



ST ANNE'S LONG DAY CARE CENTRE
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*Celebrating 13 years of Early Childhood Education at St Anne's
 since 27th January 2010.*

St Anne's website under re-construction

*The St Anne's website "revamp" is taking a bit longer than I thought....
 BUT it's on its way!!*

Dear Families,

As I drove into St Anne's last week, past the big grassy play space we call "The Green Space", I noticed the blossoming Gordonia. Please let me tell you about the Gordonia and the "why" behind its planting!

In 2015, Mr Adam Sullivan, Assistant Principal at Holy Family School, crafted 2 very unique statues, St Anne and her daughter Mary (the mother of Jesus). The statues were blessed by Fr Michael Nilon (the St Francis Xavier Parish priest at that time), on Friday 24 July 2015.

On Friday 28 July 2017, we participated in the 'Schools Tree Day' (as part of National Tree Day) by planting the tree in our own play space, that bears the blossom held by our statue, Mary—the Gordonia (commonly known as the "Fried Egg Plant" because the blossoms look like fried eggs). Children often stop by to talk about the "egg" in the "little girl's hand" so we decided to plant our own tree.

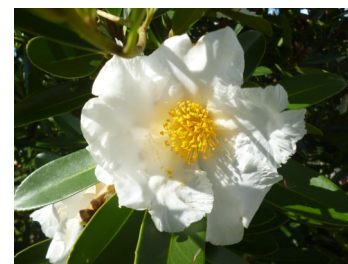
6 years later, our "Fried Egg Plant", the Gordonia is blossoming profusely, albeit a bit lopsided...that happened a few years ago when we (the Bee Keeper) had to "chop it" due to a swarm of bees that had made their home on some of the branches!...*There's always a story!*

*Yours as we educate and care for children together,
 Narelle Dewhurst.
 CENTRE DIRECTOR.*

St Anne and Mary



A Gordonia blossom...
 it really does look like a
 "fried egg" ↓



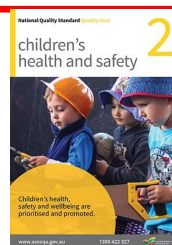
←Photo taken in March 2018

Photo taken
 Thursday 27 April
 2023→



FEEDBACK PLEASE

Would you mind taking a moment to leave some feedback for us in relation to National Quality Area 2 –Children's Health & Safety..
What do we do well?
What could we do better?



BENEFITS OF SENSORY PLAY

What is Sensory Play?

How often have you heard or read your child's Educators refer to 'sensory play'?

Sensory play is the type of activity that stimulates children's senses which are the different ways we perceive the world. Our brains use senses to help us manoeuvre in our surroundings and sensory play helps children develop them.

The five most commonly known senses are taste, smell, sight, touch, and sound. Most sensory plays focus on stimulating the touch, sight, and hearing senses because they are more accessible. Activities that can provide a sensory experience to stimulate other senses are also important although less common when people talk about sensory play.

Why is sensory play important? Sensory play in early childhood plays an important role in brain development because sensory stimulation is essential for sensory integration and cognitive development. Human brains are made up of trillions of brain cells (neurons) and nerve connections (synapses). Sensory activity can strengthen sensory-related synapses and functions in the brain.

Exposing children to various sensory experiences is necessary for a young brain to develop the proper sensory processing capabilities. Sensory play activity is especially important to children with sensory processing problems such as sensory processing disorder. These children tend to have difficulty engaging in sensory play activities.

Play is also essential to a child's development, such as language development, besides sensory development. Children become more creative by playing. They also build their linguistic, cognitive, visual spatial, social, and emotional skills.

Sensory Activities Ideas: Children of all ages can benefit from activities that stimulate their different senses. It is easy to create sensory activities using different objects at home.

There is no need to buy expensive sensory toys. Use ordinary objects in your house as sensory materials.

Here are some of the best sensory activities and fun ideas →

Tactile play: These objects provide sensory input to stimulate children's touch senses. Don't be afraid to try something new and have messy play activities. That's sensory learning!

- shaving cream
- hair gel
- baking flour
- play dough
- cotton balls
- water play with different temperatures

Visual play: sensory bottles filled with water and glitter for shaking and watching, finger-painting using art material, scavenger hunt.

Scented play: Fruit, flowers, spices.

Audio play: baby rattles, musical instruments, knocking on different types of materials to hear the different sounds, e.g. metal, wood, plastic, paper, etc.

Taste play: **Sweet** – apple, muffin, **sour** – orange, lemon, **salty** – pasta, bitter – kale.

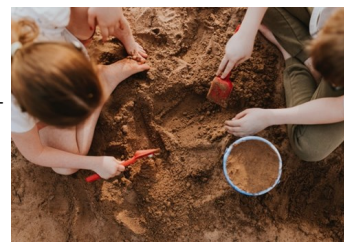
Asking children relevant questions while playing, about their sensory exploration, builds their language skills at the same time. Create a conversation that encourages your child to use descriptive words.

For example, ask these questions: How does it feel? What does it look like? Does it smell good? Do you like the sound it makes?

Final Thoughts On The Importance of Sensory Play

So, the next time you see your child play with random items like paper towel rolls, pots, straws, and toys, encourage them. Babies and toddlers can use anything and everything to explore the world, and by allowing them to follow their instincts, you help nurture their senses.

Li, Pamela. (2023). Benefits of Sensory Play and 21 Sensory Activities for Pre-schoolers. Retrieved from <https://www.parentingforbrain.com/sensory-activities-importance-sensory-play/>



Sensory play is a fundamental learning experience provided at St Anne's for all age groups.

Educators understand the connection between

stimulating children's senses,

brain development, and

LEARNING.

(For regular information re learning experiences please read your child's Day Book.)





DID YOU KNOW....

There is a “World Bee Day”?!

WORLD BEE DAY – MAY 20

World Bee Day celebrates our hard-working little pollinators.

Are you aware of the importance of Bees?



Bees are important to our livelihood as they help to pollinate most of the crops we eat and many that feed farm animals.

Nearly two-thirds of Australia’s agricultural production benefits from bee pollination.

But bee populations are under threat. Destruction of their natural habitat, intensive farming practices, and pests and diseases are just some of the complex reasons driving a decline in both the number and diversity of bees.

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PLEASE BE AWARE....

Honey should not be given to children under 12 months of age. Honey can contain a bacteria that can cause ‘Botulism’.. this includes honey used as an ingredient in a recipe as cooking honey does not destroy any of the bacteria that may be present.

Botulism is a rare but serious illness that causes paralysis. Botulism is caused by nerve toxins made by *Clostridium botulinum* bacteria. Botulism can result from eating food that has been contaminated with the toxin (foodborne botulism) or ingesting food, dust or soil that contains the bacteria that produce the toxin (intestinal botulism) or contaminating a wound with the bacteria (wound botulism). Intestinal botulism affecting children under 12 months of age is known as infant botulism. This is the most common form of botulism.

Congratulations to Hayley Cheek!



Hayley is a St Anne's Educator who came to us straight after completing Yr 12 at Xavier Catholic College in 2021. Hayley was a student who made visits to St Anne's with her 'Exploring Early Childhood Studies' class while still at school.

She then started full time work with us in January 2022 taking up an Apprenticeship with us, involving on-the-job training while studying for her *Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care* with TAFE Wollongbar.

Hayley worked full time with us, studying and held a casual job to supplement her income!

Well done Hayley....we are proud of you and glad you are one of our St Anne's Educators!

Hayley is currently an Educator in the Shells Room.

