

abc

Preschool Patter

Play turns out to be so stunningly essential to childhood, it is like love, sunshine, and broccoli all juiced together....Lenore Skenazy

Dear Parents,

Many parents ask "what do children really learn at nursery school, it seems like all they do is play all day?"

Throughout most of history, children have spent hour after hour playing with parents, siblings, teachers/caregivers, and friends. Play is so important in child development that it is been recognized by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights as a right of every child.

"Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength". It allows children to explore the world, practice adult roles, and gain confidence. And it improves children's social skills as well, by

helping them to "learn how to work in groups, to share, to negotiate, to resolve conflicts, and to learn self-advocacy skills."

PLAY

'Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning ... for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.'

- Fred Rogers

If play is so important to a child's development, then what is the impact of this reduction in play? In conjunction with a secondary message that children are receiving from today's high-pressure world -- that they must be the "best" at all times, children are showing higher levels of stress, anxiety, and depression.

How do we, Curro Castle, encourage learning through play?

Experiences with **blocks** help our young children's growing knowledge in math, literacy, and science. Playing with blocks also supports children's social and emotional development as they interact with, plan and share with their peers. When young children play with blocks they are having hands-on experiences

with concepts like fractions, construction, and gravity as well as creative thinking. Research show that children who build with blocks in preschool have better math grades in primary and high school than children who did not.



CURRO
Castle
Aurora



Puzzles help young children use the muscles in their fingers, hands, and wrists with increasing control. As children look at the pictures on pieces, they develop their visual perception skills. When children judge a puzzle piece's size and placement, turning it in their minds, they practice spatial awareness; the ability to see the object in relation to each other and oneself. These are critical foundational skills for reading and writing, as young children learn to make sense of printed letters and words on a page and as they gain control holding a pencil to write.

Sand, water, and other **sensory materials** are so very important for young children. They help build children's fine motor control as well as their thinking and social skills. Sand and water play also relax and soothe young children who are still learning how to control their emotions. They support curiosity, imagination, and experimentation. Since sand and water play are open-ended, there are many right answers and no wrong ones, as they experiment and test out their ideas. This builds children's self-confidence and curiosity.

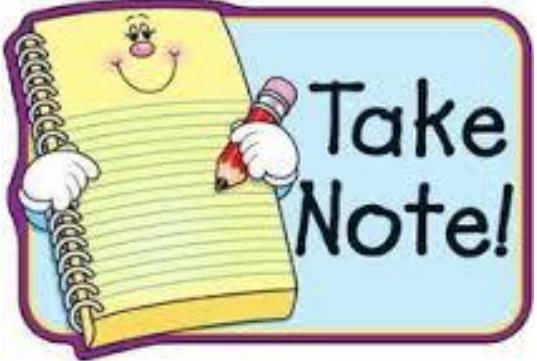
Manipulatives are materials that children touch, hold and explore with their hands and fingers (buttons, pop beads, stacking toys etc.) they assist in the fine motor development as well as scientific thinking (making hypotheses or guesses about what will happen)> children may count, sort, order or arrange manipulatives into groups. When children use manipulatives, they explore new ideas and use their imaginations when, for example, their Stickel Blocks become an airplane in their hand and they imagine flying through the clouds.



The key to helping your child reach his potential, without the added anxiety, is to find the right balance between work and play. What do we recommend?

- Give children ample, unscheduled time to be creative, to reflect, and to decompress
- Encourage your children to engage in active play (running around, climbing or playing tag) in lieu of passive entertainment (video games or television)
- Buy your children "true" toys, such as blocks or dolls, that encourage imagination and creativity
- Spend unscheduled, unstructured time together with your children
- Allow your children to have a say in which extracurricular activities they are involved in

Remember, play is a cherished part of childhood. By finding the right balance between work and play, your children will grow up happier, better adjusted, and more prepared to conquer the world.



March 13th, 14th & 15th Hearing Tests

March 20th & 21st School closed NO AFTERCARE

March 27th & 28th Parent Consultations

March 31st School Closes at 11:00 (aftercare runs as normal)

April 19th School reopens

Let's take a look!!

Teacher Faatimah

Wow, what an exciting term it has been so far. I am so fortunate to have gotten to know and spend time with my amazing Polar Bears. We had loads of fun, laughs and curious questions as we learned all about what is inside of our bodies and that we all have five senses.



Teacher Angie

We have had so much fun learning about nutrition this week at school. Teacher Angie told us how important it is to eat healthy foods and drink lots of water. We all brought in a fruit and made a big bowl of fruit salad. Once we were done with that we planted the seeds to see if they would grow into fruit that we used. We cannot wait to see if they grow.



