

Nangwarry Preschool Newsletter Week 8 Term 3



CHILDREN AS RESEARCHERS

We have been talking a lot lately in our Early Years Cluster Groups about 'Children as Researchers.' Children need to be active participants in their own learning and part of our job as Educators is to help develop research skills in children. It's easier than you might think, and harder than you think too! As long as we have the ability to sit back sometimes and allow children to get curious, to wonder about things and test their theories over and over, our young learners are motivated to keep exploring their world, to get to the bottom of things. Clearly at 4 and 5 years of age, a child's research skills are very different from an adults. Can you remember the first time you developed a theory about how the world worked? If you can recall that, how did it change over time? If you told an adult at the time, did they allow you to wonder and keep experimenting? Sometimes it is tempting to rush in and provide all the answers, and there are certainly times when children demand to know what you think. It's all part of learning. Listening to others and testing your theories out with others is an excellent way to really learn about the world we live in.

Research into the benefits of children engaging in research show that children's self esteem and confidence increases and they possess enhanced problem solving skills. Becoming an active researcher gives children a child's sense of agency, a feeling of being in control of oneself, which is something all humans strive for. Leafing through the children's portfolios and photos of their learning, it was easy to find loads of evidence where they were active researchers. Check some of them out on our display board this week!



Yours in Education and Care, Helen Wood