

AL IMAN COLLEGE – EARLY LEARNING CENTRE TERM 3 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

In this term's newsletter, we are thrilled to share the highlights of AIC ELC in Term 3. Alhamdulillah, from events to educational experiences, we've had a wonderful time nurturing and educating your children in a joyful and engaging environment.

We began our term 3 with a joyous Eid morning tea for parents, in celebrating Eid Ul Adha. Following this event, our kindergarteners had an exhilarating visit from the local police, learning about safety and the important role of our community helpers. During term 3, children took part in the Dental week, where they engaged in activities on taking care of their teeth and healthy eating. As with Science Week, children were able to unveil many things about the world they live in with some hands-on experiments. Book Week was quite enjoyable, as children were introduced to the world of stories and storytelling in many languages other than English. We discussed with the children how the First Nation Indigenous people used storytelling to pass their culture and beliefs to their generations. During Child Protection Week, we raised awareness and gave our children essential knowledge about staying safe.

We hope you and your children enjoyed Term 3 as much as we did! May Allah Subhanaho Wa Ta'ala bless you with a restful and joyful holiday. We look forward to reuniting with everyone and continuing our learning adventures in term 4, In Sha Allah.

JazakAllah Khairan.

Sr Noor Illyas and AIC ELC Team (Sr Iram Mehmood, Sr Reham Mohamed, Sr Saman Tahir, Sr Fatema El Salsabi, Sr Sidra Hassan, Sr Fadwa Benchaou, Sr Naima Fadil, Sr HeenaBanu Pathan, Sr Farhana Shahid, Sr Ayesha Mohammadi)

IMPORTANT DATES

Please be informed that Al Iman College Early Learning Centre will be **closed for Term 3, 2024, from Monday, 23rd September till Friday 4th October 2024.**

Please find below the **last day for term 3, 2024**, for Kinder groups and LDC:

- Kinder groups A and C – Wednesday 18th September 2024
- Kinder group B - Thursday 19th September 2024
- Kinder groups E and F- Friday 20th September 2024
- LDC - Thursday 26th September 2024

Term 3 start dates for Kinder groups and LDC:

- Kinder groups A and C – Monday 7th October 2024
- Kinder group B – Tuesday 8th October 2024
- Kinder groups E and F – Friday 11th October 2024
- LDC – Monday 7th October 2024

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Key dates for term 4

- Al Iman College Foundation teachers' visit to AIC ELC Kindergarten:
- Kindergarten Groups A and C:
 - Monday 28th October 2024
- Group B:
 - Tuesday 29th October 2024



- Excursion to the Animal Land Children's Farm:
- Kindergarten Groups A and C:
 - Wednesday 30th October 2024
- Kindergarten Group B:
 - Tuesday 22nd October 2024

- Transition to Al Iman College Foundation level:

- Kindergarten groups A and C:
 - Wednesday 13th November 2024
- Kindergarten group B:
 - Thursday 14th November 2024



- Al Iman College Early Learning Centre Kindergarten Graduation:
- Kindergarten Groups A and C:
 - Wednesday 27th November 2024
- Kindergarten Group B:
 - Tuesday 26th November 2024

Kinder Group A

Teacher: Ms Fatema El Sabsabi with Group A team, Ms Farhana Shahid and Ms Naima Fadil

In Term 3, our kindergarten group engaged in a variety of activities that supported their learning and creativity.



Space Exploration

We began with a video about space, which inspired the children to create their own space adventure. They made planets and a rocket ship from a tissue box and role-played as astronauts named Adam and Ali.

The children had fun 'blasting off' to explore space, visiting different planets, and discussing their features. This hands-on role play helped them understand space concepts in an interactive way.



Beads and Star Activity

As part of our space theme, children threaded beads onto stars marked with numbers. This activity helped them practice counting and fine motor skills as they matched the number of beads to the numbers on the stars.



Lego Rocket Ships

The children used Lego to design their own rocket ships. This creative activity encouraged problem-solving and imaginative play as they built and customised their rockets.

Name Rocket Ships

With assistance from teachers, children created rocket ships featuring their names. They worked on arranging each letter in the correct order, which supported their literacy development and letter recognition.



