

Little Ducks Childcare Birkdale

January/February 2016 Newsletter

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to our very first Newsletter for 2016! Happy New Year to you all and I hope you all had a wonderful time over the Christmas break with your families and friends. There are many exciting events happening throughout the year and we can't wait to share the journey with you all.

I would like to start off thanking all the families for joining our end of year celebration with our Christmas party! It was a great event to share our memories throughout the year and celebrate all the children's achievements.

Welcome to our new families! It is a pleasure to have you join our centre at Little Ducks and we are looking forward to sharing the journey with you all throughout 2016. Also a big welcome to Miss Julie and Miss Andrea who have joined our team. Miss Julie will be in the Nursery and Miss Andrea will be in the Kindy Room from Monday to Friday. Miss Tara has commenced the new year in a Lead Educator Float position and will be the Schoolies carer Monday to Friday.



In January we will be celebrating the upcoming event of Australia Day on Monday the 25th providing a Sausage Sizzle and Dress up day of Australian Colours. The centre will be closed on Tuesday the 26th for the public holiday. Next month we have many upcoming exciting events with Multicultural Celebrations, Valentines Day, the Ocean Life Show and Love your Pet week with a special visit from out local Vet. On Saturday 27th of February we have Open Day from 9:30 - 11:30am. We will have the Old Mac Donald's Farm, a Jumping Castle, Sausage Sizzle and Face Painting. The centre will be open to all community members so if you know someone who is looking for care bring them along to check us out! Some other exciting news is Miss Cassie will be returning from her Maternity Leave on the 29th of February. I will return to my 2IC position in Nursery to join Miss Julie. I would like to make a special mention to all the families who have donated toys that you have outgrown, thankyou.



My office hours are 8:00am-4:30pm and I am available to be contacted by phone or email, or feel free to come and have a chat during these times.

Natasha

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Recipe of the Month!

Vegetable and Spaghetti Frittata

Ingredients

- 125g gluten-free spaghetti, broken
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large (200g) brown onion, grated
- 2 large carrots, peeled, grated
- 2 cups frozen peas, corn and capsicum
- 1/2 cup potato flour
- 1 teaspoon gluten-free baking powder
- 6 eggs, lightly beaten

Method

1. Preheat oven to 200°C/180°C fan-forced. Grease a 6cm-deep, 22cm (base) round Spring form pan. Line base and side with baking paper.

2. Cook pasta in a large saucepan of boiling, salted water following packet directions until tender. Drain. Place in a large heatproof bowl. Cool for 5 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, heat oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat. Add onion and carrot. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until softened. Add frozen vegetables. Stir.

4. Add vegetable mixture to spaghetti. Add flour, baking powder and eggs. Stir until well combined. Pour into prepared pan. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until browned and set. Cool completely in pan. Cut into 12 wedges. Store in an airtight container in the fridge.



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Centre Events!

(Let us know if you would like to help out or be involved)

January

Friday 1st – New Year Day Public Holiday

Monday 4th - First day at Little Ducks for 2016

Monday 25th - Celebrating Australia Day - Come along and enjoy a Sausage Sizzle in your best Aussie outfit of green & gold or wearing the flag



Tuesday 26th - Australia Day Public Holiday

February

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

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

Tuesday 9th - Brazil's Carnival

Wednesday 10th - Ocean Life Show

Sunday 14th - Valentine's Day

Wednesday 17th - Birkdale Vet Visit

Saturday 20th - Love your pet day - Leading up to this day we will be talking about our favourite pets

Saturday 27th - Open Day - Bring along anyone looking for care to check out our centre! There will be Farm Animals, Face Painting and a Jumping Castle

Birthdays!

A very happy birthday to ...

January

Grace
Izabelle
Sophie
Jackson
Jonathan
Avalon
Sophie K



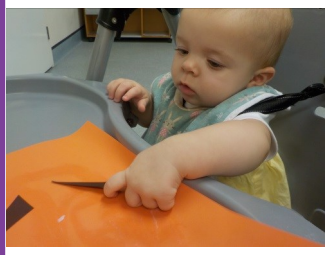
February

Euan
Ryan
Ruby
Isobel
Isabella
Emily
Stella M
Stella L
Sam W

Nursery Natter!

