



AL IMAN COLLEGE – EARLY LEARNING CENTRE TERM 3 2023 NEWSLETTER

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu,
Respected Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We are excited to embark on a brand-new adventure as we bid farewell to an incredible Term 3 and eagerly embrace the promise of Term 4 at AIC ELC. It is with great joy that we reflect upon the fantastic activities and experiences that have shaped our time together.

In Term 3, we brought our ELC families together for a delightful Eid morning tea. This special occasion provided a wonderful opportunity for mothers to connect with their children and our dedicated staff, fostering a deeper sense of community.

Throughout Term 3, our children embarked on exciting learning journeys. They actively participated in NAIDOC Week, National Science Week, Book Week, Dental Health Week, and National Child Protection Week. These experiences enriched their knowledge and fueled their curiosity.

During term 3, children had an engaging Thingle Toodle Road safety education incursion, where they learned valuable lessons about staying safe on the road. This hands-on experience equipped them with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate the streets responsibly, ensuring their well-being and the safety of others.

On the 6th of September, we celebrated Early Childhood Educator Day, recognising and appreciating our incredible staff's hard work and dedication. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the parents who joined us in honouring our educators on this special day.

JazakAllah Khairan, for being a part of our ELC community. Your support and involvement make our AIC ELC a vibrant and enriching place for your children. Enjoy your holidays, and we look forward to seeing you in Term 4!

Wassalam,
Noor Illyaas
(On behalf of the AIC ELC team)

IMPORTANT DATES

Last day of Term 3 for:

- Kindergarten- Friday, 15th September 2023
- LDC- Friday, 22nd September 2023

Term 4 commences for kindergarten:

- Groups A & C- Monday, 2nd October 2023
- Group B- Tuesday, 3rd October 2023
- Group E- Friday, 6th October 2023
- LDC- Monday 2nd October 2023

IMPORTANT DATES in Term 4:

For Kindergarten A, B and C:

- Foundation teachers visit the ELC:
 - Wednesday 11th October, kinder group A and C
 - Thursday 12th October kinder group B
- Kinder transition visit to AIC Foundation level:
 - Wednesday 8th November, kinder group A and C
 - Thursday 9th November, kinder group B
- Kindergarten Graduation:
 - Tuesday 21st November, group B
 - Wednesday 22nd November, groups A and C



love your teeth

Dental Health Week

Kinder Group A & B – Sr Reham Mohamed



Dental Health Week, celebrated from August 7th to 13th, is an annual awareness campaign that underscores the crucial connection between oral health and overall well-being. This week-long initiative seeks to educate and inform children and adults about the significant impact of oral hygiene.



The kinder groups have been immersing themselves in dental health, discovering what foods make our teeth "happy" and what foods leave them "sad." During our group time, our room was transformed into a learning hub filled with curiosity and learning. A basket filled with representations of healthy and unhealthy food was introduced to encourage a discussion about our dental health, engaging the children in learning about food's effects on our dental health.

LCD (3+ years) – Sr Saman Tahir

During Dental Week, we organised various discussions and activities to raise children's awareness of proper dental care, specifically focusing on how to brush their teeth and how often to do so. During group sessions, the children had the opportunity to practice brushing on a model. They even created their own toothbrushes using popsicle sticks as part of a craft activity. To enhance their learning, we set up table mats featuring toothprints, toothbrushes, and two types of playdough – one white and the other grey- symbolising clean and plaque-covered teeth. This allowed the children to practice the correct brushing technique to remove plaque and maintain white teeth. Additionally, we took advantage of Dental Week to introduce the children to the concept of the "Miswak," a natural toothbrush that the beloved messenger of Allah (PBUH) used for dental care.



LCD (0-2 years old) - Sr Sidra Hassan

Al Iman College ELC recently celebrated Dental Health Week, which strives to instil a lifelong commitment to dental care, ensuring that children can preserve their smiles for years to come. Through interactive discussions and hands-on experiences, they gained valuable insights into the importance of this daily ritual. Our educational journey also included exploring healthy eating habits, accompanied by practical demonstrations of proper brushing techniques using a printed big teeth poster as a visual aid. Engaging in activities like sorting healthy and unhealthy foods further empowered our children to take responsibility for their health and overall well-being, setting them on a path towards a lifetime of dental wellness.



