

Little Ducks Childcare Annerley

January / February 2016

A note from your Centre Manager

Firstly I would like to take the opportunity to say a very big THANKYOU for being so welcoming and helping to make my first few weeks here at Little Duck so enjoyable. I feel like part of the furniture already and that's a wonderful feeling!
I would like to share a little about myself, I am a mum of 5 and a step mum of 5 and have been working in Childcare for over 18 years in various roles from a support worker in the early days to teaching and then managing childcare centres. I have learnt a great deal over this time and I look forward to sharing my knowledge and experience with the team here at Little Ducks.
I am looking forward to getting to know your little people so you will see me regularly in the playground and in the classrooms over the coming months which will enable me to get to know the children and also to observe practices within the centre which will help me to understand where my focus needs to be and what training the centre might benefit from.
So please come and say hello at any time and I look forward to a great 2016!

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Kindergarten Approved Program
Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

February Events!

Friday 5th—Waitangi Day
Celebrating New Zealand's National Day (Saturday 6th)

Monday 8th—Vietnamese New Year & Chinese New Year
(year of the monkey) Let's celebrate with these wonderful countries)



Tuesday 9th—Brazil's Carnival
Celebrate by dressing up in you most dazzling, sparkly Carnival Costume for a day of fun and dancing!



Sunday 14th– Valentines Day
Throughout the week leading up to Valentines Day we will be talking about and celebrating the people we love.

Saturday 20th—love your pet day



Leading up to this day we will be talking our favourite pets.

Reminders

- **Signing your child in and out is a legal requirement** as is signing off when your child is absent. This includes pre-arranged holidays and sick days. Please ensure you are catching up on these on your next attendance.
- **Updating information** - with the start of the new year it's a great time to check that we have all your details correct and up to date on our system. So if you are unsure please see Mel in the office or send through a quick email with any changes to phone numbers, email addresses, emergency contacts ect and I will update our system.

Policy Reviews

We value your input and feedback so please refer to the Policy Review Folder in the foyer for more information or to provide any comments or suggestions. The policies/procedures in review during January and February are:

- CHILD PROTECTION POLICY & PROCEDURE
- EMERGENCY STAFFING & SUPERVISION POLICY
- FEEDING POLICY- INFANTS
- POLICY FOR THE USE OF GLOVES
- NUTRITION POLICY
- SIDS POLICY AND GUIDELINES FIR SAFE SLEEPING POLICY
- CRITICAL INCIDENT POLICY

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Lola-Jean, Sienna V, Madeline C, Matthew K, Jesse K, Eamonn C, Max V, Scarlett C, Grace T, Isabella R, Awab H, Loli S



Recipe of the month!

Healthy Lunch Box Meals—Pea and Noodle Fritters

Ingredients—

- 1 1/4 cups frozen peas
- 1/2 x 440g packet shelf-fresh hokkien noodles
- 1/4 cup self-raising flour
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan
- 1 red onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup rice bran oil
- Cherry tomatoes and carrot and celery sticks, to serve



Method:

Step 1

Place peas in a heatproof bowl. Cover with boiling water. Stand for 2 minutes or until bright green and tender. Drain. Refresh under cold water. Return to bowl. Roughly mash peas with a fork. Add noodles, flour, milk, eggs, parmesan and onion. Season with salt and pepper. Stir to combine.

Step 2

Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Drop 1/4 cup batter into pan, spreading to form a circle. Repeat to make 4 fritters. Cook for 2 minutes or until golden underneath. Turn. Cook for 2 minutes or until cooked through. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towel to drain. Repeat with remaining batter. Serve with cherry tomatoes and carrot and celery sticks.

Nursery Natter!



It has been a great start to the New Year at Little Ducks. In the nursery room we have welcomed most of our little friends where they have enjoyed exploring their new play environment and investigating all of the new toys around the room! It's lovely to see all the different personalities that we have in the room, where some of the children are very outgoing and explore the room by crawling around everywhere and others are a bit quieter but still very curious to engage in experience with all the different toys!



Our new nursery friends have also shown their confidence and enthusiasm during the first couple of weeks at Little Ducks where they each are starting to happily move around the room by either crawling or walking! Some of our littler friends have been doing a great job in using their balance and sitting up on their own to explore the different activities around them!