Welcome back everyone, we hope you had a fantastic Christmas. Firstly I would like to introduce myself to all families, I am Miss Julie and I am the new Educator in the Nursery. I have had many years experience in the industry and I hold my Certificate III in Children Services. I believe children grow when a safe play environment is created along side nurturing carer's providing for the children's individual needs. I am looking forward to meeting all the families and their beautiful children. My focus over the next upcoming months is building relationships and bonds with families and the children and finding out all about each child's individual interests, skills, routines and needs to incorporate into our learning environment and assist in planning stimulating experiences for the children and our program. We are always happy to receive any parent input, feel free to discuss information in regards to your child's development and milestones. We appreciate parents and families sharing their children's interests, abilities and skills with us so that we can work in partnership to make the children's learning more meaningful.





We have several special events coming up soon! For Australia Day we will be getting messy, using our fine motor skills during art and craft experiences. Sensory play is a learning area we will be focusing on, setting up a special area for this to take place including many textured materials to provide opportunities for the children to explore their senses and engage in learning relationships. We have received many wonderful donated resources from families that will support the children's physical development, many thanks for providing our nursery with the lovely equipment. We will be celebrating cultural events such as Waitangi Day, Brazil's Carnival and Vietnamese and Chinese New year encouraging the children to learn about the cultural world we live in. Multicultural music and dolls as well as puppets and stories will assist in teaching the children about our countries differences and similarities. During the week leading up to valentines day we will create many crafts to share to the people we love.



In February we will be welcoming new children and families to the centre. We will work hard to make sure they feel safe and welcomed in the nursery and look forward to getting to know them all. Please ensure you label all your child's belongings and bring your child a Water Cup and Hat as well as Bed Sheets and Nappies on a daily basis.

I am very excited to be working in the Nursery and I look forward to meeting you all. Please come and say hello and have a chat with me as I would love to get to know you. We hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of our newsletter, see you in March!

Miss Julie

Toddler Tales!

Happy New year from Miss Christine your Lead Educator and we welcome Miss Amanda also who will be assisting me in the Toddler room this year. We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year with your family and friends. This is going to be an exciting year of fun and learning and a journey that your child will undertake with surprises, emotions, achievements, gaining confidence and milestones. There will be lots of fun and laughter and we will be there every step of the way to hold their hands, guide them and phrase them for their achievements and effort.



As a team we endeavor to make sure that we are here to focus on a holistic approach and encourage all of our children to follow a daily routine that is comfortable to the children's needs and assist and encourage the children to gain on their independence and self help skills.

We will be focusing on the children's sense of belonging in the room over the next two months, concentrating on getting to know our friends and build bonds with one another. The children will be learning how to participate in group times on the mat which involves story telling, puppet experiences, musical dance experiences and much more. We are also focusing on teaching the children how to adapt to the transition from highchairs to table and chairs for all of our meal times. Another challenge for the children will be to learn to go to the big bathroom to wash our hands and will incorporate this with all nappy changes also. This may be a challenge at first but we will be doing little steps to ensure the children feel safe, secure and are comfortable in their new surroundings. With lots of encouragement and support and communication we will see your children grow from strength to strength and observe joy and satisfaction through their own achievements. The transition will be a change from the Nursery to the Toddler room and will encourage the children to apply their thinking abilities on more of an advance level to their age group and provide opportunities for experimentation and exploration which will guide the children with.



If your child attends full time please feel free to bring in a bag of nappies at the beginning of the week with their name clearly marked and dated on the packaging, this can also be done if your child attend part time otherwise bringing five nappies daily is fine also. Please ensure two sets of clothes are provided in the children's bags as the children will be doing a lot of messy play and exploring the outdoor natural environment as a part of the fun times planned ahead. Bed Sheets are required each week including a fitted sheet and a flat sheet for rest period. Please remember to complete the bottle register that is displayed near the lockers followed by placement of bottles inside the refrigerator. The children also require a clean drink bottle or sipper cup daily and this is to be placed in the drink tray. If your child has a late snack please name and place into the snack tray also. Hats are required for outside play clearly labelled with your child's name. We are looking forward to building memories with you and your children and we are both very proud to be part of the journey while they are attending our centre. Please feel free to come in anytime to see myself or Miss Amanda and discuss your child's development or just to pop in for a playdate. If you have any expectations that you would like to discuss with us or any input our door is always open.



