

karoo



FOUNDATION  
CURRICULUM  
AND LEARNING

**KAROO PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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# Building the Foundations in Literacy: Reading

Reading is the basis of Literacy development and is a large area of focus at Karoo. We use the CAFE Approach to reading which focuses on developing the four main areas - Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding Vocabulary.



We use 'Beanie Babies' to assist in the teaching of reading. For example, the Beanie Baby 'Stretchy Snake' reminds us to stretch out the letters we read by sounding them out (eg. c-a-t for cat).



Students learn to take on the role of peer teacher as part of our partner reading practice. Students share with a partner, taking turns to read their take-home book. When reading, students support each other to ensure they are practising the skills of a 'good reader'. Partner reading also allows an opportunity for students to reinforce they are learning the Beanie Baby strategy.

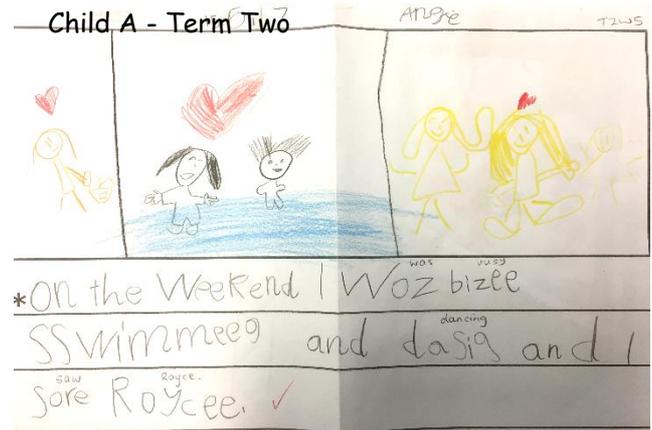
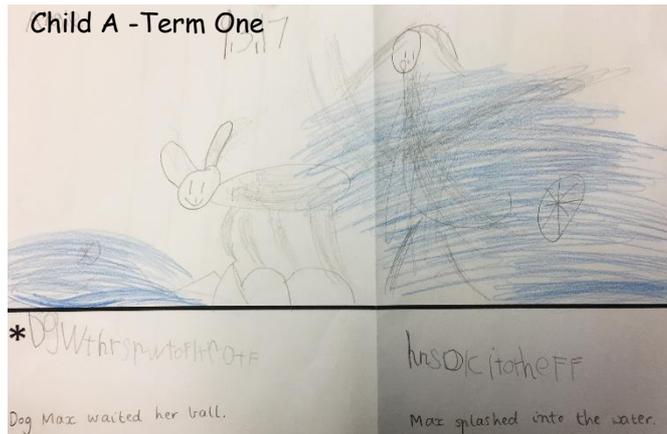
We focus on developing students understanding of the sounds letters make. During our weekly focus lessons, we also incorporate sounds into our Oral Language Program. We use 'Magic Words' to develop students' recognition of high frequency words.