Volcano Experiment

For Science Week, we built a volcano in the sandpit and turned it into a tropical volcano with grass, leaves, and flowers. The children worked together to decorate it and were thrilled to watch it erupt. This activity combined creativity with science, demonstrating basic chemical reactions and encouraging teamwork.

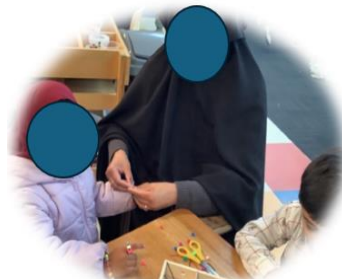
Book Week

Our room was transformed for Book Week with setups inspired by "Owl Babies," "Dinosaur Stomp," "The big book of bloom" and "Old MacDonald." Each setup was designed to inspire the children. They chose to read "Owl Babies," and we used puppets to bring the story to life. This interactive approach helped enhance their love for reading and storytelling.



Eid Morning Tea- 25th May 2024

This term, we held our special *Eid Morning Tea*, and it was such a lovely day! Mums came together to enjoy some sweet time with their children. They made pretty flower bouquets, threaded beads to create fun bracelets with alphabet beads, and snuggled up in our cosy reading corner, where they got to read some books to their children. The mums and children also got to take home some yummy treats. It was a great opportunity for mums to catch up and interact with the teachers in a warm and friendly environment.



Police Incursion- 18th July 2024



We were excited to have two lovely female police officers visit our centre from the Carole Springs department. The children had an amazing time trying on real police uniforms and learning important safety tips, like when to call for help. The highlight was exploring a real police car! The kids sat inside, took photos, and even got to turn on the siren, which was super exciting. It was a fun and educational day that the children won't forget.



Kinder Group B

Teacher: Sr Reham Mohamed

Blowing bubbles

Children were engaged in a fun bubble-blowing activity using straws. They excitedly dipped the straws into the soapy water and blew gently, watching the bubbles form and floating away. The children discovered how varying their breath pressure affected the size and number of bubbles produced. After that they decided to add food colouring to this activity to make it more fun.



Exploring our human body

This activity allowed all children to explore the organs of the human body and to express their understanding creatively and reinforce their learning about the human body. Children demonstrated their enthusiasm and commitment to understanding the human body when they actively examined the organs and drew them on their paper.

We followed this activity with a large human body outline, with labeled pictures of various organs to encourage them in collaborative discussions with their friends about the different parts of the body and their functions. Children demonstrated their understanding of the organs and showed their ability to integrate visual information into your work.



Hajj and Eid

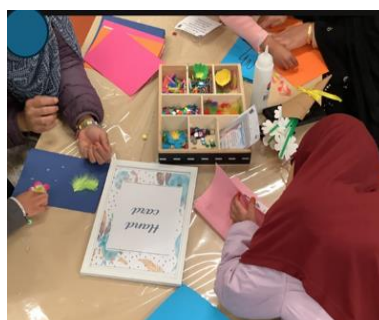
Children were engaged in learning about Hajj and using some words related to this accession such as “Mina, Arafah, Muzdalifah, Rami, Nahr, tawaf, Safa and Marwa, and followed that with repeating “Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik” and creating a small shape of Kabaa from recycling cardboard.



Eid Morning Tea

We celebrated Eid Ul Adha by hosting a Eid Morning Tea for all parents of AIC ELC. This special event took place for kinder group B on Thursday, July 25th, providing an excellent opportunity for parents to come together and celebrate Eid with their children. The morning tea was filled with delightful treats and joy, allowing parents to connect and strengthen the bonds within our ELC community.

Parents were able to engage in hands-on activities with their children, and this allowed them to spend some quality time with their children in a kindergarten setting. During this event, Children created beautiful bouquets to present to their mothers, celebrating their love and appreciation, mothers supported children in creating their own beaded necklaces, bracelets and rings, parents crafted personalised greeting cards with their children to share with peers and families, children enjoyed the colouring sheets themed around Eid Ul Adha and decorating printed sheep cutouts.



Kinder Group C

Teacher: Sr Saman Tahir

Police Incursion

We had a thrilling day at our kindergarten when two police officers visited our center for an incursion. They shared valuable information with the children about how the police help our community and the important emergency number to dial if they ever need assistance. The officers also emphasized the importance of safety when walking outside, reminding everyone to always hold hands. The highlight of the visit was when the children got to sit in the police car, listen to the siren, and even try on a police uniform! It was an unforgettable experience that taught our children important lessons about safety and the role of police officers in our community.