How will you science this National Science Week?



national science week

15–23 AUGUST 2020

scienceweek.net.au #scienceweek

Kinder Group A & B – Sr Reham Mohamed

Science Week celebrates innovation and the exciting advancements in science and technology shaping our future. Running from Saturday, August 12th to Sunday, August 20th, this year's theme is "Innovation: Powering Future Industries." Throughout this week, we have explored how innovation is revolutionising every sector of our economy and paving the way for a brighter, more sustainable future.

Children were engaged in an exploratory experiment designed to help them understand the concepts of sinking and floating. They diligently accumulated a variety of objects, their tiny hands collecting each item conscientiously, tangible evidence of their collective sense of purpose.



Children eagerly engage in an actual hands-on experience, examining the scales with a natural quest for discovery and putting their meaning into what they observe. They used the balance scales experimentally, employing various items surrounding the scales.

Children were interested in mixing red, blue, and yellow colours to create new ones. This experiment led them to create secondary colours and to name each new colour they created, demonstrating knowledge and understanding of colours.



During the outdoor activity of creating a volcano in the sandpit, the children exhibited a high level of excitement, curiosity, and engagement. The experience offered them a multisensory, hands-on opportunity to explore science concepts while fostering their creativity and collaboration skills.

Kinder Group C – Sr Saman Tahir

Children showed interest in colour mixing; they started with the colour pencils. To extend their learning, we did the colour experiment. Children started experimenting by using the watercolours and the droppers; they created their own lab. Through this experiment, children practice science thinking skills such as cause and effect, making predictions and comparing while observing the results.



Kinder Group E – Sr Saman Tahir

During the indoor play session, we observed a few children enthusiastically constructing a rocket ship and donning space jackets. Intrigued by their keen interest in space, we initiated a space-themed activity. The children eagerly immersed themselves in books about space and planets.



We embarked on numerous creative craft projects, with the children painting their planets and crafting stars using glitter. They were also provided various educational resources to encourage them to utilise recycling boxes to construct their rocket ships, which they adorned with foil.

Our efforts culminated in creating a dedicated space corner with posters, flashcards, and the planets and stars the children had crafted themselves. This experience was a testament to their boundless curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about the cosmos.



LCD (0-2 years old) - Sr Sidra Hassan

This term, we have had the fantastic opportunity to delve deeper into science with our young learners. It is truly remarkable to witness how science activities at an early age spark their innate curiosity and nurture their natural desire to explore and experiment.

One of our highlights was the creation of our very own lava lamp. Using simple ingredients like oil and watercolours, the children had the chance to play scientist as they carefully squeezed colourful drops into the oil. Their faces lit up with wonder as they watched vibrant bubbles gracefully descend to the bottom, creating a mesmerising movement within the container.

Another unforgettable moment was when we explored the enchanting world of colours by combining vinegar and baking soda. Armed with droppers, the children skillfully squeezed the vinegar into a container filled with baking soda, and to their amazement, hidden colours magically emerged, adding an extra layer of fascination to their scientific journey.

It has been an incredible term of discovery, curiosity, and hands-on learning, and we cannot wait to continue nurturing these budding scientists as they embark on captivating scientific adventures in the future.



STOP LOOK LISTEN THINK

ROAD SAFETY INCURSIONS

We became Thingle Toodle Road Safety Helpers

Educator (kinder group B)- Sr Fatema ElSabsabi

We had a Road safety education incursion called ThingleToodle on Tuesday, 18th July, as part of Victoria's Early Childhood Road Safety Education initiative, "Starting Out Safely".

We had a professor and her friend visit our kindergarten, and it was so much fun and engaging! The professor was hilarious, and she decorated the room to surprise her friend. Most importantly, she taught us how to cross the road correctly. We sang rhymes that helped us remember the essential rules of road crossing: "Stop, look, listen, think," and always hold a grown-up's hand.

