

## ***Connecting with the land with our weekend adventures.***

*At Umina Kids Club we are passionate about connecting children with the land and the natural environment. It is through developing a relationship, a deep love and appreciation of the land, that they can develop a sense of care and duty to protect the natural environment.*

*Our children need opportunities to potter about, 'barefoot and unhurried' in nature. They take 'the world in through their skin'. 'Kids see the world low down and close up. On hands and knees, on their naked bellies, they feel it with an immediacy we can scarcely recall as adults'. 'Wandering and dithering....apparently aimless mooching' in nature makes the world more comprehensible and renders it intimate- even sacred. 'So much is absorbed unconsciously'. Touching, smelling, feeling, hearing and tasting, these sensations become knowledge of the land. And land makes us who we are. Sensual familiarity with country remains with us, it leaves an imprint. It leans in on you. Weighs down hard. Like family. It is family. (Tim Winton, 'Island Home').*

*Our first connecting to country outing was a huge success. We had a lovely morning at the local beach. We met at 9 am at Kiddies corner on Saturday morning. The weather was perfect and the water was very inviting.*

We headed around to the rocks and had lots of fun exploring the rock pools. We found crabs, sea snails, different size rocks and sea shells. The children were so excited to see one another on a weekend. The children negotiated safe spots and not so safe spots around the rocks. This was discovered through trial and error, slipping on the rocks and getting too close to the edge of the rocks and big waves splashing on us. This risk taking is teaching the children to know their limits, what they are capable of and what they are not an important factor in their development.

After the rock pools it was time to cool off, all the children and parents had a lovely time swimming and wading at the shore line.

We even explored writing/ marking skills by drawing in the sand with sticks. There was name writing and picture drawings.

Overall it was a lovely way to build trusting relationships and bring our Umina kids club community together. This is an ongoing project and is planned according to parents and children's interests.