Dental Week

As Dental Week approaches, we started group time with a discussion on healthy eating. The children played games to identify healthy and unhealthy foods, practiced brushing on a teeth model, and used flash cards to learn which foods strengthen teeth. They also used playdough to understand the importance of brushing to prevent cavities. It was a fun and educational experience that highlighted the importance of dental hygiene and healthy eating habits.



Watercolour Experiment

In another exciting experiment, the children used recycled bottles to explore how water mixes with colors. They poured water into the bottles and added crepe paper, observing how the water changed colour. Through this activity, the children learned about the process of colour mixing and how different materials can dissolve in water. It was a fun and educational way to understand basic scientific concepts.



Volcano Experiment

Our group of children has shown a keen interest in volcanoes and experiments. We began by brainstorming ideas and then headed outdoors to the sandpit. Using a recycled pipe, the children built a volcano. They worked together to dig and form the volcano, shared spades and made sure there was enough room for everyone to see during the eruption. While making the lava, the children were learning about chemical reactions and what can sometimes happen when you combine certain ingredients together.

Surrounded it with sand, and watched in excitement as the teachers added vinegar, baking soda, and red colouring to create an eruption.

The excitement didn't stop there! Each child made their own volcano using paper plates and recycled cups, wrapping them in crepe paper to take home and continue their learning. It was a thrilling and educational experience for everyone involved.



Spring Activity

With spring in full bloom, the children noticed bees outside and their curiosity was intrigued. To extend their learning, we read books about how bees collect nectar and make honey. We set up a tub with yellow water, droppers, and an ice tray to simulate the honey-making process.

The children learned about the role of bees in nature and how they produce honey. They also got creative by making their own bees using pom-poms and pipe cleaners. This hands-on activity helped them understand the importance of bees and their contribution to our environment.



Learning new concepts and new vocabulary

This term, Group C has been busy learning new concepts and vocabulary, such as large, medium, and small. We extended this learning to include understanding scales, exploring which items are heavy and light. The children engaged in group activities, exchanging ideas and making connections, like realizing that larger items might be heavier. Their intelligence and curiosity made learning a joyful experience for everyone involved. As a teacher, witnessing their growth and enthusiasm has been an unforgettable experience, highlighting the mutual learning journey we share.



R U OK Learning about Emotions and Teaching Empathy Through R U OK Day

Instilling empathy in children is a key goal, and I always link it to our Islamic teachings about caring for friends and family. R U OK Day provided a perfect opportunity to revisit these concepts. We planned several activities, starting with a group check-in to see how everyone was feeling. A puppet joined us to emphasise the importance of empathy, and we used flash cards to help children recognise different emotional cues. We encouraged the children to talk about important people in their lives and how they can reach out to them for support. Using placemats and playdough, the children created faces showing various emotions, such as happiness and sadness. One child made a face of her mother, while another created a happy face with fruits and vegetables. Through these activities, the children learned to identify and express emotions, understand the importance of empathy, and appreciate the value of caring for others.



Kinder Group E

Teacher: Sr Saman Tahir

Engaging Young minds with 'Five Little Ducks' and Creative Counting Activity!

This term, our children embarked on an exciting journey of learning numbers through the beloved "Five Little Ducks" felt board rhyme. To reinforce their counting skills, we engaged them in a variety of fun and interactive activities: We used flash cards paired with tiny toys to help children practice counting. Children enjoyed sorting games using colored paper with numbers, enhancing their ability to recognize and organize numbers. Through hands-on activities, children counted and sorted objects, making learning both fun and effective.



