



Centre name: Hospital Hill Preschool and Occasional Care

Project name: Native Bee Hive

Why: To increase the native flora and fauna within the service and our community by creating a native bee hive. It is important that children are aware of the impact that bees have on our world and we will use the bee hive as an investigative tool to research into how and why they are needed.

How: We will implement a native garden.

Introduce vegetables and plants in our outdoor area that are preferred by native bees

Start a worm farm to reduce waste and use worm castings to improve the quality of the soil for our new plants

Children will log information such as bee sightings on different plants around the new garden, so we can establish which plants we need to multiply.

Once our bee hive is up and running we are going to add insect hotels to our yard.

Children and educators will document the usage of the bee hive and make a by-weekly graph using photos to see whether our hive has multiplied. In 6 months, if our bee hive has been successful and is thriving, we will be able to split the hive in two and gift this to another centre close to ours. The splitting of the hive can take place every 6 to 12 months if the bee colony continues to grow successfully.

Outcome:

- The vegetable garden was a huge success and is continuing to prove a big interest for the children. From building, to researching plants, to gardening and picking ripe vegetables, the children took control and lead the activities. We made a stir-fry with vegetables from the garden and the children used the “worm wee” on the garden.
- Children assisted educator in building the vegetable garden and had many discussions about what types of plants we should put into the garden
- Children planted different types of vegetables and Native plants into the garden
- Children researched types of plants that Native Bees enjoy
- We used ripe vegetables in our lunches and offered herbs to families
- Through researching bees, the children learnt that all insects play an important role in our environment. The insect hotel idea was introduced, and an email has been sent off to Bunnings and our local Men’s Shed to help us make one.



The children are very busy marking down the colours of the flowers that they find in the garden beds. This will allow us to evaluate if we need more blue/purple flowers