Christine and Amanda

Junior Kindy Jabber!

Hello everyone! To all our new parents and friends as well as some familiar faces into the Jnr. Kindy room I trust you all had a happy holiday as much as we did. There is an exciting year awaiting designed to promote and enhance your child's growth and development. This very important year promises to be filled with discovery and joy as your child works and plays in and environment that is warm, safe and challenging. Our first week in the room we had some sensitive children who were not sure of what to expect and adjusting to new educators and moving between transition routines but the big draw card was they got to play in the "BIG PLAYGROUND" Yippee!! All that space! It was interesting to see who could master the climbing frame and take on the challenge of the rope swing and the ladder and all the children demonstrated that they could have a go and negotiate some of the rope ladder with lots of tumbles along the way. By the end of the first week we were winning with some of our routines and putting away our belongings in their bags. We are now into another week and already we can see how confident and secure the children are with the educators. Children are moving smoothly between transition periods and adjusting well to new situations. They are communicating their needs for comfort and assistance even telling us to do jobs like "shut the door Miss Di" or its "Very messy here!!". Since we have been in the room the children's interest have been in Home Corner with lots of exploration of the babies and dolls as the children have initiated roleplay of their home life cooking and feeding the dolls making them "tea". Cars have been popular and the Trainsets also, we have been exploring patterns of wheels and shapes with some circle shapes using cork and cotton bud painting. We have some budding artist in the room with drawing tools, chalk, and other mediums, this helps with their fine motor skills and assists the children in increasing their coordination and strengthens their control in their grip. Playdough is always available to the children, they love to roll, pound, pat and squish the dough and use their imagination to make lots of different shapes. We will continue to provide all these spontaneous experiences and there is much more to come throughout the year coming from their interests from home with your input along the way. Our goal is to have independent thinkers that are able to toilet themselves and follow directions with support to result in the children to make their own choices, accept challenges, take considered risks, manage change and cope with frustrations and the unexpected and have lots of fun and joy whilst in the room. We had a cooking experiences of recent which we made yummy cakes to extend on Home Corner roleplay and we will be setting up our Australia Day experiences next week and having a sausage sizzle as well and celebrating our time so far in the room. All the children are doing really well showing pride in their work "I can do it myself" and I'm bigger now" is their responses and in their attempts promoting that sense of belonging. Yippee!! If you have any questions, input into program or concerns don't forget to write in parent communication booklet that's on top of the lockers in the room and tell us about your weekend we would love to add it to our program of your child's interest.

Thanks Miss Di, Miss Tahlia and Miss Csilla

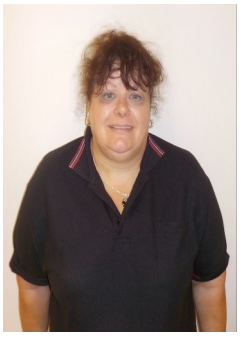






Kindy Kapers!

Welcome to 2016!! We can't wait to see what adventures the new year brings! We are excited to welcome Miss Andrea to our team. Miss Andrea has several years of experience in the childcare industry and holds her Diploma in Children Services. Miss Andrea has many great ideas and suggestions to contribute to our learning environment and we can't wait to plan and implement them all. Miss Kerri will be going on maternity leave at the end of April and Miss Andrea and Miss Kelsey are going to hold down the fort while she is away looking after the little one. Starting off the year, we have been focusing on making sure the children feel safe and secure and welcome in the Kindy room. We have sent out some parent input forms to gather information about the children's development and interests and we will begin incorporating the input we receive into the program and throughout the room to make your child feel more at home. We have already started focusing on learning colors, which we are already pretty clever at! We are playing games to learn more colors and using them through every day play which is helping the children gain on their color recognition. We have also started learning the alphabet and introducing numbers, gaining on our literacy and numeracy development which we are also very clever at!





