

Banksia Day Book

Tuesday 23rd of July 2024

Introducing digital technology: Kobo STEAM Robot



To introduce young children to the concept of coding, engineering, and computational thinking through play-based approach, we introduced Kibo STEAM Robotic toy. We created a program by assembling a sequence of wooden programming blocks which have barcodes on them. After designing the program. We scanned the barcode on the blocks and pressed the start button to instruct KIBO what to do. Children were thrilled to see the robot singing, swirling, moving around. It was super fun!

Continuation of engineering with clay and sticks



The Nature Explorers continued with their engineering and designing art play. Asrar commented, "It's my spiky machine. It can spike everyone. This is cannon ball robot." He was able to express his creative thinking and ideas through the arts. His imaginative design combined elements of fantasy and robotics, demonstrating his creative thinking and possibility thinking skills. Belisa excitedly showed off her work, saying, "Look at my umbrella." She went on to explain how she made a swing using clay and a straw pipe, demonstrating her understanding of balance and structure. Mia was keen in connecting straw pipes using clay. Her focus and concentration were evident as she worked, displaying important dispositional learning traits such as persistence and determination. Nora joyfully announced, "Look, I made lots of lollipops." She was demonstrating her sense of accomplishment through her artworks.



Strolling around Old Canberra House



After enjoying our lunch and some relaxation time, we set off for a walk around Old Canberra House Park in the afternoon. As we strolled, we noticed a couple of trees covered with plastic sheets. We wondered why these trees were wrapped in plastic. Belisa was the first to offer a suggestion, saying, "It's cold," implying that the plastic was there to keep the trees warm. Her hypothesis showed her understanding of how we protect ourselves from the cold. Asrar shared a different idea: "Not to let the tree fall." He thought the plastic might be providing support to prevent the tree from falling over. Emily said, "Tree won't fall." We continued to seek a plausible explanation for the plastic-covered trees. Tina then asked an intriguing question: "Can you climb on the plastic sheet? It will be slippery. So, who can't climb up?" This question prompted the children to think about the function of plastic in a new way. Asrar quickly responded, "Possums won't climb up." He made the connection that the plastic sheet was there to prevent possums from climbing the trees. So, it made some sense. The plastic sheet was to prevent possums from climbing up the trees and messing up around UPCC and Heritage back gate. It was wonderful to see the preschoolers engaging in critical thinking and coming up with their own hypotheses.



A look into Tina's holiday



We have been so happy to have Tina back with us this week from her lovely overseas holiday. Today she shared a special souvenir from Qatar called 'Desert Rose'. This natural crystal cluster was formed from sand grains.

The children enjoyed a sensory experience, taking turns to gently feel the rose shaped cluster.



Spotting Australian animals at Tidbinbilla



The Little Rangers set off this morning for an adventure at Tidbinbilla. As soon as we entered the Nature Reserve, we spotted an emu walking around! We circled around it for a short time in the bus, before it ran off into the bush. We all had a laugh and continued driving further in to the reserve. We began discussing other native animals we might spot whilst here and came up with the idea of koalas. We wondered what we would need to have in the reserve to entice koalas to live here, "eucalyptus" said Emma L, "gum leaves trees" agreed Billy.



This brought us to our first stop, 'The Eucalyptus Forest'. We looked at the map and agreed to walk along the purple path. We walked in and watched the koalas eating for a short time before beginning our walk. We walked through the beautiful forest, looking up in search of koalas, whilst also looking at the ground in search of potoroos and wallabies.



Educators then prompted thoughts of what we could hear, "water" said Isaac, "frogs" said Billy. We then spotted some large rocks and thought about whether it was one rock split in half, or two rocks leaning against each other. Emma L thought it was one rock split in two, while Billy thought it was two leaning, "How did it break?" wondered Noah. The children thought of various reasons the rock may have split in half, including natural causes such as lightning.



As we continued to walk we read a sign about how to spot koalas in the wild. It showed examples of scratches on trees, as well as to look out for koala scat! We used these new ideas on the remainder of our walk. As we looped back around to the koalas, they had moved from their original spots. We quickly noticed that one of the koalas had a baby hanging onto it's tummy! The children thought this was so cute, and watched it carefully as the mother climbed various trees. Another koala then began to make noise, which resembled a snort or growl, which made us all laugh. We soon hopped back on the bus to find a sunny place for lunch.





When we arrived at a sunny, grassy open area, we saw a group of kangaroos bathing in the sun. We enjoyed our lunch before walking slowly and quietly over to admire them. As we walked around we also saw some beautiful kookaburras looking for their lunch in the grass! The children then enjoyed some playful learning, advancing their gross motor and fundamental movement skills with running, climbing and jumping.



After a beautiful play in the sun, we got back on the bus to return to Heritage, reminiscing on the amazing native animals we were so lucky to encounter today.

