

EASTER VACATION CARE

Holiday adventures

Now that school is back its time to reflect on all the wonderful memories that we made during vacation care.

Every day we had new and exciting adventures. We would gather in the morning and talk and discuss the current events over some morning tea, then off on the bus we would go.

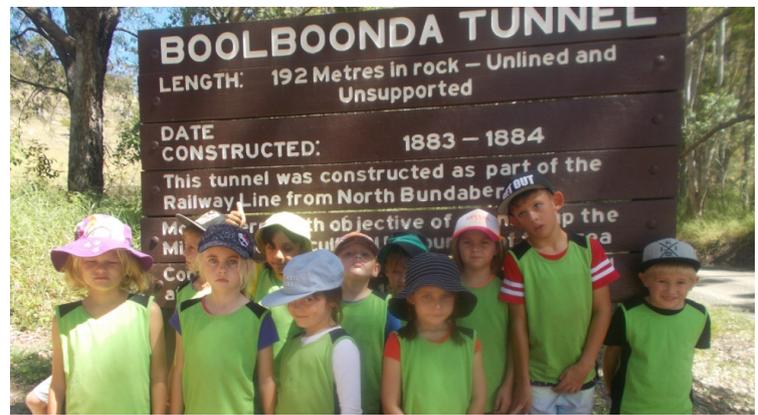
We visited Boolboonda Tunnel which is the longest unsupported tunnel in the southern hemisphere and home to some little bent wing bats. We were told not to take the bats off the wall since they would be unable to reattach and may die. While we were in the tunnel Miss Miranda noticed a bat on the ground that was still alive and she was able to help it reattach to the wall. The children were extremely proud that they had helped to save a bat.

Planting trees with Michael from Landcare was another experience that connected us to our environment. We learned how to plant the trees and got very dirty doing so. The trees we planted are at the back of the Base Hospital car park. It will be interesting for the children to go back and watch their trees

grow.

We also spent time in the local parks and beaches as well as some of the fun activities available in Bundaberg like Gymfinity and Old McDonalds Farm. To finish off the holidays we had a pizza party and a trip to the movies to see Zootopia.

Now we are back at school and its time to focus on learning again and wonder about the exciting adventures for next holidays.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

Part 2

As previously mentioned it is great for children to learn protective behaviours but experience has taught us that actions by adults can be more effective than relying on children to protect themselves from sexual abuse. Clear communication is a cornerstone of effective prevention. Make sure other adults and older children understand the expectations younger children will have of them and how their cooperation will help keep children safe.

Talk about touch. When talking with children about touch, remember that sexual touch can be very confusing. Many families prefer to talk about 'secret' touch or touch that makes a child uncomfortable. "It is not OK for anyone to touch you in any way that makes you feel uncomfortable—not Mum, Dad, aunts, uncles, teachers or even your friends. Your body is yours and yours alone and you always have a right to say no to someone"

Explain about tricks. Some people who sexually abuse children use tricks or bribes to keep children from telling. They might promise a gift or allow a forbidden treat; or they might tell the child that it is their fault or that no one will believe them, or that if the child tells anyone they will hurt their family or pet, etc. Explain these tricks to your children and reassure them that

you can handle the situation. "As your parent, aunt, guardian, I will always be here to keep you safe and will always believe you and love you." "If someone touches you in an uncomfortable way it is never your fault." "They just tell you that to trick you."

Involve other adults. Children need to know that there are other adults they can confide in. Sometimes children are afraid that they will 'get in trouble' if they tell their parents about something. This fear can be reinforced by the person who is harming them. Help your children to realise that there are other adults who can help them if they don't want to talk to Mum or Dad. Ask "If you don't feel comfortable talking to me about something, who else can you talk to?" or "What if something happens at school, church, the park, who could you talk to?"

Be approachable. By initiating conversations about healthy sexual boundaries, by answering questions accurately and respectfully, by handling disclosures calmly and reassuringly, you send the message that you are someone your child (or other children you care about) can talk to even when something has already happened.

If you have any questions or concerns in relation to this article please contact Phoenix House on 4153 4299.

ACORN ON BRANYAN

Platypus room

Children in the Platypus Room are currently learning about Bugs and Insects. Our learning environment is encouraging children to observe, investigate and be enthusiastic about learning. We started reading "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" this week. This story is the perfect foundation for us to start learning about caterpillars, cocoons and butterflies.

Mason brought in a cocoon for us to see and touch. We made some observations about the cocoon and named materials that were used to make it. Our Platypus friends enjoy sitting around the 'touch and see' tank anticipating a butterfly.

Sebastian brought in his great-grandmother's butterfly collection. Their colours were amazing and our Platypus friends enjoyed having the opportunity to hold a real butterfly.



The Very Hungry Caterpillar: Look at all the things the caterpillar ate! He was VERY hungry!



Bugs and Butterflies: Learnings about these little creatures in the Platypus room

Owls room

Welcome to all our new friends who have joined our Owls room these past few months.

We are all settling into our routines and having fun meeting our new friends and educators. During mat time we get to learn how to roll over, sit up and some of us have started to crawl. Music with Miss Brande is fun and we participate eagerly in our lesson time with clapping, singing, playing drums and dancing around with our educators. We are also learning to feed ourselves morning tea and hold our own bottles with the support of our educators.

Welcome once again to all our new families who have joined us at Acorn and welcome back to our already current families. We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning ahead.

- Miss Sam and Miss Kris.

NOTICE TO FAMILIES

Change to entrance

As of Monday 9th May 2016 the Acorn Babies side entrance will be closed.

The service will have one entry only on the Crofton Street side of the building. The sign in and out procedure will remain the same on the iPads but will now be done in the main reception. The Crofton Street side car park will be for parents only, to make this transition easier on families.