With the different age groups in the room we will be doing different activities to challenge all the different levels of development through out the year. Role play has been a big interest in the room so far with both boy and girls playing in Home Corner and exploring the doll house on a regular basis. Role play is a good way to develop a strong sense of identity, provides children with the ability to negotiate play spaces and share ideas, stories and experiences from home. The children also develop a great sense of wellbeing and connection to their community and peers as they learn all about other ways of being. We are going to send out a letter but here is a little reminder to please bring in a family photo, we will be displaying these in self made photo frames in Home Corner to provide a more homely feel for the learning environment. You can e-mail them through or bring in a copy of the photo, which ever is easiest for you. We are looking forward to celebrating all of the centre events that are coming up, keep an eye out for what experiences will be occurring. Australia Day is the closest, so make sure you pack a towel and hat as we are going to be having a fun filled day of water play, sausage sizzle and Aussie culture. Pet week is also coming up, so feel free to send us a picture of your furry friends or even bring them in for a visit!! The walls are looking a bit bare, but don't worry because I get the feeling that this years Kindy group is very creative! The walls will be covered in master pieces, photos and observations in no time!



Just a friendly reminder to bring hats, drink bottles, spare clothes, sheets and have them all clearly labeled to avoid any of the children's belongings from going missing. Thank you for reading! Feel free to come and have a chat, we love hearing your suggestions and questions.

Till next time,

Miss Kerri, Miss Andrea and Miss Kelsey

Preschool Press!

First, I would just like to welcome all of the families with children who have just moved up into the Preschool Room. It has been an exciting month as we get to know each other and begin our first unit called 'All about me'. This unit is about helping the children develop a sense of identity and is always a great way to start the year. This unit so far has enabled the children to discover things about themselves as well as their peers. We will eventually do a self-portrait but before we do this, we have been discussing our facial features to help the children with this task.



We have talked about who has sisters and brothers or both and if they are younger or older than we are as well as the type of houses we live in. The children have enjoyed participating in discussions around this topic and have provided lots of information about themselves and their families. If you would like to bring in a family photo to help us create a family tree that would be greatly appreciated. The children have also participated in having their bodies traced, which will later be used to decorate and hang around our room to help the children gain a sense of pride about their classroom and reflect their unique personalities. We have not wasted any time starting our letter and number knowledge. Linking in with our all about me unit we have begun using tracing cards to practice our names as well as recognise our names. Recently we looked at all of the names in the Preschool Room and practiced recognising what letter each name starts with and counted how many letters in each child's name. We discovered that Emilliana's name has the most amount of letters (9), and Sam has the least amount of letters. We also worked out that most of the children in the Preschool Room have only five letters in their name after we put them all into sorted piles. I have also begun testing each child as you may have seen in the daily Power Point Presentations. The tests have involved the children counting a collection of 10, rote counting, finishing a pattern, recognising letters and numbers as well as shapes and colours. This has been a great way to observe each child's abilities and helps assist us to enable to plan further experiences to enhance their learning to their fullest potential.





If you would like to see the children's outcomes feel free to come and have a chat. Next month we will begin letter of the week, which will help the children greatly in learning their letters as we focus on one letter each week and use the jolly phonics songs to help instil that letter. As we learn each letter the children will participate in a range of activities to help promote their learning through art, science, maths, literacy, etc.
Please be aware that we generally start our morning group and learning time at 9:30am. If you are able to drop your child off prior to this would be greatly appreciated as once we have started group time it helps the children if there are no interruptions and allows them optimal learning opportunities and they won't miss out on any important learning. Looking forward to continuing to get to know the children and getting into more exciting activities over the next few months. If there is anything you need to discuss at any time please do not hesitate!
Until next time, Miss Renee, Miss Csilla and Miss Holly

The Schoolies Scoop!

