

Well what a year it has been. This **final newsletter** is a **reflection of the last few months** and some of the things that we have experienced and been a part of over this time. The photo and saying (below) is what we have been dealing with day to day, week to week... **Change...**but we got through it together and **we want to thank everyone for working with us through the process.**

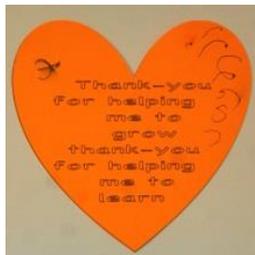


When we came out of lockdown it was great to **revisit our story "Birdie and the virus"** and to see that we also got to the end of the story. 😊



- Our current procedures will continue to the end of this year and then we will review again with whatever is current then.

- * **Bookings** have been taken and if you need to **update any information** on file **for your child** please let us know.
- * **The week from Monday 13th - Friday 17th of Dec** will be our **end of year Celebrations.**
- If you would like to contribute in any way please let us know.
- * **Photo day Tuesday 7th Dec** See note on door for times and conditions...**it will be an early start.**



It is always great to receive **acknowledgement for what we do...** as **Educators** and **Essential workers.** **Thank you to Jayhli and family** for this special message. As a Team **we are committed to providing education and care for the early years,** which is the **foundation for life.** **Inclusion is another one of our strengths.** It is great to hear **from children** at morning tea commenting about **apples** that reflects this... **they are different colours on the outside, but the same inside.** We receive our **2021 Inclusion Service Star** from **Myra Wells** our **IP Inclusion Professional** as recognition of our efforts with Inclusion within our service, for our families and community. Well done Little Diggers Team.



Through our relationships and routines on arrival and departure, **children and educators pass on our embedded practices and reflect our philosophy...** and this continues over the day of play and learning.

* **Kinder Start...**

We have **strong relationships** and **work in collaborative partnerships with families and communities** - with the transition to school as well as access and participation (QA6.2) This program is underway and **Mary Cross is the contact person** at the **Lightning Ridge Central School,** if you have any questions. Again, we have had to **adjust things slightly** and we have been able to keep the program going **using such tools as social stories.**





We had a different Father's Day this year...

For some children we provided the materials that they could make their gift and card at home. Thanks for sending through photos.



♥ I am Nuts about You... 😊



Our garden has been growing...

We pulled out the weeds. Added strawberry, pumpkin, tomato seedlings and planted corn seeds.

We harvested our asparagus. The lemon tree flowered and has green lemons now. The children are waiting for them to turn yellow.





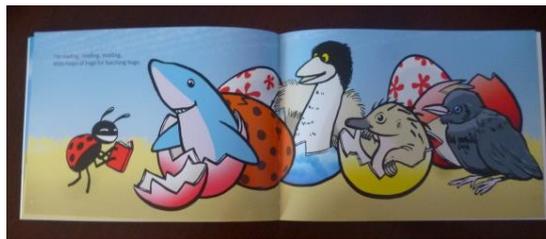
Other play experiences the children have been involved in...
 (Left) **Extending on our pumpkin interest** around Halloween, **the children made Pumpkin Scones with Miss Tish.**



Children dancing with streamers to music with Miss Megan... developing their self-regulation skills... moving and then stopping, when the music stops.



For **Indigenous Literacy Day 2021 - Katherine Cross** from the **LRCS** arranged books for the children and we revisited the book we made last year for our local **Yuwaalaraay Language and Culture Group** who were also able to connect with us.



We received the book **"Read, Run, Read"** which was the **Paint the Town Read across Australia Tour** which came up to **Lightning Ridge** for the **hatching of the Dhinawan**, who go to meet the **Reading Bug from Parkes and Barbie Bates.**



Using technology we also **connected** with the **LRCS for Australian Reading Hour...**
 We love to talk, read, sing and rhyme with our children.



The **children also love to connect and share their interests** (see above right) and bring special books from home. We are fortunate to have our **Yuwaalaraay Language and Culture Group** with **Aunty Liz and Alicia** come to visit and share their knowledge with us, through experiences such as **Dhaygal Walarr** - head, shoulders, knees and toes and games connected with the song **"Red, Black and Yellow"**. This is the best age to learn language and then children can build on this when they go to school.

During this time we have **made connections with Mara Gaya - Happy Hands and Garranga Bumarri – Pelican from Inner West Sydney. Thank you also to IGA for providing transport on their truck with these resources, supporting our communities.**



Yaama Maliyaa :)
 Your friends and family in Sydney are thinking of you and we have put together a special pack for you to bring some fun to your time in lockdown.
 We can't wait to see what you create.
 Baayandhu Birralii, from Vivi, Lindy and Lucy and our friends at Marrickville West Primary School., Connect Marrickville, Addison Road Community Centre, 33 Creative, and Corban and Blair.
 Delivered with care by Paint The Town REaD. XXX



Over this time we have **experienced much Kindness... Members of the community have brought Pumpkins and Oranges** to share with our families which was much appreciated. The **children wrote Thank you notes** and we also extended on this concept by **“Being the I in Kind”**. ♡



Another experience was **children at home using what they received in their packs.** At Little Diggers we also **implemented some new resource** given to us well as connecting with the **Department of Education weekly program** that was available.



The **children also added to the program with their own ideas...** from their chalk drawing we extended their imagination and creativity by **introducing Mr Squiggle...** an oldie but a goodie - using squiggles to create images... looking at things from different angles what can you see.



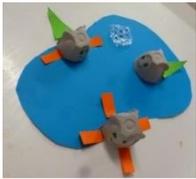
* **Connecting with... Nature, each other and the world around us...**



We put the leaves that had fallen from the tree in a box. This made a great **hiding place for dinosaur**... Where is it? Found it!

Engineering in action... Children working together, creating a mound in the sandpit. The challenge was then to carefully tunnel through to the other side without the mound collapsing.

*** Topics of interest...**



Frogs ... We explored this **life cycle** taking note of the changes. Sang songs, read books and used craft to create eggs, a tadpole, froglet and frog to take home and share with our family.

The children heard the **Bees in the tree** and asked the question... **"Where is the honey?"** So we used technology and researched this process... bees, flowers, nectar and honey.



Using our social and thinking skills we had **noughts and crosses in different formats**... buttons on a board, on the floor with masking tape and plates and then the drawn version. Concepts - three in a row, can be up, down, across and diagonal (extending our language and maths skills). The children were also learning about blocking.

North West News - Lightning Ridge and surrounding area

September 28th 2:50



The **Paint The Ridge REaD Dhinawan** gets its vaccination so it can continue being active in our community in a safe way to **Talk, Read, Sing and Rhyme**, supporting **Relationships, Literacy and Learning**.

*** First Aid Course...**

Update with Allen and Anne East.

Incident and emergency management for health and safety in a collaborative partnership, promoting a professional learning community. (QA2,6,7)

Right... Applying a pressure bandage.



Below...

CPR on a baby.

Working with an AED Automated External Defibrillator.



*** We now have a Hill...**



We have redeveloped our play area... where there was a fort, we now have a hill. This has opened up various physical play... Children were excited to running up, running down, slide and roll using our body.

Children also added equipment such as balls, trucks etc.

