

***Dr Harry Little Preschool Association Inc.***  
***Nominated Supervisor Report to Annual General Meeting for 2021***  
***By: Bronwyn Davies***

Hello children and families,

Welcome to Dr Harry Little Preschool.

I would like to start by introducing you to all our staff.

I am Bronwyn Davies, the Nominated Supervisor. Natalie Hobson is our Educational Leader.

In Room 1 we have Green and Blue groups. The teachers are Ange Dance and Cherie Hammer with Mara Dole as the educator. In Room 2, we have Red and Yellow groups. Teachers for this room are Nat Hobson and myself with Pauline Bell and Robyn Broderick as educators.

Christina Nankivell is the Pre-kinder teacher for both Orange and Purple groups with Maria Kilmartin as the educator.

Midway through the kinder year we said goodbye to Jo Morrison. She taught in both rooms. We thank her for all her contributions to our kinder. We then welcomed Cherie Hammer to our teaching team.

**A report on the kindergarten program of 2021:**

The kinder year began with an unexpected delay to the commencement of the program. During the Christmas holiday period we had some major repairs done to the building. As with aging buildings, some unforeseen repairs needed to be completed which took longer than expected.

We began the kinder year getting to know our kinder children and their families. We place the utmost of importance on helping children to feel comfortable, safe and happy in their kinder. We want to build a sense of trust between the kinder children and their families and the staff. For children to reach their full potential, they need to feel like they are valued and listened to. We work very hard to ensure children feel they can approach any staff member. We want the children to have a strong sense of identity and to be proud of who they are.

During term one we focused on the skills and interests of each child as we endeavoured to get to know them. We also focussed on families – the things the children like doing with their families, how families can differ etc. We know how important families are to children.

As the weather was quite warm, we discussed the season of summer and the impact on our environment. This was a great opportunity to further teach children about being sunsmart. As a part of our wider community, we also celebrated Easter with the children and discussed how Easter can be celebrated in many ways and sometimes not at all.

We asked the children what they would like to learn more about while they were at kinder. We were also able to observe what interests the children had and as a result we planned our

program around this. For the rest of the year the children indicated they wanted to learn about dinosaurs, space, people in our community (firemen/women, police, doctors, nurses, vets etc), Australia and other countries, volcanoes, animals, bugs and mini creatures, reptiles and the seasons of autumn, winter and spring. (Just to name a few!)

The children learnt new information by being involved in learning experiences, reading stories, puzzles, music, maths and science experiences. One example is learning about volcanoes. Before we begin learning about a new area of focus, we always ask the children what they know about this topic and then we can extend their knowledge. (We then know what we need to teach). After some in depth discussions and stories about volcanoes, we then made a paper mache volcano and “erupted” it with vinegar and bi carb soda. Of course, we needed to do this many times!!

In term four we also focus on the next stage of children’s lives .... going to school. We have many discussions about what to expect and how they may feel when they go to school. We set up our dramatic play space as a school, providing school uniforms for children to dress up. We also talk about who will be going to school with them from kinder.

Throughout the year staff are always observing children’s interests and skills. From these observations we plan the kinder program. We use the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework to base our planning on. We aim to assist the children to have a strong sense of identity and wellbeing. We assist the children to further expand on their sense of community – being a part of a family, a kinder, the Bendigo and district community and the wider world around them. We also plan experiences to extend the children’s ability to communicate – whether verbally, non verbal and in written format through the use of writing and symbols. We also work hard to extend the children’s learning – in all areas of maths, science, technology, music, art and dancing.

We are able to keep parent’s informed of their child’s progress through informal chats, email and by having parent teacher interviews mid year. In term 4, the teachers prepare a transition Statement for parents and primary school teachers.

For the second year we were restricted with having visitors at our kinder due to the Covid pandemic. We were able to have the children’s Mum/Special person at kinder briefly however this was not possible for the Dad’s or grandparents. We had many visitors booked however we needed to cancel all of them except for one. We were able to have the Pet Educator at our centre between lockdowns. She taught the children how to remain safe around dogs.

As we had lockdowns throughout the year our attendance levels fluctuated. For children that were not able to attend, staff provided home learning. We were always very happy to have our kinder children back on site with us!

This year we were very fortunate to have some school readiness funding available to us. This has been used through out the year to train staff to assist children in their language skills, social skills and sense of wellbeing as well as extending staff's knowledge on teaching the indigenous culture and many other cultures.

We have been very fortunate to have had beautiful children and families this year. We have had a committee who have worked very hard, under challenging circumstances with the impacts of the pandemic. It has been a year that has had its challenges but a year where we remained open and welcomed children and families into our centre and continued with our kinder programs at all times. Thanks to the committee for their ongoing support.

We look forward to meeting our new children and families and welcome you to the Dr Harry Little Preschool community.

We wish our 2021 kinder children and families all the very best as they go onto school next year.

Thank you

Bronwyn Davies.

Nominated Supervisor

Dr Harry Little Preschool