

"Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future."  
— MARIA MONTESSORI

# Bay Island Early Learning & Care



## ON *this* MONTH

At Bay Island Early Learning & Care

2<sup>nd</sup> Good Friday

4<sup>th</sup> Easter

5<sup>th</sup> Easter Monday (public holiday)

6<sup>th</sup> Vacation Care Program Starts

11<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Nature Play Week

14<sup>th</sup> Rainbow Day

25<sup>th</sup> Anzac Day



### I'll time you

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

Say to a child "I'll time you" and it evokes a crazy competitive drive to beat that time over and over and over again! Why not join in?

It could be a run around the house. 10 jumps or skipping to a location. It doesn't matter. Choose a movement activity and time one another completing the activity. See if you can beat one another! Of course, the real time doesn't matter, have fun with it.

### A Message from the office:

Hello Families,

Our Centre will be going through "Assessment & Rating" in the April. A key focus of the National Quality Framework is to promote continuous quality improvement.

Have your children outgrown their clothes? If so, we would gladly take them off your hands. We are replenishing our stock of spare clothes to be used on those days we have water play at our centre!

Finally, we would like to remind our families to keep fees one week in advance at all times. Any queries regarding your account, please do not hesitate to contact Tracee who will be able to assist you further.

Keep in touch on Facebook



Bay Island Early Learning and Care

## Child Safety Tip

### Electrical safety

Here are tips for electrical safety at home:

- Get a licensed electrician to install safety switches, which cut power off quickly to avoid electrocution.
- Get a licensed electrician to do any repairs.
- Replace electrical appliances and cords if they're worn.
- Use power point covers.



## Community Links

The Centre for Women & Co. is a not-for-profit organisation that exists to educate, support and empower women and their families across the Redlands and Logan region.

Mel is the Community Educator for SMBI and can help with any assistance you need, Call 0491 357 136 or visit <https://centreforwomen.org.au/>



## Sustainability at Home

### Non-toxic house hold cleaners.

Borax, vinegar, baking soda, salt, and lemon juice are a few of the many natural alternatives. Non-toxic homemade cleaning products aren't only better for us; they can also help save us money *and* protect the environment. Making your own products cuts down on packaging waste and reduces the release of household chemicals that can contribute to air and water pollution. The best news? The majority of the most powerful cleaning products may well already be on our pantry shelves.



## Sustainability in the Service

At Bay Island Early Learning we pride ourselves in role modelling energy and water conservation practices (turning off lights and a/c when the rooms not in use, emptying water play containers into gardens etc.) and explain its benefits to our children.

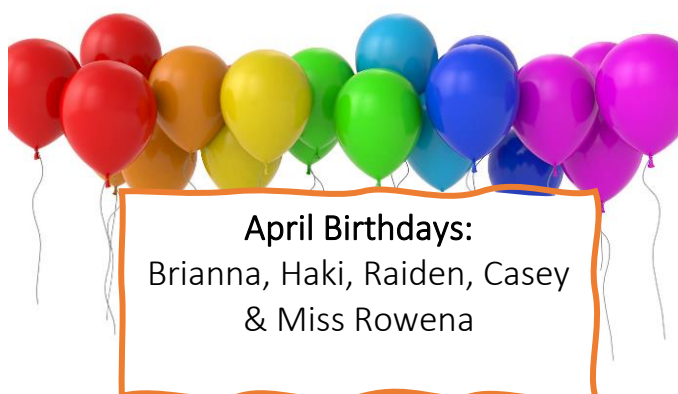
Sustainability education, enables educators and children to promote a sense of responsibility, show respect for the natural environment, be active participants and bring about enquiry and social change.