Our children learnt the vital road safety concepts of holding hands with an adult before crossing the road. Stop! Look! Listen! Think! the vital steps before crossing the road that promote caution and safety, and the importance of using the correct car seat and seat belts. Children learned about Road safety and experienced joy, humour and creativity through this program.

At the end of the session, each child received a certificate certifying that they had participated in the program and had learned the essential rules of road safety.



Out and about – road safety



Educator Kinder Groups B and C – Sr Fadwa Benchaou

In AIC ELC, we understand the importance of teaching children about road safety from a young age. We planned an excursion around the school parking area to enhance the kinder children's understanding and provide a practical learning experience. Our goal was to create a safe and engaging learning experience, enabling children to develop their knowledge and skills in road safety while promoting their sense of responsibility as pedestrians.

Before the excursion, we introduced the concept of road safety through group discussions, books, and visual aids. We discussed traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, and following road rules. The children showed enthusiasm and curiosity, eagerly asking questions about cars road signs and crossing the road safely. Equipped with reflective vests, we reviewed our learning objectives and discussed safety guidelines. Each child was assigned a buddy to ensure their well-being throughout the excursion.

We began our walk, paying close attention to the adult leaders as they modelled the correct behaviour. We reminded the children to stay together, hold hands, and be aware of their surroundings. Along the way, we observed various road signs, including stop signs and pedestrian crossings. We explained their meanings and how they help keep us safe.

After our parking area excursion, we gathered in a circle to reflect on our learning. We asked open-ended questions to encourage the children to share their experiences and observations. They expressed newfound confidence in recognising road signs, understanding traffic rules, and being cautious around vehicles.

By exploring and experiencing various aspects of road safety firsthand, the children gained practical knowledge and developed skills to become responsible and cautious pedestrians. Through continued reinforcement and play-based activities, we will nurture their understanding of road safety, empowering them to make safe choices when interacting with traffic in the future.



Kindergarten Group A&B

Teacher: Sr Reham Mohamed

Book Week



Our kindergarten celebrated Book Week from August 19th to August 25th. Guided by the enchanting theme of "Read, Grow, Inspire," AIC ELC embarked on a week-long adventure into the world of books, fostering a deep love for reading and sparking the flames of growth and inspiration in the hearts and minds of our young learners. During this special week, we delved into the captivating stories that transported us to far-off lands and explored the limitless horizons of imagination found within the pages of a book.



The children enthusiastically participated in a storytelling activity using picture cards from their favourite storybooks. They carefully arranged these cards in a specific sequence to visually narrate the story. This engaging exercise served a dual purpose: not only did it bring the story to life creatively, but it also contributed to developing their communication and social skills. Through this activity, the children improved their ability to convey ideas effectively and learned valuable lessons in cooperation and teamwork.



Kindergarten Group C

Teacher: Sr Saman Tahir

Making damper bread



As our children were learning about numbers and basic arithmetic, we had an exciting idea: Why not engage them in a baking activity? During our group time, we researched what to bake, and we settled on making Damper bread, a traditional Australian bread. The children were thrilled with this choice and eagerly

participated in every step of the baking process, from kneading the dough to following the recipe instructions. They each created their delicious treat, which they later enjoyed during lunchtime. This baking activity was a valuable educational tool, enhancing the children's literacy and numeracy skills, fostering language development, improving their motor skills, teaching patience, and contributing to cognitive development.



Kindergarten Group E

Teacher: Sr Saman Tahir

Eid morning tea

We marked the Eid morning with a special gathering at AIC Early Learning Centre, graced by the presence of beloved mothers and grandparents. The children had a delightful time during the morning tea, participating in arts and crafts activities such as tracing mazes and crafting Sadaqa boxes. This project was designed to instil in them the values of generosity and sharing with those less fortunate. Both indoor and outdoor activities were organised, creating joy and laughter. Everyone enjoyed delicious food boxes to wrap up the festivities, a fitting end to a heartwarming celebration.



NAIDOC week

NAIDOC Week, observed from July 2nd to the 9th each year, is a significant annual event that unites people in celebrating the rich histories, diverse cultures, and remarkable achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. In 2023, the theme "For Our Elders" takes centre stage.