Science Week



Group E celebrated Science Week with a series of exciting, hands-on experiments that captivated the children's curiosity and enthusiasm. We began with a rain-dropping experiment, where the children watched in awe as food coloring dripped through shaving foam, simulating rain. This activity



not only fascinated them but also encouraged them to eagerly explore the materials. The children then participated in an eruption experiment, which sparked their interest in chemical reactions. Additionally, at the magnetic exploration station, they experimented with various items to discover which were magnetic and which were not. Through these activities, the children learned about weather phenomena, chemical reactions, and the properties of magnets, all while developing their observational and investigative skills



Book Week

During Book Week, our kindergarten children engaged in a variety of fun activities that fostered a love for reading and books. We read “Owl Babies,” a sweet story about a family that teaches children about independence while staying close to their families. The room was transformed with owl decorations and owl puppets. One table featured owl counting flashcards, while another had blocks and symbols to help children understand the story’s characters better. These activities not only helped the children express themselves and learn more about the stories but also improved their fine motor skills. Through these engaging experiences, the children developed a deeper appreciation for reading and storytelling.



Bird Theme

During group time, we read the book “The Crook, the Crow, and the Hawk,” which sparked a lively conversation about birds. Seeing the children’s interest, we dedicated the past few weeks to a bird theme. We started by reading and looking at bird flashcards with numbers, painting with feathers, and making birds out of playdough and feathers. As a group project, we built bird feeders and birdhouses using recycled boxes and leaves. Last Friday, the teacher brought her pet birds to the center, and the children were very excited. They admired the birds’ beauty and characteristics, such as their feathers, wings, and tails. The children enjoyed the experience and were gentle, using soft voices to avoid scaring the birds. Through these activities, the children learned about different bird species, their habitats, and behaviors. They also developed their fine motor skills, creativity, and a sense of responsibility and empathy towards animals.



Kinder Group F

Teacher: Sr Reham Mohamed

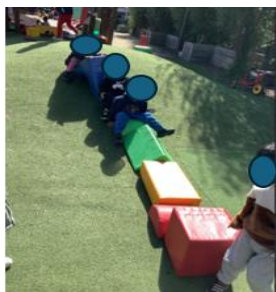
Matching Letters

Children were engaged in a literacy learning activity using keys and locks to match uppercase (big) letters and lowercase (small) letters to unlock the locks. This fun activity helps develop children's cognitive and fine motor skills while allowing them to play, interact, and enhance their social skills.



Creative Role Play

Children were creating their own role play using the outdoor soft shape blocks, forming a long train while helping each other to connect all pieces together. Through engaging in this fun activity, they developed their teamwork and friendship skills.



Science Week

Our children engaged in hands-on ocean activities and deepened their understanding of how cleaning our oceans helps protect species and creates a safer, healthier world for everyone. This activity challenged the children's curiosity, and developed teamwork, and problem-solving skills. It also deepened their understanding of ocean conservation and empowering them to think about how they can contribute to a healthier planet.



Long Day Care (0-2+years)

Room Leader: Sr Sidra Hassan

Exploring Seasons and Emotions

In Term 3, our curious toddlers embarked on a delightful journey, learning about different topics. They showed more interest in seasons and emotions. Through hands-on activities, interactive storytelling, and creative play, they discovered how the world around us changes with the seasons and how to express their feelings.

We introduced our toddlers to various feelings puppets, like happiness, sadness, anger, and excitement, using storybooks, puppets, and facial expression cards. We practised naming emotions and discussing what makes us feel a certain way.



Dental Health Week

During the Dental Health Week from August 5 to 11, we focused on the theme of gum health. This year's campaign encourages individuals to pay attention not only to their teeth but also to the health of their gums, highlighting the importance of maintaining overall oral health.

We discussed during the group time the importance of dental health with the children. We explained that it is important to brush teeth twice a day with toothpaste, clean between teeth daily using floss or soft brushes, eat a healthy and balanced diet with limited added sugar intake, and visit the dentist regularly for check-ups and preventive care. We planned various hands-on activities that helped children to learn the importance of dental hygiene. Children demonstrated how to brush a set of large teeth using a soft-bristled toothbrush. They pretended to be a dentist by checking on a doll's teeth, promoting understanding of personal health through interactive play.



Book Week to Ignite Imagination through Storytelling and Creativity

During Term 3, we celebrated Book Week, focusing on the theme "Reading is Magic". To promote storytelling, we used models related to the stories that captivated our toddlers, similarly how Indigenous people share stories across generations. This celebration aimed to spark imagination and encourage a love for reading among our young learners.

We've planned storytelling sessions. These stories will not only entertain but also teach valuable lessons. We transform corners into cozy reading nooks to spark their creativity indoors and outdoors. Children explored these spaces and discovered new books of their interest. Our little learners had the chance to create their very own books, from drawing pictures to crafting simple stories. These activities strengthened our children's storytelling skills.



