Inquiry Based – Night Stalk at Sacred Heart Goomalling

Inquiry Based Learning has been a passion and mind shift of mine ever since I discovered it a couple of years ago. Since then, I have stepped out of my comfort zone and transformed the way I teach from a typical Thematic Based style through baby steps. My first baby step was taking themes and making them more student lead and project based.

Once I notice an interest from the students (usually found out through experiences set up for them to explore during play), I find out what their knowledge and misconceptions are about the subject. I list all that they know about the subject we will dive into. Then I ask what they wonder. I list all of their questions. NOW I can plan!

I take their wonderings and create a web map showing the different directions they want to take the inquiry and possible experiences that will help them find answers to their wonderings.

The next step is to start the investigation phase. In early childhood I set out experiences for them to explore and document what they notice.

The next step is the project. We take what we learn and create something to show it! The projects can be individual, small group, or whole group.

Our most recent project was turning an area of the classroom into a Nocturnal house. We started out by first wondering why we only saw Owls at night time. By the end of the project we knew all about Possums, Foxes, Bats and of course Owls. Our learning culminated in a Night Stalk which was attended by our families; unfortunately all we found was an old Teddy bear in the trees.

I wonder where our next project will lead us?