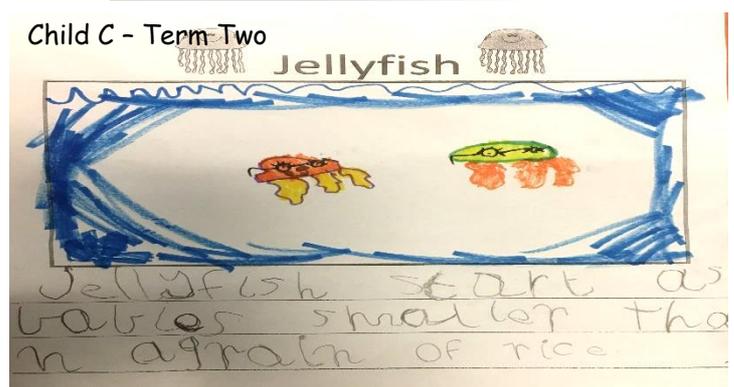
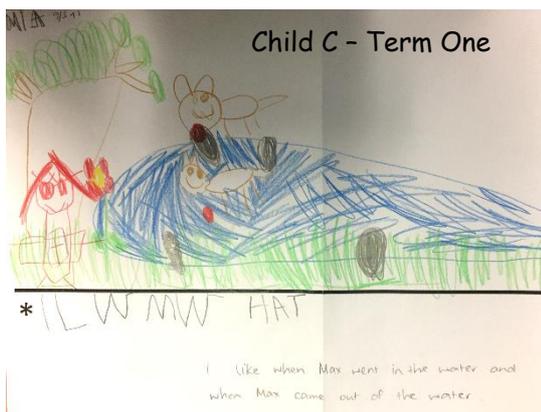
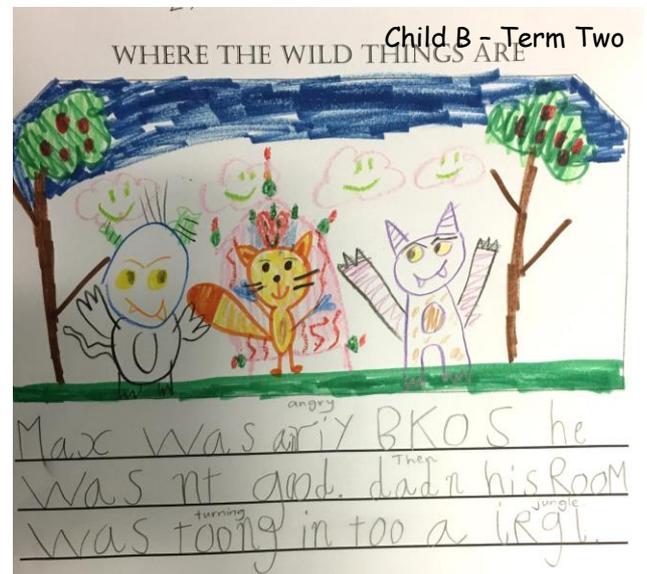
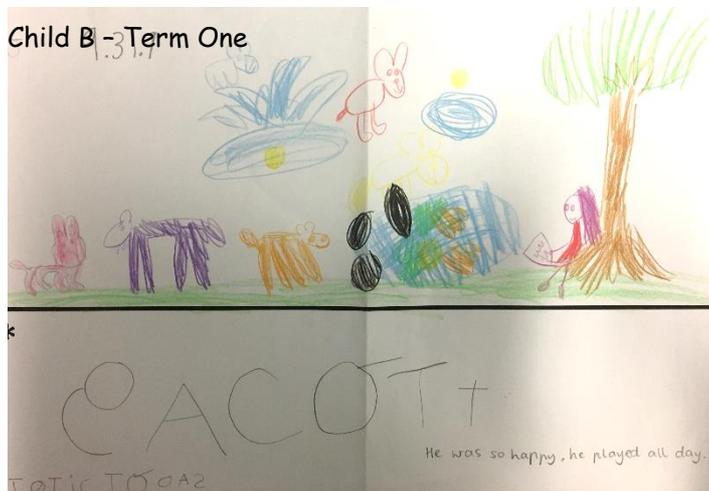


# Foundation Writing

At Karoo, we engage students in their writing by providing opportunities to write about what they love. For example, we have our very own coloured-coded post box slot for each class. Students often choose to use their Discovery Learning time writing letters and postcards to each other.



Here you can see examples of students' work in Term One compared to the Writing they produced in Term Two.



# Hands on Mathematics: A Focus on Numbers

In Foundation we focus on developing a deep understanding of Number to provide students with a strong foundation of understanding for future learning.

We use 'hands on' activities to reinforce concepts and support the different learning styles of all students in our classes.

These photos show students demonstrating their understanding of patterns through a variety of activities. These activities were 'open-ended', allowing students to complete a pattern suitable for their stage of learning.



As a way of learning the concept of addition, we used the life size number line to practise counting on to find a total. Students then used individual lines to independently complete their work.



By using games students develop their understanding of the concepts covered. These images show students practising their recognition of number names and words.

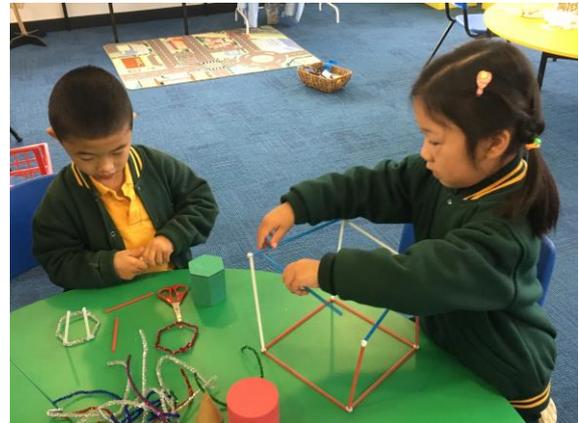
# Hands-on Mathematics: Measurement and Geometry

'The only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics' - Paul Halmos

At Karoo, our Foundation teachers use a range of hands-on activities to create an environment of active learning in Mathematics. This engages students in their learning and supports deeper understanding of using mathematical concepts by teaching them in real-life contexts.



Learning about 2D shapes through creating 'Shape Birds'.



Karoo students have fun learning about measurement and 3D shapes using materials to build them.

Our Foundation students learn about length, shape and size vocabulary, as well as ordinal numbers, through making paper planes and racing them against each other.



# STEM

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)

At Karoo, we offer our Foundation students a dedicated area to explore and investigate STEM activities. We change the activities available depending on student interest as well as Mathematics and Integrated topics for the term.

