



"Lunch Bunch" and "Play Places": Fostering Friendships in Shared Primary and Education Support Settings

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The South Bunbury campus is shared by South Bunbury Primary School and South Bunbury Education Support Centre. This environment provides students from the ESC opportunities to participate in inclusive experiences with their peers from the primary school.

In early 2017, data from South Bunbury ESC showed a significant spike in behavioural incidents during unstructured break times, particularly lunchtime. It was observed that some of the issues occurring in the playground could be attributed to students not engaging in activities, not coping in the unstructured environment or not having developed necessary social emotional skills. The "Lunch Bunch" program was created as a high interest and engaging voluntary lunchtime program for students from the primary and ESC settings. The program provides a structured, supportive environment where opportunities for social emotional learning occur incidentally; and friendships can be fostered that will ideally continue beyond the lunchtime setting.

In total eight students from the ESC and ten students from the primary school have been involved in "Lunch Bunch" this year. In term one, a simple start was made using board games such as "Cake Splat" and "Googly Eyes". These fun, slightly silly games provided opportunities for students to engage positively with each other while practising skills such as turn-taking and how to cope when you don't win. In term two and three a more structured STEM program called "Survivor: An Egg-cellent Adventure" was implemented. Students worked together in tribes to complete challenges with egg tribe-mates, the aim being to keep their eggs uncracked. In term four this year, students will participate in a clay animation project to create videos which demonstrate social emotional skills for younger students.

The "Play Places" program is a recent addition to the South Bunbury campus. This program aims to provide safe and inclusive play spaces where students from the ESC and primary school are encouraged to interact and develop friendships. Each "play place" contains an activity that is high interest. Activities such as playdough and 'bug hunts' are provided for junior students, while SNAG golf and Lego Club are popular with the seniors. Each activity has a set of expectations which align with SBPS's virtues and SBESC's Positive Behaviour Support program. Structure is provided to the activities to support all students who attend, these supports include communication boards and task schedules. Both programs have been popular and well received by students and staff and will be continued in 2018.