



'IF YOU BELIEVE IT WILL WORK, YOU'LL SEE OPPORTUNITIES. IF YOU BELIEVE IT WON'T, YOU WILL SEE OBSTACLES.' - Wayne Dyer

Star Kids LDC &  
Preschool

FEBRUARY  
2024



## ON *this* MONTH

AT  
Star Kids Long Day Care & Preschool

Safer Internet Day  
World Read Aloud Day  
Chinese New Year  
Valentine's Day  
International Mother's Language Day  
Project Based Learning  
Puppet Show Day





#### SAFER INTERNET DAY - FEBRUARY 6

Celebrated in 170 countries, Safer Internet Day is designed to bring the world together to make the internet a safer, more positive place. The eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) is

the official coordinator of the global Safer Internet Day effort in Australia. eSafety's campaign theme for 2024 is *connect, reflect, protect*.

#### WORLD READ ALOUD DAY - FEBRUARY 7

Join millions around the globe as we celebrate the power of reading aloud with World Read Aloud Day, held annually on the first Wednesday of February! World Read Aloud Day has evolved into a global movement of millions of readers, writers, and listeners from communities across the world coming together to honour the joy and power of reading and sharing stories and continue expanding the definition and scope of global literacy.

## Chinese New Year



Our Preschoolers celebrated Chinese New Year: Embracing Diversity in our centre. In our preschool, we believe in celebrating diversity and fostering a sense of cultural appreciation from a young age. This year preschoolers embarked on an exciting journey to explore the vibrant traditions of Chinese New Year! Our little learners dove headfirst into the festivities. From learning about the significance of the Lunar New Year to engaging in hands on activities, every moment was a celebration of culture and community.



# Valentine's Day



Love was the theme, and joy was the melody as our little stars at our preschool celebrated Valentine's Day with a flurry of delightful activities such as: crafty creations, musical merriment, artistic expression, and discussion. From heartfelt crafts to enchanting performances, our Valentine's Day celebration was a testament to the boundless love and joy that fills our preschool community. Through laughter, creativity and moments of connection, our little ones reminded us all that love truly makes the world go round.



# International Mother Language Day



At our preschool, the vibrant tapestry of languages was celebrated with boundless enthusiasm as our preschoolers commemorated International Mother Language Day through a myriad of engaging activities.

From storytelling sessions that showcased the beauty of diverse languages to collaborative art projects where children proudly displayed words and phrases in their mother tongues, every moment was a testament to the rich linguistic heritage of our global community. Through music, dance and cultural exploration, our little learners embraced the power of language diversity, fostering an environment of inclusivity and appreciation for the myriad ways we communicate.



# Project Based Learning



Dive into Dino-mite Creativity: Preschool Project Based Learning at our preschool. Roar some adventures awaited our budding palaeontologists as they embarked on an exciting project-based learning journey centered around crafting dinosaur tails and paper hats adorned with thorns! From imagination to creation, here's a peek into their prehistoric escapades: Exploration Discovery, Tail Making Extravaganza, Thorny Crown of Creativity.

At preschool, project-based learning isn't just about crafting; it's about igniting curiosity, fostering creativity, and instilling a love for learning that transcends time. Here's to our little and their roaring success in the world of dinosaurs!!

## FOCUS: The ART of creating

The process of creating and making art is natural to children, as they engage all their senses to explore the world around them. The arts enable children to use their whole bodies for learning and create endless opportunities for imagining and creating.

Children as young as 20 months can assign imaginative meaning to their playful mark making, art is a way to make their ideas, thoughts and imaginations visible.

Encouraging and engaging with children in art is essential in early development, with process art the preferred method for children to explore imaginative creation without direction, no right or wrong, and fun, pure, play. Allowing time as well is really important and the benefits are huge with creative exploration having many positive impacts on the development of your child.

### Some benefits of art for children include

- Relaxation: kids learn to focus and can explore feelings at their own pace, without interference
- Communication: art encourages language, as they discuss what they are seeing, feeling, wondering, evaluating
- Imagination: as they imagine and explore ideas, they will focus and concentrate, question and empathise
- Skill: children learn to predict, plan, problem solve as well as all the fine motor skills such as cutting, drawing, painting, printing.
- Children feel a sense of emotional satisfaction when they are involved in making art, whether they are modelling with clay, drawing with crayons, or making a collage from recycled scraps. This satisfaction comes from the control children have over the materials they use and the autonomy they have in the decisions they make.

When creating an artwork, children make decisions and continue to self-evaluate as they go. They decide what they will create, how they will create, mood, colour, form, who or what. As children grow and develop, their art-making activities move beyond exploring with their senses and begin to involve the use of symbols. Drawings move from scribbles to symbols, and all have meaning. Children begin to represent real objects, events, and feelings in their artwork. Drawing, in particular, becomes an activity that allows them to symbolise what they know and feel. It also helps children to make sense of the world, and visually step out what they are experiencing or feeling.



### Encouragement is key

- Have a genuine interest in what they are doing, and listen to their meanings.
- Provide quality materials that spark joy (rather than cheaper paint colours that always end up icky brown)
- Give them plenty of time, and let them return to works in process, let them decide when an artwork is complete
- Having a permanent space for children to create is also important and can also keep the creative projects in one designated area
- Most importantly, share their delight in discovery, what they have created. This encourages feelings of self-worth and opens up communication channels. Art can be the place where you are able to chat openly together, and as they grow, continue to develop that link together

Allowing art making at home is the first step to developing the whole child through art experiences. Child friendly materials are easily accessible these days, and there are so many how-to inspirations for adults on the internet. Approach with open ended play, provide materials and invitations to play, as well as parental involvement without interference. Let it be a joyful experience!



Read the article via the QR code.

Source: Boyd, Janine. (2022, July 04). **The ART of creating**. Retrieved from [kiddomag.com.au](http://kiddomag.com.au)

## PRE-WRITING LINES

**Pre-writing lines are lines and shapes that toddlers and pre-schoolers learn in a developmental sequence that help them to form letters later on for handwriting. Lines down, across, cross shapes, circles, squares, and diagonal lines are all considered pre-writing lines.** Pre-writing lines are typically copied and traced on paper, however here are some fun, non-conventional ways to practice them. Try a paintbrush in sand, a finger in shaving cream, peeling stickers and tracing the pre-writing lines. Go to [growinghandsonkids.com](http://growinghandsonkids.com) for a huge list of ideas!







## Being Environmentally Responsible

*Sustainability is more than gardening, worm farms or composting. As educators, we have to think beyond these green activities. Sustainability has shifted away from being just about environmental education to thinking about it as education for sustainability (Davis, 2010). Although both education threads are separate, they are certainly not isolated. Education for sustainability is about linking the 'about' with the 'doing'. - Yvonne Paujick Curriculum Lead Teacher Campus Kindergarten University of Queensland*

### Within our Service children:

- Connect with the natural world Children use their senses to explore their surroundings through free play and guided discovery.
- Learn to care for the environment through Play and directed activities. This may be sorting items into their correct bins, caring for 'injured' wildlife, planting gardens, observing wildlife.
- Observe sustainable practise through modelling from our educators and daily practise.

Being environmentally responsible is neither a subject nor an 'add on', it is a way of thinking, a way of practice. Education for sustainability is interdisciplinary and involves different members of the community with different expertise and knowledge collaborating together to tackle issues that affect sustainability.

We hope children think of sustainability as being broader than the environment, to thinking about how people and change can influence every living thing. Encourage and support your child and the next generation at home by being environmentally responsible in every possible way.

**National Quality Framework | Quality Area 3:**  
*Physical Environment Element 3.2.3 Environmentally responsible*

## Puppet Show Day



### TWISTER

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

Check your games cupboard for this oldie! Physical games such as Twister help to strengthen core muscles, improve balance and strength, as well as improve their hand-eye coordination. It also encourages focusing with their brains while undergoing physical exertion - further strengthening the bond between their body and brain.