

Media Release

Thursday 26 August 2010



KU children celebrate Book Week

The children at KU AMEP Auburn today celebrated Children's Book Week in a very special way. The children were involved in a number of celebrations and activities based around the children's book "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle. Activities included a special guest reading of the feature book in multiple languages by Auburn Public School students, an exhibition of children's art at the ACL College, a book related activity involving children making and painting clay fruit and the launch of the KU loan library which was made possible by donations from the Co-op bookshop. The aim of the book week activities is to promote literacy, creativity, imagination, critical thinking, sharing and problem solving. The book week celebrations are a joint initiative by KU Children's Services and the ACL managed Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP).

"This week is a great opportunity to promote the importance of early literacy in young children's lives. Sharing books is a wonderful way to help young children to learn to talk and develop communication skills", says Sabira Sukurma, KU AMEP Area Manager. "At AMEP child care centres we strongly promote use of the first home language. Children will learn to speak English more readily if their home language is being acknowledged and reinforced. Playing with other children and participating in a wide range of literacy activities is the best way to support a child's bilingual development".

ACL AMEP Auburn College and Auburn Public School have developed a partnership to assist CALD parents and their children with English language and literacy development. This initiative includes raising awareness with parents about language enrichment in L1 as a precursor for L2 literacy and assisting children and adults to produce texts in English and community languages. In celebration of this partnership, ACL Auburn invited Auburn Public School children from 4/6D, to read a text they created with their teacher during Book Week. Children from the KU childcare centre at ACL AMEP Auburn College were invited along to the reading. ACL supplied each child from 4/6D with a classic children's text book as a gift to celebrate the event and Book Week.

"This year's Book Week celebrations across ACL's AMEP colleges are an exciting opportunity for ACL and KU Children's Services to continue working together to support the successful settlement of new families in Australia", says ACL Government Programs General Manager, Michael Cox. "ACL is delighted to take part in such an enriching and worthwhile celebration."

The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) is a Federal Government initiative overseen by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). English classes are provided to newly arrived migrants and refugees arriving in Australia. KU, as part of the AMEP consortium for West and South West Sydney, provide on-site early childhood education and care to children under school age for families who are attending English classes.

KU Children's Services is Australia's leading provider of early childhood education and care, and operates seven child care centres within ACL AMEP colleges in Sydney's West and South West where the children represent a diverse range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. ACL is one of the largest and most respected of Australia's quality English language providers offering English language tuition and teacher training to domestic and international students, and settlement services to migrants and refugees to Australia.

ENDS

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