



Welcome to a new feature in our journal. Each issue we will feature an early childhood environment. For those who are far away or too time poor to visit other settings this may provide new insights. It will also help to reinvigorate our minds, refresh our ideas and consolidate our own learning. In this Issue Sue Webster visits Seven Hills State School.

Seven Hills Prep Classroom Visit

Sue Webster



Colour and visual stimulus.



Aesthetically-pleasing interest areas.

I was lucky enough to visit the classroom of Lynelle Whittaker at Seven Hills State School in the South of Brisbane at the end of Term Two. I have viewed Lynelle's classroom on previous occasions when she has generously opened it for professional development sessions.

I am always interested to see how Lynelle structures her classroom as the school has (by choice) formed a number of Prep/Year One multi-age classes. Lynelle teaches in a purpose-built

building and integrates her curriculum and ages effectively. Lynelle has also recently returned from a Study Tour visiting Centres and Preschools in Reggio Emilia in Italy.

There are many eye-catching areas in Lynelle's classroom including the lovely arrangement of furniture (donated by families as a response to a call out at the school community), the use of aesthetically-pleasing interest areas, as well as the use of colour and visual stimulus.



Eye-catching environments.



Furniture donated by families.

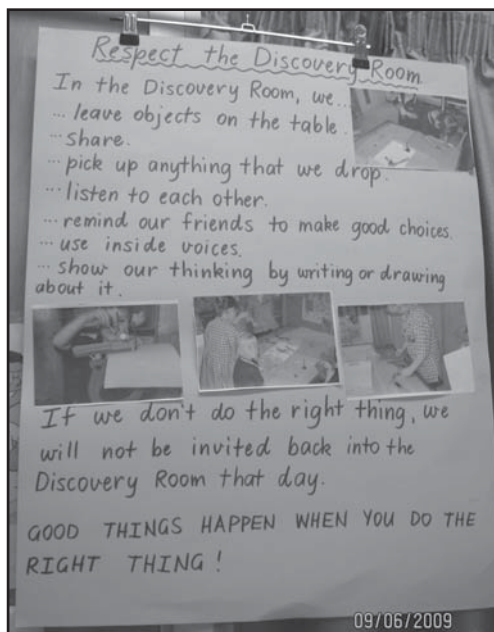
Environments



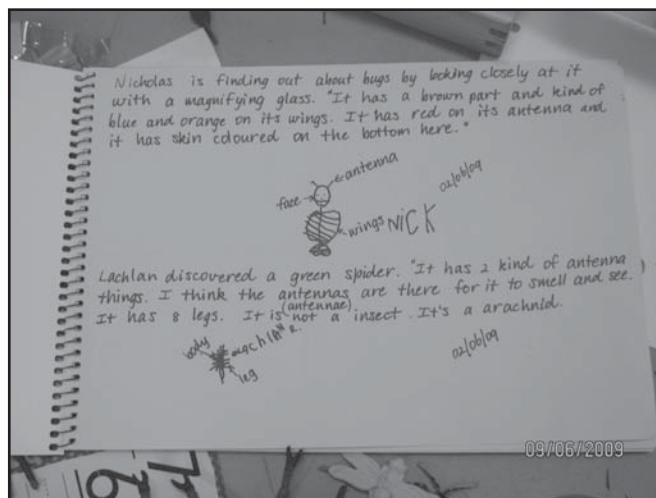
Discovery room



Light box and magnifying glasses stimulate thinking.



Room guidelines.



Written investigations.

I was very interested to see that Lynelle and Valerie (teaching counterpart in the fabulous-looking connecting room) had used the space usually given to the teacher's office to make a Discovery Room. This involved a large table and chairs with many interesting items: a light box, magnifying glass, a discovery room thinking book and trays of interesting items. The walls

were hung with room guidelines and written investigations. The shelves were filled with containers of interesting items and lab coats. There was also a computer with Internet access and shelves of books.

Children are encouraged to hypothesise, investigate and record their findings and discoveries.

Thanks for the visit Lynelle. I wanted to stay and 'play'. No wonder that the children at Seven Hills all have big smiles on their faces!!!