

Welcome to our very first 'Little Explorers' Newsletter!



Hello to all of our Little Explorers and their explorer guides- the wonderful parents, grandparents and family day care mums who come to Playgroup. It is truly precious to see all of you enjoying each other's company.

Each week our 'Little Explorers' have the opportunity to explore 3a Learning Games. These Learning Games are designed to be playful adult-child interactions. They are fun and simple and designed to go back and forth between partners. The Learning Games have simple instructions and a clear intention of what your child will be learning from this game. For more information <https://3a.education.unimelb.edu.au/assets/3a-public/downloads/3A-LearningGames-Booklet.pdf>

This week we will be meeting in the usual area (not the Hall as I suggested might be the case. I'm sorry for any confusion.)

I am particularly excited about us meeting in our usual area, as it will mean that we won't have to relocate all of the big cardboard boxes that I have been collecting for our Learning Games! Two of the games that we will be playing are:-



- **Learning Game 54**, which is called simply "Cardboard Boxes" and it encourages you to watch your child as he/she plays with the box (**Notice**). The game's card encourages you to then talk about how he/she moves and gives lots of opportunities to use position words, such as in, out, in front of, behind... You can use these positional words to **Nudge** your child to use the box for different things eg, "Can you stand behind the box?" This then give you the opportunity to "**Narrate**" what your child is doing eg "Oh, you are putting one box on top of the other one".

Your child learns

- to plan his play
- to use his imagination
- words for space and position



This **3N strategy (Notice, Nudge, Narrate)** is one way to help you make talk with your child intentional. There is a hand out about the 3N approach in the Playgroup room if you'd like to read more about this approach. And of course I am always happy to talk to you about this. Please ask me!

Learning Game 54 has been designed for children in the age range between 1 to 2 years of age, but we Prep teachers find that many children starting Prep become easily confused when they are given an instruction with a positional concept eg the instruction "Move forward" when children are sitting on the carpet is very tricky for some children. So I suggest that children of any age can benefit from playing this game.

- **Learning Game 155** "Bigger than me" is suggested for children in the 3 to 4 years age group, but can easily be played with children who are much younger. Playing this game helps your child compare sizes of objects, and helps them to use word endings, such as "er" (bigger, smaller). This game also uses cardboard boxes. So many useful objects that can be used to teach through play are objects that you probably already have at home.

I'm looking forward to see you Thursday, in the usual Playgroup area.

Happy playing and talking.

Helen Levitt

Playgroup co-ordinator



Fernvale SS Little Explorers Playgroup

Where: Fernvale State School
Prep Precinct
Brisbane Valley HWY, Fernvale

When: Thursdays 9:00-10:30am
during school terms!

Everyone is welcome!