Our nursery friends have taken a keen interest in exploring the new toys in the room where they have enjoyed playing with the sensory toys such as Material squares, textured balls, Material bottles and different natural materials outside in our play yard! So during our first couple of weeks we have been exploring different textures through craft experience. Our little friends enjoyed a finger painting experience where they loved rubbing their hands in the orange paint and then transferring it over to decorate their pieces of paper! We also engaged in a play experience with the different material squares where the children each loved investigating the different textures by either using their hands or mouth!





All of our nursery friends are settling in well and will continue to grow in personality and learning each week!

Miss Alana and Miss Madisson

Toddler 1!

Welcome to the first edition of Toddler Tales for 2016! I am very excited to be leading the Toddler 1 room this year, and feel privileged to have moved up with my babies from the Nursery. I cannot wait to see what this year has in store for us, and watch the children meet their milestones throughout the year.

In the room with me, I have Miss Brooke and Miss Rebecca, Miss Brooke has been in the Toddler for about a year and half and is looking forward to getting to know the children who has recently moved up into Toddler 1. Miss Bec is new to Little Ducks, and would like to take this opportunity to introduce herself to you all.

My name is Rebecca, but I always go by Bec. I finished college in June 2015 with my Diploma of Early childhood education and care in Ireland, before moving to Brisbane last September, to continue on with my studies, as well as work in an Australian child care centre. I come from a family of ten, in which three of my younger brothers were fostered and it is because of them that I have a passion for looking after children. I am extremely excited to have this opportunity to be a part of the Little Ducks team, and I look forward to meeting you all over the next coming weeks.

We have hit the ground running this year, and have started the year off with exploring the children's interest in transport. After watching the children explore the cars, and creating their own experiences in utilising the cars, I planned some extensions for this interest. Firstly we did some car track painting, the children relished in this experiences, driving the cars through the paint and then onto the paper. The cars were all covered in paint by the end of this, so we created our very own car wash outside. We had face washers, and bubbles in the water trough in which the children very eagerly worked to clean each one. This was a great way for us to all cool off as well, as there was not much water left in the trough by the end of it!

Brooke, Bec and myself are very much looking forward to the year ahead! If we haven't met all of our families yet, come up and say Hi!

Until next time,

Erin, Brooke and Bec







Toddler 2!

Welcome to the toddler two room everyone! My name is Bree and I am the new educator in the room for this year, and I will be working alongside Miss Vicky. I would just like to start off by saying thank you to all the new families that have welcomed me so far and have given me the privilege of looking after your little ones. I understand that it can be very difficult for the children and parents to settle in with a new face around but everyone has been fantastic. I have been in the childcare industry for four years now and come from quite a large family myself so I understand the importance of each individual's child's development and learning.



In the toddler two room we have welcomed most of our little friends where they have enjoyed exploring their new play environment and investigating all of the new toys around the room! It's lovely to see all the different personalities that we have in the room and witnessing all the children play alongside each other so nicely.



Over the past week we have noticed that the children have been very interested in their colours and sensory play so as a result of this we have been focusing very closely on finding activities that involve the children getting messy, using their fine and gross motor skills and that contain colour recognition. Some of the activities that we have been focusing on include taking the natural resources and bringing them into our everyday play such as leaf paintings, flower drawings and cooking with the elements that come from the outdoors.



We will continue to follow on with the children's interests over the coming weeks and prepare activities that they will learn and engage in.

Within the room we are also in the process of creating our Belonging Tree, this is where the children can post their family photos so when they are spending their day with us they can always look at their photos for comfort. If you could bring in an updated family photo for this activity that would be fantastic.

We look forward to getting know you and your children more of the next few weeks, and if you have any questions or any input for the room please do not hesitate to come and speak with us.

Bree and Vicky

Junior Kindy!

We would like in introduce ourselves Janelle (Lead Educator), Leighanne (Lead Educator), Carolin (Educator) and Lexie (Educator). Please if you have any questions please don't hesitate to come see us. Firstly welcome to all our new and existing families back for the New Year, we are glad to have you joining us this year in our Jnr Kindy Room. We like to invite you to join in our centre events and have an input into the program. Throughout the year we offer many different events to support all cultures and families. If there is a special event you celebrate and we don't have it on our centre events please inform us so we can put it on our calendar and work with you towards holding that event in our room. In the room this year we are really starting to focus on toilet training as a lot of the children are getting to the developmental age where they are curious and are wanting to start using the toilet. We are encouraging each child at toileting times to sit on the toilet so they get use to sitting on the toilet comfortably. In saying that if the child refuses to sit on the toilet we will not force them. We are working together with the children to build their self help skills, showing respect and ownership of their belongings by getting the children to put their shoes and hats in their lockers when coming in from the outdoor play environment. This has been a great success already, although we do need to assist some children with this. Could you please insure everything is named in case there is a mix up during this process of learning.