Kinder Group E marked NAIDOC Week by engaging children in an immersive experience focusing on Australian wildlife. We captivated young minds with storytelling sessions, emphasising the fascinating world of Australian animals. To foster problem-solving skills, children were introduced to Australian animal puzzles, providing an opportunity to explore various shapes and puzzle pieces. Additionally, the celebration incorporated hands-on activities, such as using natural sticks and vibrant yarn to replicate the intricate patterns and colours found in Australian animals. The artistic flair of the occasion extended to painting with natural materials like leaves and barks, creating a holistic and educational celebration of Indigenous culture and heritage.



Long Day Care (3+ years)

Room leader: Sr Heenabanu Pathan

Germination

This term, children embarked on an exciting journey of discovery as they learned a new word: Germination. The spark for this exploration happened during lunchtime when one curious child brought chickpeas for their meal. This seemingly simple lunch item ignited a spirited discussion about how seeds grow. Eager to provide them with a hands-on learning experience, we devised an experiment using a glass bottle, damp paper, and chickpeas. This clever setup allowed the children to witness the magic of seed germination firsthand, a process typically hidden beneath the soil. The bottle was carefully placed in the sun each day, and the children eagerly observed the gradual emergence of roots and the beginning of germination.



After a few weeks, when the seeds were ready to be planted, the children took charge, supporting each other and actively participating in the gardening process to complete the task. This experience expanded their vocabulary and nurtured their scientific curiosity and teamwork skills.

Long Day Care (0-2+ years)

Room leader: Sr Sidra Hassan

Eid morning tea



After the much-anticipated term break and the joyous Eid holidays, there was an undeniable sense of excitement as the children returned to school. AIC ELC organised a delightful Eid Morning Tea for the parents to celebrate this special occasion. The Handmade Eid decorations, paper lanterns and artwork crafted by the children added a festive charm to the space, making it a warm and inviting setting for the gathering.

What truly made this morning tea special was the active participation of the mothers. They dedicated quality time to being with their children, engaging in various Eid-themed activities. We were pleased to witness the mothers and children bonding over creative endeavours such as crafting Eid cards, decorating printed sheep, colouring sheets, and Maze activities to find a way to reach Kabah. This event not only celebrated the joy of Eid but also fostered a sense of togetherness and shared traditions, creating lasting memories for both parents and children alike. The Eid Morning Tea served as a beautiful reminder of the importance of family, culture, and celebration in the lives of our young learners.





Sun smart ELC

As you may know, sun protection is a top priority at AIC ELC. We want to ensure your child enjoys outdoor activities while staying safe from the sun's harmful rays. Hats are crucial, providing shade and protection for their delicate skin.



Here are a few reasons why hats are a must-have item for the upcoming term:

- Hats act as a shield against the sun, protecting your child's face, ears, and neck from harmful UV rays. It is an easy and effective way to prevent sunburn.
- Wide-brimmed hats or caps with a visor can also help shield your child's eyes from the sun, reducing the risk of eye damage over time.
- Wearing a hat can help keep your child cool and comfortable during outdoor play, ensuring they can fully enjoy their time outside.
- Encouraging your child to wear a hat sets a positive example of sun safety they can carry throughout their lives.



To ensure your child is prepared for the warm weather coming up in the term ahead, please remember to send them to the Centre with a suitable hat every day. We recommend choosing a hat with a wide brim that covers the face and neck, and please remember to label it with your child's name.

Your cooperation in assisting us in upholding a safe and enjoyable environment for all the children at AIC ELC is greatly appreciated. Working together, we can ensure a fun and sun-safe environment for our little ones.

A Smooth Transition from Kinder to School: Tips for Parents

Assalamu Alaikum Kinder Parents,

The time has come for your child to take the next big step in their educational journey - transitioning from kindergarten to primary school. This transition can be exciting and daunting.