Teacher Isobel

*Children's emotions are as real as yours.
Just because they might get sad over the colour of their cup, does not make their feelings any less real.* -Rebekah Lippé

An emotional week was experienced by all in the Crab Class. We discussed which actions lead to certain feelings and emotions. The children thoroughly enjoyed expressing their emotions by using play dough and aqueous cream to draw various facial expressions onto the table.

abc

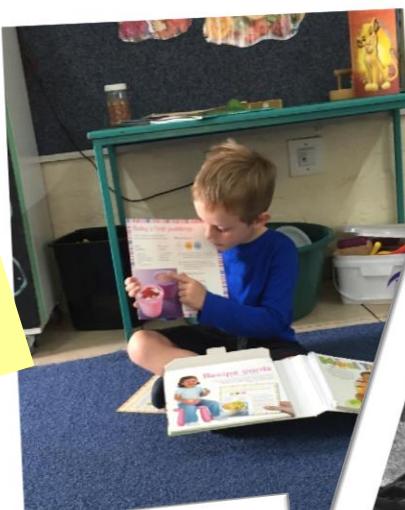
Teacher Candice

It has been an amazing start to our year in the Angelfish class. While each little one has settled in and explored their new surroundings while forming new friendships, we have enjoyed every moment from playing with our soft blocks and sharing show and tell, to having fun in the sun with some messy play. Your little angels are loving life and that's how it should be! We are so excited for all the new adventures still to come.



Teacher Bongi

During Friendship day the children celebrated friendships and sharing, by bringing a picnic, blanket and teddy bear to school. The children will definitely remember "Sharing is caring".



Teacher Ashleigh

This week the Starfish Class learnt about 2D shapes and colours. After talking about colours and shapes the children made a graph. The children put a large Lego block in front of their favourite colour and shape. Once the graph was formed we looked around the classroom for shapes and different objects that are the same colour. The children loved making the graphs using the large Lego soft blocks.





Teacher SJ

Welcome to the Penguin class for 2017! Our year has started with great excitement and enthusiastic little bodies that walk into the class each morning eager to start playing and participating in the day's activities. This week we learnt about our feelings and emotions, what makes us happy, sad, angry or excited. We had the chance to make our very own 'feelings' bottles by adding food colouring to water and other interesting bits and pieces like glitter and sequins. We also used aqueous cream to draw faces on a plastic table to depict our feelings. Something that made us really happy this week was Friendship day, we had a picnic on the beautiful school grounds and enjoyed sharing the treats with our friends.



Teacher Tammy

It has been a meaningful week in the Clownfish Class. We focused on understanding our emotions as well as how to treat one another with kindness. On friendship day we learnt the value of sharing and gratitude and our farm animal visit also gave us opportunity to discuss caring for and respecting animals.



Teacher Claudia

The Jellyfish class has spent the last few weeks exploring their five senses, feelings and our different emotions. We have been concentrating on sharing and taking turns with our friends whether it has been with our toys in the classroom or our snacks for Friendship day. We have shown that sharing is caring and how important it is to learn patience so we can all get a chance to enjoy and have fun inside as well as outside the classroom. With kindness comes caring!



Teacher Minke

Welcome to the Whale Class! We have definitely started the year with lots of energy, smiles and fun. We have enjoyed learning about what makes us happy, SAD, scared or angry. On Friendship Day the class enjoyed a picnic in the garden.



abc

Teacher Angela

This week the Sea Horse class had a great time of sharing "what makes me happy" during our theme of Feelings and Emotions.

From a biker to a ballerina we had such lovely 'show and tell' stories, the sharing of news and developing of confidence of speaking in front of each other was a great addition to our focus on communication in the class.

Another highlight this week, were our eye tests – having to wear a pirate eye patch made it all the more fun.



Teacher Sam

The Ladybug class "group 2.5" might be little seedlings, but they are most definitely the start of a loving Curro family. They have settled in so well and are on their way to a great future. We have finally started our potty training and are proud to announce that it's been a success. Well done to Ululo Dingezweni, Layla Gillespie, Isabella Naidoo, Kayal Pillay, Jeevesh Subroyen and Ariyanna Veeran for being such awesome toilet superheroes!

With the lovely weather we had the last few weeks the ladybug class decided that we do not need a swimming pool to have fun!!!

Teacher Lindi

Well, all the children in the class have now settled. They all just love their class and playground. Lots of fun has been had playing in the puddles too!



'From the desk of Janet Beyrooti'