**Science:** Foundation students love to have a go in our fossil sandpit. They talk and write about going on adventures to find fossils and what they found in their exploration. They are provided with experiences such as making fossil replicas, exploring magnetic forces, colour mixing, rock scavenger hunts, creating minibeasts and investigations with magnifying glasses, among other things.



**Technology:** We have our own Green Screen where students can create their own movies. We use it for activities such as students re-telling story books we have read, students can read out their story writing and we add backgrounds to match, students present as weather reporters, to name a few.



**Engineering:** Children are provided with an array of materials they can use to construct a long list of structures and items such as bridges and buildings. Students have the opportunity to sketch and write about what they construct.



**Mathematics/ Engineering:** One of our students' favourite activities is *How many beads can you fit in your boat?* They design and construct a boat made from alfoil and add one glass bead at a time to determine how many beads the boat can hold before it sinks. They love to try to beat their personal best, and are animated in their discussions about how to help their boat stay afloat with more weight next time. Students sketch their boat and write about what they did and learnt.



# Grade 5 Buddies: Whole School Community

The Karoo Buddies Program starts early in the year, where Foundation students are matched with a Year 5 buddy. The program eases the transition for Foundation students, while encouraging leadership and responsibility for older students. The Buddy Program enables all Karoo students to feel valued and safe as well as fostering a sense of whole school community.

Buddy activities include: buddy breakfast, movie night, picnics, art activities, leadership support in the classroom, reading with buddies.



# Taking our learning into the community

To link learning in the classroom, students have the opportunity to use their learning in real life experiences.

Some of the excursions and incursions we have participated in include:

- Casey Safety Village
- Chesterfield Farm
- Reptile Encounters - Minibeasts

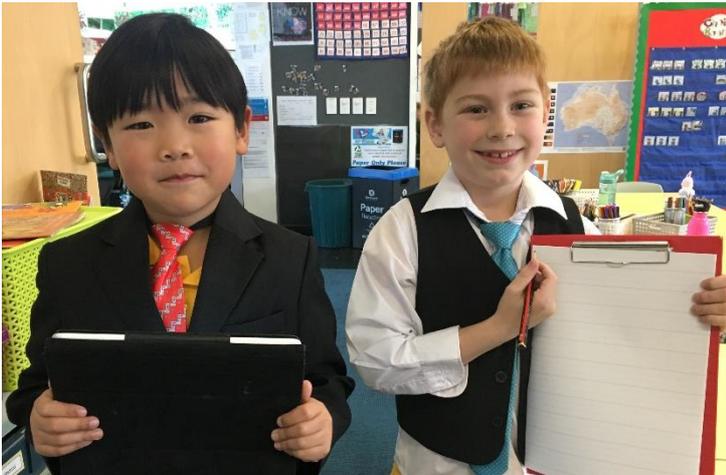


Learning about community helpers and staying safe, we visited the Casey Road and Safety Village to put our knowledge into practice. Students loved the opportunity to ride bikes and demonstrate their knowledge of the road rules.

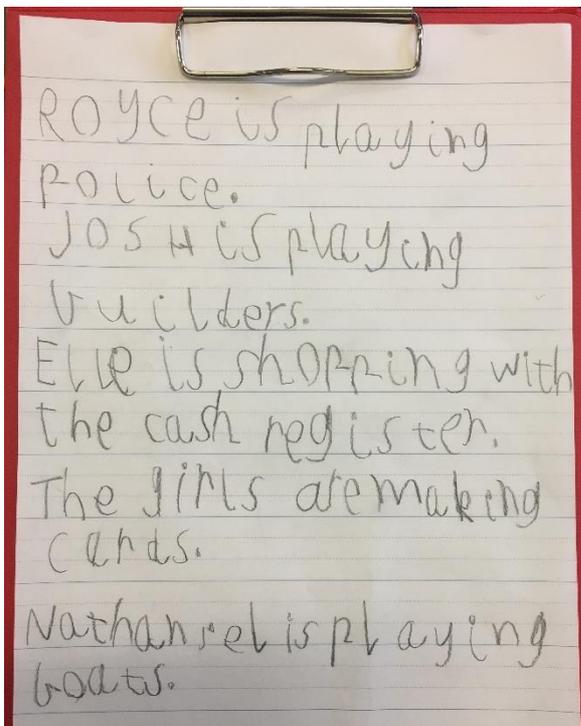
As part of our Inquiry topic 'My World', students explored their understanding of animals. Our excursion to Chesterfield Farm helped the children learn more about farm life and the animals that live on them. As part of this topic we explored minibeasts with a range of insects and bugs coming to visit us at school.



# Active Learning



Meet our class reporters for the week. During Discovery Learning, they take photos with an iPad and write about what students in their class are doing.