At AIC Early Learning Centre, we support you every step of the way. To make this transition as smooth as possible for both you and your child, here are some valuable tips:



- Ensure your child is prepared with basic school readiness skills, like recognising letters, numbers, and their name. This will boost their confidence in the classroom.
- Establish a school-ready routine with consistent wake-up times, meals, and bedtime. This will make the transition to the school's schedule smoother.
- Foster independence by encouraging your child to take responsibility for tasks like packing their bag, putting on their shoes, and managing their belongings.
- Maintain open communication with your child's educators. Share important information about your child's needs, interests, or learning styles. Stay engaged and attend school meetings or orientations.
- Instill a positive mindset in your child about starting school. Share stories or books about the school experience and emphasise the fun and exciting aspects of learning.
- Continue to nurture your child's social skills. Arrange playdates or activities with future classmates to help them build friendships before school begins.
- Please encourage your child to ask questions and express their feelings about starting school. Answer their questions honestly and provide reassurance.
- Involve your child in selecting school supplies like their backpack, lunchbox, and stationery. Personalising their items can make them feel more connected to their new school.
- Celebrate the milestones, such as the first day of school or completing the first week. Acknowledging their achievements boosts their confidence.
- Seek out any transition support programs or information sessions the primary school offers. These can provide valuable insights and connections with other parents.
- Remember that this transition is a significant step for your child. Be patient and provide emotional support as they navigate this new chapter.

As your child moves from kindergarten to primary school, we assure you that we support a seamless transition. Together, we will help your child flourish and continue to enjoy the wonders of learning.



SCHOOL READINESS CHECKLIST



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- I can get dressed by myself
- I can open my lunchbox, the packaging and eat by myself
- I can put on my shoes and socks
- I can use the bathroom on my own and wash my hands



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL

- I can listen to and follow instructions
- I take turns, share and help others
- I can keep trying, even when I don't know how to do something
- I can work and play both independently and in a group
- I enjoy following the rules
- I can calm myself down when I get frustrated

EARLY LITERACY

- I can write and recognise my name
- I can hold a pencil
- I know how a book works
- I know some words that rhyme
- I know some letters of the alphabet
- I enjoy books



EARLY NUMERACY

- I can count 10 objects
- I can recognise numbers to 10
- I know some shapes
- I can recognise and create a simple pattern
- I can sort things from smallest to largest
- I like trying new puzzles

It is important to remember that every child develops and grows at their own pace.

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

- I use words to talk about thoughts, wants, needs and feelings
- I speak clearly enough that other people understand
- I use complete sentences and connect ideas
- I can say or sing familiar songs and nursery rhymes
- I follow one- and two-step directions such as, "Please make your bed and brush your teeth"



"Should my child be writing their name before starting school?"

This is a great question and one that gets asked millions of times. To understand when children write their name is NOT determined by a date in the diary. Or a looming transition into a big school. A school is a PLACE, not a marker in a time when children must have achieved something. We understand the worry and the societal expectation that writing their name is required before starting school!

Please know this is NOT the case. Ask most reception teachers or Kindy teachers; they will tell you they do not want children to start forming letters before joining their class. Some so many other vital skills and developments come first! Please recognise and understand that a child's writing their name does not indicate how well they will do at school or even if they are ready. Their body needs to be ready first.



To understand if children are ready to formally sit and write their name (even long after starting school), we first have to discuss shoulders. Did you know that shoulders are essential in children's ability to write their names? The reason is that through natural physical development, children develop from the top down, inside out!

Babies first strengthen their necks and chests. They crawl and then come up to stand, enabling them to walk. It is a natural biological process. Children also develop from the inside out - Their core strength, shoulders, elbows, wrists and fingers. They develop what are called their pivotal joints! Pivotal or rotary joints are shoulder, elbow, wrist and fingers!



Let us consider and pause for a moment. The shoulders are that low load, bearing joint and muscle that supports the movement of the arm! Notice the image. Notice how he is holding his pencil - A palmer or emergent palmer grip. This indicates that his control is being led by his shoulder (supported by his shoulder) and moving to his elbow, not his fingers. His shoulder is driving the movement of the pencil and not his fingers. It is no good for us to keep getting him to practice holding his pencil 'properly' or re-adjusting his grip. It is not good for us to keep getting him to copy our writing and form letters on a page.

It is not necessary to TEACH letters. Children will do things when ready and interested. Children have to develop the core strength, shoulders, elbows, and wrists FIRST how? How can we help a child then?

Oh my goodness, that is EASY - PLAY!