## Early Years Learning Framework in Action

### OUTCOME 5: CHILDREN ARE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS

- Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes
  - Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts
    - Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media
    - Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work
- Children use information and communication technologies to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking



**April Birthdays:**  
Brianna, Haki, Raiden, Casey  
& Miss Rowena

A gentle reminder, parents utilising our **courtesy buses** it is recommended that:

1. Children must wear shoes while boarding and disembarking the buses.
2. Food – while children are traveling on our courtesy buses no food is to be brought or consumed. We ask that children a feed prior to boarding due to chocking hazzard



Source: <https://bilingualkidspot.com/2019/05/20/literacy-activities-for-preschoolers-kindergarten-toddler/> (2019, October 10). 20 Literacy Activities for Preschoolers. Retrieved from <https://bilingualkidspot.com/2019/05/20/literacy-activities-for-preschoolers-kindergarten-toddler/>

## LET'S MAKE A SHOPPING LIST

We all have to shop for food and making a shopping list is a fantastic literacy activity for pre-schoolers.

Give your child their own notepad and pen and have them make a shopping list. The spelling doesn't have to be correct- the words don't even have to make sense. That's ok.

This is the beginning of writing and understanding the purpose of writing. Have your child bring their list with them, get their own little trolley or basket and shop with you.



### Sand Play

There is no right way to use sand. It invites participation; it permits children to make and test hypotheses; it stretches the imagination; it provides a potentially soothing sensory experience; and it is an excellent avenue for children to learn physical, cognitive, and social skills.

Because sand play is open-ended, the child determines the direction and path of his or her own play. This freedom then clears the way for the child to build developmental concepts.

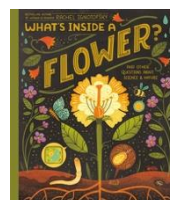
Sand play promotes physical development. Large muscle skills develop as children dig, pour, sift, scoop, and clean up spills with brush and dustpan. Eye-hand coordination and small muscle control improve as children learn to manipulate sand and accessories. Sand play also promotes social skills.

When children work together at the sandpit (or table) they are faced with real problems that require sharing, compromising, and negotiating. A group may engage in dramatic play as they "cook," construct roadways, dig tunnels, or create a zoo for rubber animals. As children take on roles associated with their dramatic play, they learn important social skills such as empathy and perspective taking.

**National Quality Framework** | Quality Area 3:  
*Physical Environment Element 3.2 The service environment is inclusive, promotes competence and supports exploration and play-based learning.*

## Book reviews

Celebrate Earth Day with these beautiful picture books.



### WHAT'S INSIDE A FLOWER

RACHEL IGNOTOFSKY | 4 - 7

*Nurture their curiosity about the natural world—starting with what's inside a flower.*

### My Friend Gordon

Tess Rowley

*The book is a heart-warming story of a sequence of learnings for a young kid, based around their new rescue dog, home and school life. 'My Friend Gordon' depicts true to life events, offering learnings and positive messaging around healthy friendships to children and opportunities for adults to take the conversation a little further.*

### MY FRIEND EARTH

PATRICIA MACLACHLAN | 3 - 6

*Our friend Earth does so many wonderful things! She tends to animals large and small.*

## Edible Sensory Foam

What you need to make Edible Sensory Foam.

- 1 portion of Aquafaba (the liquid drained from one 400g can of chickpeas)
- 1/4 teaspoon Cream of Tartar
- Food colouring (optional)

All you need to do is place the juice of the chickpeas into a bowl and beat away with some electric beaters until stiff peaks form. We used the Thermomix. It took about one minute on speed four with the butterfly in place. The mixture was silky, glossy and super smooth!



# A message from our rooms

**Ocean Turtles** – Hello everyone, we have had a great month of March in our ocean turtles room. We have been focusing on colours this month and have done so by incorporating sensory activities as well as learning opportunities to explore different colours and learn through play in our safe environment. The children have enjoyed spending time with the centre's animals including the chickens and visits from Felix the turtle. This allows the children to feel connected to their world and helps them learn the understanding of being gentle to our animals. This month we will be focusing on Easter as well as learning about ourselves, we will be doing this through songs, music, sensory activities, art and craft and intentional teaching moments and we look forward to more playing and learning.



**Ocean Joeys** - This month in the ocean room -Joeys the children have really enjoyed exploring musical instruments- rocking out on a guitar, drums, clapping sticks and singing into a microphone. Using a microphone the children are engaging



socially, turn taking and becoming involved and confident in learning. Introducing Cultural diversity within our room using musical instruments/songs Miss Rowena singing in her national language Head shoulders knees and toes, using African drums and aboriginal clapping sticks.