NAIDOC Week



NAIDOC Week is a significant event that celebrates and acknowledges the rich history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The cultures of these communities are deeply valued and hold great significance in Australia. It is crucial for educators to help children understand and respect the history, culture, and lives of the Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander community. As educators, we play a vital role in fostering a positive perspective, understanding, and appreciation for Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture, and lives.

We planned activities to educate children about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island culture through Dolls and Props, Naure-related Experiences, Storytelling, Reading and Using Picture Books. We created a warm pretend campfire and provided some comfy sitting cushions for children to enjoy the story "**The Kangaroo Tale**".

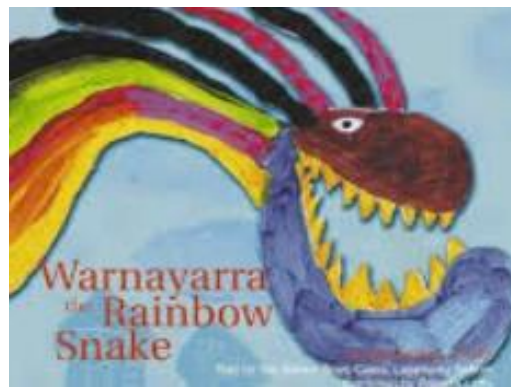


Long Day Care (3+ years)

Room Leader: Sr Heena Pathan

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Week

In August, we celebrated Aboriginal Children's Week by creating an Aboriginal corner with the help of the children. They placed rocks and sticks around the Aboriginal flag. We began by reading the book *Warnayarra: The Rainbow Snake*. After the story, we engaged in a sand activity where the children used sticks to replicate Indigenous symbols. The children also collected gum leaves and painted them using ochre clay.



Book Week

During Book Week, the children engaged with two books that enhanced their learning experiences.

First, they read **“The 5 Little Ducklings”**, which helped them learn about numbers. They participated in activities using number flashcards and toy ducklings to practice counting.

Next, they explored **“The Very Hungry Caterpillar”**. To make the story more engaging, they had the opportunity to touch a toy caterpillar and use visuals to recreate the story. Through this, they learned numeracy by counting the fruits and literacy by following the story.

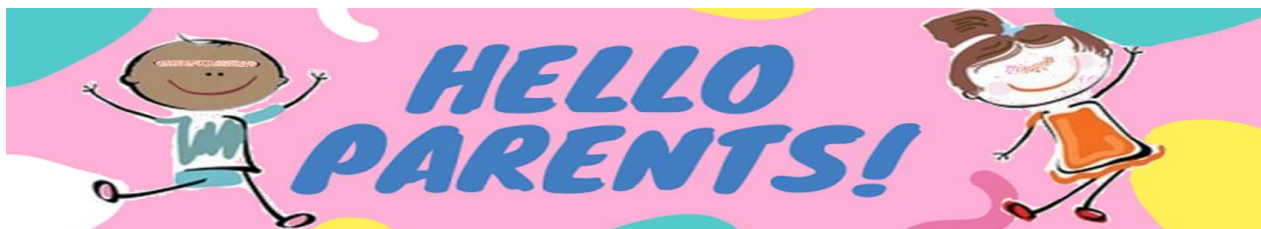
These activities provided a fun and interactive way for the children to develop their numeracy and literacy skills.



Make your own Pizza

The children showed a keen interest in pizza, creating their own versions using playdough and magnets. To build on this enthusiasm, we organised an activity where they made their own personal pizzas with various toppings. We made pizza on paper, and the children decorated their pizzas by pasting on their chosen toppings. Through this pretend play, they learned valuable skills such as: Creativity: Language Development, social skills, Fine motor skills, decision making.



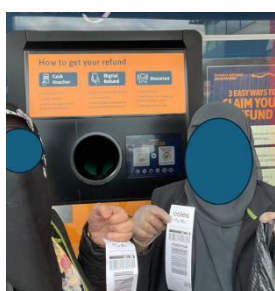


AIC ELC Sustainability with Container Deposit Scheme Recycling Initiative

We, at AIC ELC are excited to announce our participation in Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme, a vital initiative aimed at promoting sustainability and environmental responsibility. This term, our children have actively engaged in recycling by collecting the empty drink bottles and cartons from their lunchboxes at the ELC by successfully recycling a total of 121 containers.

