

# Muddy Puddles!



It is not a child's instinct to be afraid of playing in the mud or get dirty, but instead it is adults who encourage them to be clean and dry, if we give them the opportunity to become muddy they will embrace it and be more likely to be not afraid of getting dirty when they are older.

Scientists have proved the health benefits of gardening and spending time in nature, and yet by discouraging children from being dirty, we actively move them away from fully experiencing the different learning and sensory opportunities that the natural world offers. By allowing them to be free to explore mud and rain we encourage their natural bonds with the environment and allow them to create their own learning encounters.

By providing adequate clothing such as waterproof suit and rain boots the children are free to explore in comfort without the worry of "catching a chill" and they have learned quickly that they can transition from outside to inside easily by removing their wet weather gear before heading inside, therefore keeping the inside spaces clean and dry.

"If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it." ~ David Sobel

## Title- Muddy Puddles Page Two



The morning was cold and wet so the children began the day inside, after morning tea it began to clear up and the mentors decided it was a good time to head outside.

Unfortunately as soon as the children had run to the hill the rain started again! With a quick slide down the mud slide they trooped back inside to get suited up in their wet weather gear.

After they had all put on waterproof jackets or their full waterproof suits, the children marched back out into the rain, ready to get muddy! With the slide getting slipperier and the mud puddle growing they chose their favorite dirty activity and started to play.



Eli and Kye decided to see how the rocks would affect the water, throwing them into the pools, they were joined by James, taking turns to throw and pick up the rock.

Skyla found a second rock to throw in the puddles, causing interference as the ripples from the different rocks collided. She then began jumping and sloshing around with James in the puddle. After a particularly massive jump by Skyla, Kobi, who was standing nearby with a big stick, exclaimed "you wet me!"



Gus also joined in with Skyla, telling an educator "I like jumping in puddles!" and splashing in his dinosaur suit. Skyla had a smile on her face the entire time she jumped in the puddles, jumping until she was soaking.

As the rain started coming down harder the children eventually all drifted over to the outside tap to start getting clean and then continued on towards the hub.

# EYLF- Outcomes

## **1-Children Have A Strong Sense of Identity relates to Emotional Development.**

Children feel safe, secure, and supported.

Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency.

Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.

## **2- Children Are Connected With & Contribute To Their World relates to Social Development**

Children become aware of fairness.

Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.

## **3-Children Have A Strong Sense of Wellbeing relates to Physical Development**

Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing.

## **4.Children Are Confident and Involved learners relates to Cognitive Development**

Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity.

Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating.

## **5.Children Are Effective Communicators relates to Language Development**

Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.