Welcome families to the start of 2016!
Hard to believe that we are already half way through January. My name is Miss Tara and I will be looking after the schoolies this year. I have been in the Toddler Room last year and I am looking forward to working with the older age group. I have been in childcare for seven years, recently married, have a gorgeous step daughter, a dog and two cats. I hold me Diploma in Children Services and have worked with all age groups. So far this year I have been with the Vacation Care children in Preschool and we have been enjoying doing some of our favourite activities before we have to knuckle down at School. Riley, Jackson, Luke, Daniel and Zain have been enjoying making vehicles and super hero objects with the Mobilo, Lego and Building Blocks. Eliza, Payton, Ebony, Sophie and Gemma have been exploring the dress up's in Home Corner and role playing different scenarios. They have also been role playing Doctors, Hairdressers, Mother duties, Babies and other carer occupations. The boys have joined in occasionally offering a new perspective on the girls play being Fire Fighters. Outside we have been using the sandpit to bury each other up to our ankles and then up to our hips! The children thought this was hilarious! This provided opportunity for the children to use their physical abilities to dig using a variety of shovels and spades and form moulds around the children. We have also been doing many Drawings, Paintings and building master construction pieces with the variety of construction sets. Sophie discussed with the children about her garden at home which we will be extending on exploring our garden in the large yard with some watering, digging and planting of new plants. We have also been extending on the creativity of the children with a different variety of mediums. We started with paper before progressing to easel painting, contact collage, cutting up squares of coloured paper and creating patterns. We've used Pencils, Crayons, Glue, Paint and collage materials to create master pieces of art which are displayed in our hallway for all families to view.







Once the schoolies start, I would really love to get to know you and your children. I would also like to learn their likes and dislikes which I will be doing with the children through a fun questionnaire and daily discussions. Our program will consist of spontaneous play and ideas that are all relevant to the children's individual and group interests and needs. From the children's ideas we will extend on this further providing a variety of learning experiences of all areas. I would also love to be informed from all families in regards to what you would like your children to achieve this year and any activities or ideas you wish to contribute. I'm so excited for the year ahead and can't wait to meet all of you, thanks for reading!
Miss Tara

Come to our Open Day!



Little Ducks Childcare Birkdale

OPEN DAY!

Saturday 27th February
9.30am-11.30am

- Sausage Sizzle
- Old MacDonald's Farm
- Jumping Castle
- An information session from our Kindergarten Teachers
- Balloons, music, bubbles and much more!

Come along and have a chat to our dedicated Educators and enjoy a fun filled morning with the Little Ducks team!

Please contact Little Ducks Birkdale with any further enquiries:



Ph: 3822 5933

www.littleducks.com.au

435 Old Cleveland Rd East, Birkdale



Did you know?

Friendly reminders

James, James, are you here James?!

Did you know that it is a legal requirement for all children to be singed in and out of the centre by a responsible adult? A responsible adult is classed as someone over the age of 18 years who is a parent/guardian/relative of the child. A friend may also drop off or collect children as long as they are on our contact list. Signing in and out is very important as these documents are used as attendance records for not only our records, but also in the event that we have to evacuate the building due to emergency.

Naming Belongings!

In order to ensure we don't loose or mix up your child's belongings we ask that you name everything that comes to Kindy. This includes, sheets, hats, drink bottles, containers, clothes, shoes, nappies etc; We appreciate you taking the time to do so and hopefully this will help with things getting miss placed.

Hats, Hats, Hats!

Please ensure your child brings a hat everyday to Kindy so that we can protect them from the hot sun. We want to teach children sun safety and even the younger rooms can learn to wear their hats with time and patience. Wearing shirts with sleeves also helps to protect your children. Please helps us follow our policies.

Policy Reviews

In order for our centre policies to be a reflection of our local community, we welcome your input regarding the policies below. Please refer to our Policy Review Folder located in the foyer for more information or if you would like to make some suggestions or comments.

Some of the policies on review are:

~ Dress Code Policy
~ Emergency Evacuation Policy
~ Emergency Lockdown/Intruder Alert Procedure
~ Staffing and Supervision Policy

You can find copies of these policies available in the foyer in the policy review folder. We welcome any feedback you may have.

Looking for something more?
Extra curricular available