# Weekly Language Experience (Inquiry Unit)



Every week we engage Foundation students in a hands-on activity with a focus on language development. We integrate the activity with other curriculum areas such as Mathematics and Literacy.

Example activity: Baking and decorating gingerbread men.



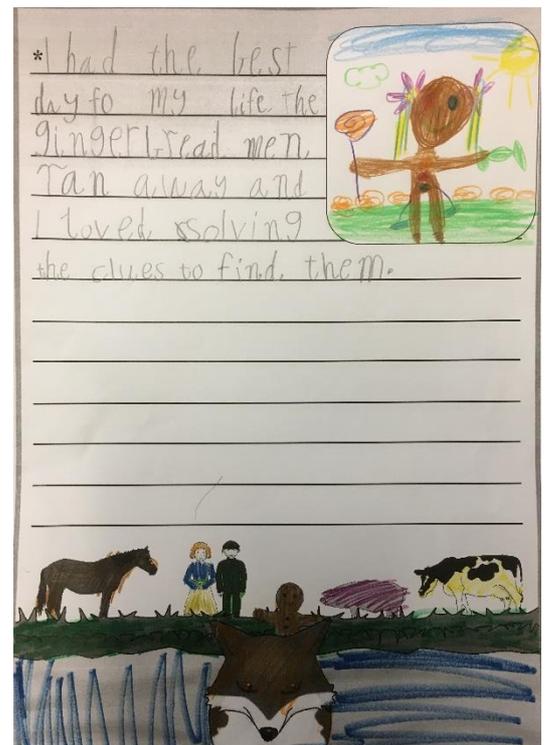
**Critical thinking:** The gingerbread men ran away from the staffroom when they were baking in the oven and left us a map with clues. We solved the clues to find them again.



**Maths focus:** While making them we discussed measurement and capacity. We introduced vocabulary such as half full and empty. When we decorated the gingerbread men, we discussed patterns and colours and the number of things we used to decorate them. When searching for the run aways, we used positional language.



**Literacy focus:** We used a focus on rhyme and sounds in the clues. Karoo Foundations wrote about their experience, which they loved!



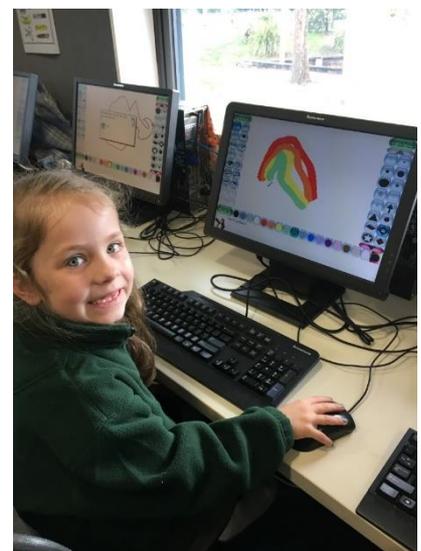
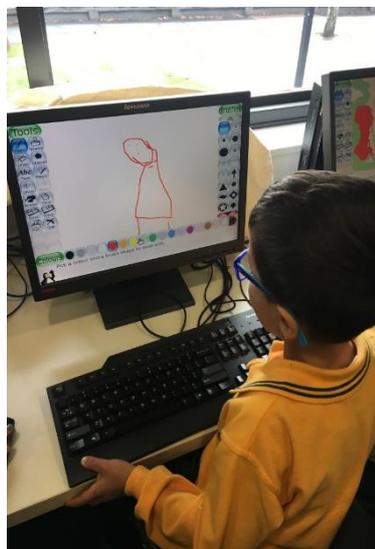
# Integrating ICT

iPads and computers are used to integrate learning in all curriculum areas. Our school teaches students to use technology safely and responsibly to assist them to excel in a society where technology is forever evolving.

As part of the Victorian Curriculum students learn how to code on the iPads through the use of 'Scratch Junior'.



Students using the iPads during Literacy sessions to learn their high frequency 'Magic Words'.



The photo and video applications on the iPad are often incorporated into Mathematics sessions as a means of students recording and explaining their knowledge and making real world links.

Students practise their mouse and co-ordination skills on the computers; this assists their fine motor skills.

# Our school grounds

Karoo has a range of facilities to support student learning.

Some of these facilities include:

- Library
- Designated Foundation playground
- Canteen
- Gym
- Artificial turf
- Geometric Climbing Tower



We have an extensive, well-resourced and welcoming Library. Students attend the Library weekly with their class. The Library is open at lunchtimes for the students to read and complete craft activities.



We have a designated playground for Foundation students, which includes climbing equipment and a sandpit.



Our school has extensive indoor and outdoor learning and play spaces. These include our Gym, basketball courts and large artificial turf area.