Through this program, we are not only teaching the children the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle, but also instilling a sense of community responsibility. Each eligible container returned allows us to contribute to a cleaner environment while reinforcing positive habits in our young learners.

We take pride in supporting Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme, which encourages recycling and aims to significantly reduce litter across Victoria.



We encourage families to get involved in Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme by engaging your children in recycling activities. Participating in this program not only allows families to earn a 10-cent refund for every eligible container returned but also teaches children the importance of sustainability and community responsibility. By making recycling a family affair, you teach eco-friendly habits in your children, ensuring they grow into environmentally conscious citizens who contribute positively to our community.



What can families do to prepare your child for school?

Research tells us that the outdoors is the healthiest place to be, the best place to learn and so important for children's sense of wellbeing. Many of these ideas below are free yet support every possible learning outcome.



- Play, play and play some more.
- Encourage lots of physical activity outside.
- Encourage open ended play (no right or wrong), playing in the sandpit, playing with water, dress ups, songs, dancing, climbing trees, drawing, painting, pasting and playing with blocks, playdough, dolls and cubbies.
- Children don't need a separate playroom down the hall, most children want to work where you are. Set up an old table close to the kitchen and have all their resources close by. This means they don't always have to pack up.
- Puzzles or games such as UNO, Memory, board games and charades.
- Sing rhymes and read lots and lots and lots of stories.
- Cook and follow recipes, playdough, pizza, cakes etc.
- Walk around your local neighbourhood and follow a map. Talk about the numbering on the letterboxes and houses, the flowers, animals etc.
- Walk or catch public transport to the local school. Encourage discussions about school.
- Encourage independence and self-help skills such as tying shoelaces and putting clothes away.
- Encourage children to set the table, how many people, how many place mats are needed?
- Have conversations around the dinner table and allow your child to answer.
- Ensure you remain positive about school especially when your child is listening. Children can pick up on parent's anxiety.

Feel confident that when your child is playing, they are developing life-long skills in mathematics, science, creative arts, emotional learning, language and literacy. Ready children, ready families, ready schools and ready communities result in a smooth transition for everyone.

Reference: <https://www.abc.net.au/abckids/early-education/reflective-journal/pathways-to-a-positive-transition-to-school/12679484>

Explore Your Child's Portfolio: Gain Insight into Their Learning Journey



We invite you to explore your child's portfolio any time at the AIC ELC. These portfolios offer a glimpse into your child's unique learning journey, showcasing their growth, achievements, and special moments at the AIC ELC.

Additionally, we welcome your suggestions and feedback as we try to create the best possible learning environment for our children. Your insights are invaluable in helping us tailor our programs and activities to better meet each child's needs.

Lost and Found Box at the AIC ELC



We kindly remind families to check the Lost and Found box at the AIC ELC foyer. Several items have been left behind and might belong to your child. Please take a moment to see if any missing items are yours.

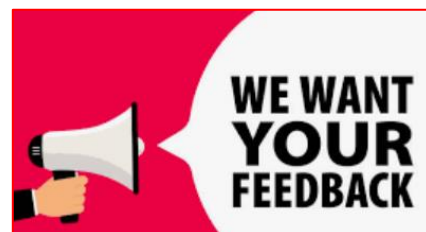
AIC ELC is NUT AND EGG FREE CENTRE

As a reminder, Al Iman College Early Learning Centre is a nut and egg-free environment due to severe food allergies in some children. We also ask families to avoid including chocolates and lollies in your children's lunchboxes, as we promote healthy eating habits among the children. Kindly consider this request when packing your child's lunch boxes, NOT including eggs, nuts, chocolates or lollies.



We Value Your Feedback: Share Your Thoughts About Our ELC

We are committed to providing the best possible experience for our children and families. Your feedback helps us to improve our operations to better meet the needs of our community. Please take a few moments to share your thoughts, suggestions, and experiences with us.



Please use the link or scan the QR code below to access our feedback form. Your responses will be anonymous, and all feedback will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and respect.

<https://forms.gle/fZ7Yj2GC5Xz5M4b69>



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