Common questions that have been asked lately due to a new year is what I should put in my children's lunch boxes or what do we bring to the centre. We are a nut free centre so please ensure no nuts are packed in your children's lunch boxes due to allergies in the centre. Also an reminder that we will offer your children the healthy option (fruit) before the treat option as this a policy we follow. Also like to encourage that you separate your children's lunches to the correct shelfs in the fridge. Some ideas for morning teas are yogurt, fruit, crackers, muffins or vegetable sticks. Ideas for lunches can be sandwiches, left over dinner from the night before (we do heat it), fruit salad, salad, a varletry of little foods etc. Afternoon tea can be items from the morning tea list or something from the lunch list. You know your children best so pack what you feel comfortable given them to eat. We are sending home any uneaten food each day as well so you can see what your child is enjoying. In saying that we wont send home the food that has been heated up or any yogurts. As for items to bring to the centre with your children each time are a hat, water bottle, spare clothes, nappies, lunch box, shoes and sheets for rest time. Please if your children are starting to toilet train, ensure there is plenty of spare undies and pants so we can assist with this new developmental stage.



Senior Kindy!

Hi! Everyone!

Welcome to the Sr. Kindy room. We hope you all had a lovely break and enjoying this New Year.

I will begin our newsletter with a short introduction of ourselves. I am Ms. Nancy your lead educator for the room. I am Canadian, married with 2 grown up children and 2 beautiful Grandsons so far!! Ha! I hold a Diploma of Early Childhood education and have been in the industry for nearly 30 yrs. I love photography, animals, cooking and most of all... time with my family.

My assistant this year is Ms. Savita. She is from India, married with a beautiful son Pavit who is starting Prep this year at Junction Park State School. Ms. Savita holds a Cert. 3 in childcare and has been in childcare for 3 years. Ms. Savita enjoys cooking, Family time on the weekends and gardening.

We are both looking forward to working with all our lovely families this year offering your children a wide range of educational activities promoting learning while making friends and extending on their own interests.

Our routine is similar to last year (for our past parents) and for the new families it will be displayed on the parent board near lockers.

To help make every ones year flow smoothly we just ask one thing..... Could you "please" make sure you name everything from shoes to food containers, hats, sheets etc. thanks. No Pillows please as we don't have the storage room in our sheet baskets.

Please make sure your child brings in a drink bottle and taken home regularly for a decent clean.

Also as we are focusing on helping children become more independent extending their self-help skills....could you please provide easy to open food & lunch containers etc. Children get very frustrated when they can't do it themselves.

The past couple of weeks we have been observing the children's interests as they feel their way around their new environment. The hospital play has encouraged great role playing ideas as well as extending their language skills. The children have also been painting, collaging and participating at many more fine motor and sensory activities.

They all seem very relaxed and eager to learn and extend their development in their new room for 2016. Ms. Savita and I are here to help so if you have any concerns please don't hesitate to come and see us. We are "very approachable" and here to help. Looking forward to a fun 2016 with you all.

Love Ms. Nancy & Ms. Savita.

Kindergarten Program!

Happy New Year and welcome to the Kindergarten Room 2016! We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and got to enjoy some relaxing family time.

Ms Lauren has returned from maternity leave and is thrilled to be back in the Kindergarten Room with Ms Di. We have also welcomed Ms Jenny to our teaching team, and she will cover Ms Lauren on Fridays and Ms Di on Wednesdays.

We have some exciting things planned for the next few weeks. Ms Di has arranged Australia Day celebrations for Monday the 25th of January, which include a sausage sizzle and game of cricket. We will also be starting our alphabet schedule with the letter 'A' and exploring a unit titled 'All About Me'. The beginning of each year is all about getting to know each other, establishing the class rules as a group, and planning together what we want to do for the year ahead. We encourage family involvement in our program so would love to hear your thoughts along the way!

We are excited about a wonderful year ahead and look forward to meeting all our new families. Please come and say hello when you are next in the centre.







What's happening

AUSTRALIA DAY SAUSAGE SIZZLE

The children and staff had a fantastic day on Australia Day celebrating with some exciting

learning experiences and dressing up.



The children

enjoyed a nice

sausage sizzle for lunch….yum yum!



