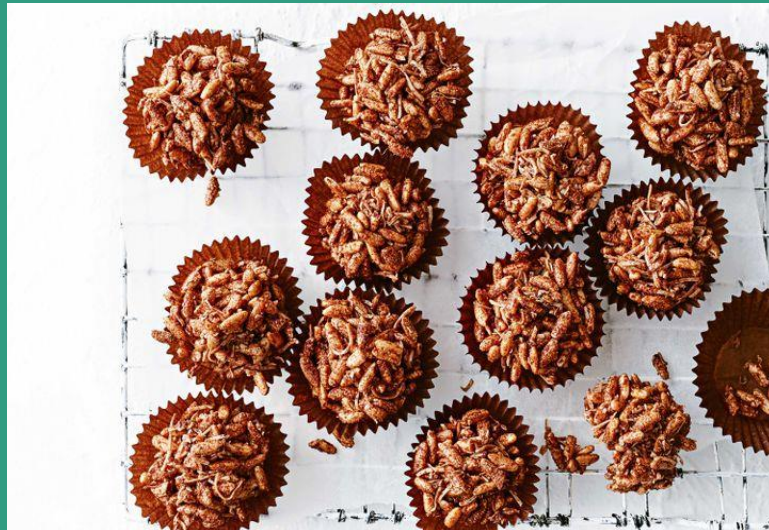
"I like reading the story because it helps me be a good friend"

"I like when Elliott is blowing bubbles"

"The story always makes me laugh"

"I like the giraffe"

Healthy Chocolate Crackles



Ingredients

- 60g (2 cups) natural puffed rice
- 50g (1/4 cup) coconut sugar
- 35g (1/2 cup) shredded coconut
- 30g (1/4 cup) raw cacao powder
- 125ml (1/2 cup) melted coconut oil.

Method

- Combine puffed rice with sugar, coconut and cacao powder in a bowl
- Add coconut oil and mix until combined
- Line 24 mini muffin pans with paper cases. Spoon mixture into prepared cases, stirring mixture occasional to prevent settling in bowl
- Place in fridge for at least 30 minutes and store in airtight container in fridge

Lockdown and Fire Drills- Need photos

This month the preschoolers have been engaging in their fire and lockdown drills. They have had a whole week of practise and here is the reflection and findings from the educator on how the preschoolers went:

- Did a great job at following instructions and listening to the educators
- Displayed a great understanding and responsibility
- Responded in a positive manner to the fire whistle and lockdown word
- Displayed the ability to move and act quickly when moving to the designated safe spaces
- By the end of the week preschoolers had sound knowledge on the importance of these drills and how they keep them safe

Educators also had their own reflections on the experience:

- Devise different strategies for those preschoolers who become overwhelmed and anxious
- Identify different areas to possible evacuate too including lockdown safety areas
- Look at resources such as books/ stories to use with the preschoolers during these drills



February Learning: Bottlebrush Room

The Bottlebrush room has been full of fun, excitement and wonder in the preschoolers learning and development!

I have been really impressed with each pre-schooler and how they are adapting to their new routines, learning environments and school expectations. It has been wonderful to see the preschoolers building connections with each other, sharing common interests and of course lots of laughter!

I have also observed the Bottlebrush group engage in lots of creative arts and transportation play which I will continue to extend upon through the duration of the month!

Over the past few weeks I have observed the preschoolers become more confident in engaging in group discussions while also developing and displaying great independent skills especially in the morning planned learning experiences.

The emotions program has been a great success and I know this will be revisited again throughout the year. It was a great way for the preschoolers to explore their big emotions, especially for those new preschoolers coming into a new environment. In addition to this they were able to explore different emotions by associating it with a colour so that they could easily identify and understand this topic.

My aim is to incorporate more Aboriginal perspectives and education into the weekly curriculums and programs for the Bottlebrush room, providing opportunities for the preschoolers to explore the history, culture and their community.

I am looking forward to another great month ahead in the Bottlebrush room and can't wait to see how the preschoolers grow in their learning and development.

Warm Regards

Mikayla Tattersall



February Learning: Wartah Room

This month in the Waratah room has been full steam ahead!

The preschoolers have adjusted to their new learning environments, routines, room expectations and more structured learning experiences. It has been great getting to know all the preschoolers and their families! I am definitely seeing all the pre-schooler's personalities shine which I am loving!

So far, the preschoolers have been looking at the unit of community which has helped them develop a sense of identity, belonging and citizenship. This has been a great unit for the preschoolers to understand what a community is, who is in a community and the importance of community spirit.

In addition to this, the Waratah group has shown a strong interest in exploring and developing connections to Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country. There have been many great discussions on the importance of both Aboriginal Countries and how the preschoolers can respect and acknowledge this. The preschoolers have expressed great interest in continuing to learn about both local communities.

This month has seen a strong focus on name writing providing opportunities for the preschoolers to understand letter formation, spelling and identification of their name.

Towards the end of this term, there will be a possibility of introducing letter of the week, this will depend on how the Waratah group is progressing with their name writing. I must admit they are all doing extremely well, and I am very proud of their achievements!

Lastly, fine motor and manipulative learning skills will be on offer daily to strengthen and support the preschoolers hand muscles which will only benefit their abilities in their handwriting.

I am looking forward to seeing what next month has in store and can't wait to see how the Waratah group will develop in their learning!

Warm Regards

Toby Schneider





Local Community

Sutton Pharmacy has opened next to the Art Gallery. The Pharmacy has medical supplies, body wash, medication and a small convenience store. In addition to this you are also able to organise prescription medication as well. Country Bumpkins has been in contact with the pharmacy, and they have informed us they are in process of applying for vaccinations which will include COVID vaccines.

The pharmacist has also expressed interest (when we are able to do so) in giving a tour to the preschoolers explaining about his job role, what a pharmacy does for the community and the importance of having one. This supports the preschoolers to build awareness on the different services within our communities.

Community Spirit

At Country Bumpkins we would like to promote, acknowledge and support any local business in our monthly newsletters. If you own a local business or know someone who has anyone, please let us know so we can add this into the newsletter.

We are also asking if any families would like to contribute to our newsletter whether that be information regarding food/ nutrition, art activities, cooking etc. To do this you will need to email the centre at the end of every month.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Toby!