Mt Compass
Preschool News
Week 2 Term 3 2016

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Week 1 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am—3pm
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Should my child be reading?
This question was asked of us by a parent the other day and may be on the lips of others!!
The simple answer is NO there is no ‘should’ about it!
Children start to read, write, walk, tie their shoelaces, ride without trainers, kick a football, draw, talk in extended sentences etc at different times. It will depend on their personalities & motivations (what drives them!); their experiences (what’s available to them); their personal strengths (what they tend to do ‘naturally’) and their sense of themselves as a learner.
What we can do as parents, carers and educators is provide lots of engaging, challenging everyday experiences that build their understanding of literacy and their exposure to the big ideas of reading for example:

- rhyming words; prediction (of what’s going to happen next);
- noticing (writing in signs and on food packaging); letters, (capital, lower case, letter/sound relationships; letter names and letter sounds) and text carries meaning.

We do this by:
Reading to and with children, telling made up stories, noticing writing, reading recipes, playing games (eye spy), noticing the beginning sounds (Dad starts with a ‘D’ sound…so does ‘dog’), talking about language, using ‘big’ interesting words.
This will help our children to be familiar with literacy concepts, see that literacy is powerful because it helps us do things, and most importantly to see themselves as ……..

powerful learners and users of literacy
For lots of great ideas about how you can help your child become a powerful learner check out this website:
www.greatstart.sa.edu.au
Reggie has arrived….and he’s exhausted !!!

Reggie is our ‘persona dog’ a stuffed dog with a big personality !! Reggie arrived from Queensland on Wednesday by EXPRESS POST !!

He helps us to learn to use gentle hands and quiet voices because he is very old and fragile. We also learnt how to safely greet a dog. First of all you ask the owner whether the dog is friendly and then if you get the go ahead you let the dog smell the back of your hand !!

Reggie will help us with our numeracy and literacy learning—he can be a great motivator !! Hopefully he will get the chance to have a sleep over at all the children’s homes by the end of the year….. So be prepared for your turn !!

One of the key areas of numeracy learning in preschool is learning how to analyse, read and organise data, another is about quantity and number. We will be exploring both these areas through various forms of the daily roll. For the first 4 weeks of term children will be recording their attendance with coloured stick-ers on the a big wall chart. This will build on earlier experiences of data : for instance exploring weather data, UV ratings, fruit eating data, recording circuit laps and voting data.

Apple Cakes
To welcome Reggie we baked some apple cakes. Cooking is a great way introducing and using many numeracy concepts to children. They learn mathematical words and apply concepts in a meaningful way…with edible results !! Many thanks to Joanna and Nikita for bringing in the apples. Please remember us if you have excess goodies—like fruit, eggs, veg- gies….for our cooking program!

Thanks

Many thanks to the Corey & Joanna Duke (Nikita’s parents) for their work on the retaining wall over the holidays. We now have an orderly barrier between the grass and the softfall.