Large gross motor play opportunities, activities and experiences are fundamental to developing those pivotal joints - before they progress to the elbow, wrist, thumb and fingers! Children can lift, pull, push, raise arms, touch noses, and dress. They hold a spoon, feed themselves, hold a paintbrush, crayon, dig, climb, pull themselves up, lift, carry, swing, dance, rough and tumble play, do large movements, do vertical painting, climb ladders, etc.

We have to stop the fixation on pushing our children to write and see and recognise that none of this quantifiable stuff (writing their name) is possible until a child has been allowed to develop strength in these pivotal joints!

*The Curiosity
Approach™*

The power of play

This article investigates the incredible world of play and its impact on your child's development. In this edition, we will explore the importance of play for children at a kinder age and uncover the magic behind why they play.



🌟 The Power of Play: 🌟

Play is the language of children. It is not just about fun and games but an essential aspect of your child's growth. Research has shown that playtime contributes significantly to physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development.

🧠 **Brain Booster:** Play helps your child's brain develop neural pathways that form the basis of future learning. Different types of play, like building blocks or solving puzzles, enhance problem-solving skills, creativity, and critical thinking.

👥 **Social Skills:** Interacting with peers during play teaches valuable social skills like sharing, taking turns, cooperation, and conflict resolution. These skills lay the foundation for healthy relationships and effective communication in the future.

🗨️ **Emotional Well-being:** Play is a safe space for children to express their feelings and learn to manage them. Pretend play, for instance, allows them to explore various emotions and scenarios, fostering emotional intelligence.

🏃 **Physical Development:** Running, jumping, and climbing during play promote physical strength, balance, and coordination. It is the perfect way for your child to develop motor skills and build a healthy body.

🎨 **creativity Unleashed:** When your child engages in imaginative play, they develop creativity and a sense of exploration. Creativity knows no bounds in a child's play world, from building fantastic castles to playing make-believe.

🎯 **Cognitive Growth:** Whether sorting shapes, stringing beads or counting toys, playtime is filled with opportunities to enhance your child's cognitive abilities. These playful activities lay the groundwork for future academic success.

🏠 Why They Play: Unlocking the Secrets: 🏠

Children play because it is their way of learning about the world. Play provides them with a means to:

- **Explore:** Children are natural explorers. Play lets them discover new concepts, ideas, and experiences hands-on and engagingly.
- **Express Themselves:** Play acts as a canvas for your child's thoughts, emotions, and fantasies. It allows them to convey their inner world in ways words often cannot capture.
- **Make Sense of Reality:** Through play, children mimic real-life situations. By acting out scenarios, they attempt to make sense of the complex world around them.
- **Build Relationships:** Play is a bridge between children and their peers. It is how they connect, bond, and build friendships.
- **Develop Skills:** Every toy, game, and activity your child engages in during playtime helps them master new skills, both practical and cognitive.
- **Feel Empowered:** When children play, they have control. This empowerment is vital for their self-esteem and confidence.

Remember that it is not just child's play when you see your kinder child engrossed in play. It is a cornerstone of their development, a tool that nurtures their minds and hearts.

Recipes to try with your children

Corn pikelets

These corn pikelets are great for kids, breakfast, or any time you need a nutritious snack.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup corn kernels
- 1 cup whole meal self-rising flour
- 1 egg (lightly beaten)
- 3/4 cup milk
- butter (*to serve, for frying)



Method:

1. Whisk together flour, egg, and milk in a bowl to make a batter.
2. Stir in corn kernels. Heat a frying pan and add 2 teaspoons of butter. When sizzling, drop in tablespoons of mixture. Turnover and cook the other side. Spread with butter.

Cheese twists

These cheese twists are a great lunch box snack, after-school snack or just a fun recipe for the kids to make.

Ingredients:

- 2 slices puff pastry, thawed.
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese



Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced). Cover a baking tray with baking paper and set aside.
2. Place one sheet of puff pastry on a bench.
3. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese.
4. Place the second sheet over the first and roll over the top with a rolling pin. Cut the pastry into 2cm wide ribbons.
5. Place on a baking tray and twist. Bake for 10-15 mins or until golden.