We are going to focus on our environment our gardens and learning about sustainability and natural resources. Introducing natural ways of painting and natural collage.





**Bush Koalas** – Time flies – Hello again from us in the Bush-Koala room. The children settling very well with the routines and transitions, working together at play time, engaging each other in group activities.

Our highlights for this month the children enjoyed our Harmony Day celebrations.

Harmony Day is an attempt to acknowledge the

contributions of multicultural communities to Australian society, to celebrate the children were involved in a cooking experience making spring rolls (which the children said “Yum, Yum Miss Budi) We also dressed up in traditional costumes, learnt new songs, counting numbers in different language – Indonesian.



We also talked about different countries of the world and how they may be different to Australia – houses, food, skin colour, eyes etc, followed with an art and crafts to incorporate multicultural activities.

This learning experience builds children’s connectedness in different ways of belonging with people, countries and communities and helps them learn ways of valuing traditional practices of their families and communities.



The last week of this month the children are getting ready for their Easter celebration with lots of activities planned to then follow on into April.

**Rainforest** – Over March, the Kindergarten children are enjoying story telling familiar stories including The Three Little Pigs, The Little Red Hen and next we will be moving on to Wombat Stew. The children are building a confident self-identity as they perform in front of an audience using familiar lines. We have been building positive relationships as we learn games that embed turn taking and sharing including Sandy Boy/girl, Cut the Cake, Throw the bean bag and catch, Memory and Snap.



The children are becoming more independent at running their own games as they explore concepts of fair and rules of a game. They are using systems like moving around in a circle for you turn.

The programme has embedded experiences that foster developing awareness of the senses with an interactive science table set up with kaleidoscopes, lenses, glasses, torches and coloured Perspex boxes and smelling jars. We made rainbow juices to taste, made a graph of eye colour, guessing what we are feeling, making pizzas from fresh sough dough.



It was lovely to go on a Rubbish Hunt throughout the Centre and down at Corrobboree Park. The children made connections to the impacts that we can have on our environment and ocean animals as we learnt our song about rubbish, removing rubbish from a mock ocean scene and creating an art piece. "If you see a piece of rubbish.....Pick it up. "

Some of the children are displaying an interest in volcanoes so we have been exploring the structure of the earth, rock display, volcano art, setting of a volcano in the sand pit and during the next couple of weeks a clay sculpture. I do love having the opportunity to show the children Google Earth and pretending to fly to space looking at Earth, Australia, Qld and our unique islands.

During April we will be continuing with our games and move into more board games and card games, ninja courses, tunnel ball and tennis. We look forward to the cooler weather and being able to enjoy more physical exercise without the heat. Walk-About-Wednesday is looked forward to by the children and Educators as we explore the wonderful world around us. If anyone is aware of some exciting places to visit on Macleay Island please let us know. A friendly reminder to ensure your child has closed in shoes on for health and safety purposes.



Thanks for your partnership

**The Kindergarten Team.**

**Curlew Cove** – The children at the Cove have been busy gardening with the donations of the woolworths little garden seeds that have led to a significant improvement in social interactions, group working skills and cognitive abilities. gardening project can teach responsibility to children, as they learn that it is their job to take care of their seeds and plants each day in order for them to be healthy. We will continue with this project through April and start connecting this project with the centre sustainability.

This Easter Holiday program starts April the 6<sup>th</sup>, We look forward to having our current children and some new, building those important, meaningful relationships which we have been working towards since the start of the year.

### THIS MONTH'S POLICIES THAT ARE CURRENTLY BEING REVIEWED

Our Centre encourages parent feedback when we are reviewing our policies each month. This month we will review the below policies with our families. They will also be at the Centre for viewing, on our website and facebook page where all families are encouraged to read and provide feedback on the forms.

✚ Emergency and Evacuation Policy

#### Parent Feedback on Policies reviewed this Month

Please complete the section below if you have any comments, suggestions or feedback on the policies we are reviewing each month. Your feedback is valuable to us and is part of continuing improvement plan within our centre. Thank you.

Policy Name:

What I like about the Policy:

What I would like to see changed about the Policy: