



Blue Stars 2017 Report

Wow can you believe we are heading towards the end of another year and what a great year it has been. Our program has run on a Tuesday and Thursday morning 9:00am – 12:00pm.

Our indoor/outdoor program has been great success where the children get to choose in which area they would like to play. Activities are set up in both areas and their play can be intertwined as many activities can overlap between outside and inside. We have rotating snack again where the children can come for snack between 10am and 10:45am, it has worked well as some children are hungry at 10 others are not ready to eat until a little later.

Having an indoor/outdoor program allows the children to continue play throughout the session without having to pack up until the end, in turn encourages their creativity and supports their play in a more open ended environment. This year we shared the yard with the older rainbow children and this worked wonderfully with the bigger children assisting the smaller ones. Pushing the children on the swings, giving the smaller children turns on the bikes and scooters. It has worked really well.

At this age all children learn through play so throughout the year we have offered a wide variety of play opportunities for the children to use to learn about themselves and their world. However some children will lack the confidence or skills needed to engage in this play so we then assist by guiding, demonstrating, directing and role playing until the children have the skills and confidence to tackle it themselves unassisted.

During the year we have had some fun experiences; the group this year has loved sensory play. We have had sand, shaving cream, finger painting, water, rice and gelli bath just to name a few. We have also made playdoh and putty and the children were able to take this home. The children love getting their hands dirty but in the process have learnt lots of new skills and have been very creative. We are always looking for and trying new ideas with art, the children have created some amazing artwork with some of the different methods we have used such as marble painting; splatter painting, spray bottle painting, splodging, roller, string painting, golf ball painting and magic painting and these are the ones I can remember. We also tried some different ways of painting this year; we did shaving cream painting, eye drop painting and powdered educol dye painting.

Our dramatic play areas have included home corner, florist shop, grocery store, safari bus, pirate ship, police car, mechanics workshop, construction site, fairy garden, space station, ice cream shop, puppet theatre, Hair Salon, Chinese and Italian restaurant, camping, bbq and picnic area that's a lot of areas where the children can explore and engage in role play and social interactions.



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We want to be able to ultimately give the children many different areas where they can explore and learn at their own pace but above all it's about fun and enjoying their time at kinder.

Cooking is always a highlight as the children get to make many different things and get to take them home or sometimes we eat what we have made at snack time. The children have cooked cookies, muffins, scones, sausage rolls, cheeses twists and chocolate balls just to name a few. The recipes we have done with the children are easy for the children to follow and allow the children to learn about measurement, ingredients and how it all comes together to create something that they can eat.

Some of the special events at kinder this year was our Mother's day morning tea, which was very special as the children made lovely presents and cooked all the food for our mums. We also had PJ day at kinder where the children wore their pajamas to kinder and made a gold coin donation to Melbourne City Mission, we raised \$33.00 this year what a great effort. We had our special visitor's day and what a great turn out we had and I think many of our visitors were taken back to their own childhood as they were having lots of fun and happy to explore and participate in the activities we had at kinder.

During fourth term we will have two incursions. Heather from music kids has come to visit and did some great music, movement and storytelling with the children. We will also be visited by Candy Can the clown who plays games and sings with the children and the children can get their face or arm painted. Both incursions are lots of fun; I think Kellie and I will have just as much fun as the children.

As most of you know your child has a portfolio filled with special and ongoing progress of your child at kinder. The camera plays a big part in our everyday life at kinder and the children are so used to getting their photo taken now that they often ask me to take a photo of them or the activity they may have been doing. This method allows us to capture things at times that we would not see and record conversation that goes with a photo that can tell a story. We are able to have pictures of special events and it is all put in your child's portfolio that is yours to keep at the end of your child's journey at kinder. I love the port folios and I enjoy adding to their portfolios with new and exciting things your child is experiencing at kinder.

Throughout the year we have seen great changes in all the children. Those little quiet children who were only interested in themselves now keenly come to kinder and look for their friends ready to play together. They look forward to the challenge of something new and different and now keenly listen to all the story eager to hear what is going to happen next. The children are now busily trying to organise play dates with their friends and party invites are a plenty.



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This group of children is certainly going to enjoy the challenges that “Big Kinder” has to offer and I look forward to watching them all grow and develop into even more independent little people in 2018. To those who are staying how lucky we are we to have you for another year. To those moving on to other centers in 2018 we wish them all good luck for next year. We are sure you will have a lot of fun.

Thank you
Shar Henderson & Kellie Southam.

Special Thanks

As another year ends it is time to remember all those who have helped this year run smoothly. As always the ever reliable Belinda has done a great job coordinating everyone and making sure that everyone knew what was happening and when.

Thank you Belinda for keeping everyone informed and coordinated so that everything happened when it should. I would personally like to thank you Belinda for all your support and your constant belief in me and answering my constant questions. Our debriefs in the mornings are much looked forward to and the laughs are always a plenty and for your amazing friendship.

To Jo who is always willing to help and do extra things to make our lives a little easier, thanks for the laughs and friendship throughout the year.

To Genevieve it's been fun being able to spend some time with you this year, thanks for the laughs and support.

To Jess who has become a great part of our team, we are lucky to have you.

To Kellie my partner in crime, we have lots of fun and we have had a ball with the children this year. Thanks so much for the support, ideas, staying back and helping with the program and all the extra things you do to help the room run smooth.

Thanks for the friendship and support.

What an amazing bunch of people I work with; they make it a pleasure to come to work and looking forward to doing it again with all of you next year.

No kinder can run smoothly without a dedicated team of committee members and this centre certainly has that. Thank you to all the committee for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year. It has been a pleasure working with such a professional group of people. Thank you for your constant support. I'm sure that as many of you leave the committee this year that the new found skills you now have will be very useful in the years to come. You have all done a fantastic job.



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I would personally like to thank one very special committee member who has been with us for nine years Mary Merton what a lady, her dedication and her constant willingness to make our kinder a better place for us as staff and the children is beyond compare and I don't know how we are going to go not seeing her gorgeous face around the place next year. Thank you Mary Merton you are a star.

Lastly but not least thank you to all the parents that have helped in so many ways. Without your constant support and assistance we could not run our program. Thank you for assisting with kinder duty and a special thank you for all the extra things that you have shared with us to enhance our program. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Most importantly thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's education, it is a great honor. Your children are what make it an absolute pleasure for me to come to work and be a part of their lives in a small way. I know I have certainly made some great new friends who I look forward to keeping in touch with in the future.

Thank you
Shar Henderson