

Little Ducks Childcare Birkdale

November/December 2015 Newsletter

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to our November/December edition of our newsletter! Only 8 more weeks till Christmas, can you believe it! The year is flying by.

I would like to start off thanking all the wonderful Birkdale families for making me feel very comfortable in my temporary position as Director whilst Cassie is on maternity leave. For those of you who missed the news, Miss Cassie gave birth to a healthy beautiful baby girl last month. Hallie and her mummy and daddy are doing very well.



Some other exciting news that you may have missed is that Miss Kristy has commenced her maternity leave and is expecting the birth of her baby this month! Miss Tahlia has also returned from her maternity leave and has commenced her position in the Kindy Room. Miss Natalie will now take up the float/relief position.

We are in the process of gathering information to begin a landscape transformation in the large yard and the older age groups are working on creating a flower garden, keep your eyes peeled to see these changes.

Nursery has had their feature wall painted this month with a new shade of colour which look's fantastic! I would like to thank all of our families for contributing to the Earn and Learn Program. In total we received 8600 Stickers resulting in a great outcome allowing our centre to purchase several new learning resources for all rooms.

During December we will be holding the Preschool Graduation on Monday the 7th from 6pm to take the time reminisce the graduates last year at Little Ducks and wish them all the best with their new learning adventure at school. On Friday the 11th from 4:30pm-5:30pm we will be holding the Children's Christmas Party at the centre. We would love all families to come along and celebrate the year with us. There will be a sausage sizzle and a special guest appearance!



From Monday 28 December 2015 to January the 3rd 2016 we will be closed over the Christmas Break and will open from Monday 4th January to commence care for the new year. 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. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Natasha

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Recipe of the Month!

For breakfast on the run!

Healthy Breakfast Muffins

Ingredients

- 120g (3/4 cup) wholemeal flour
- 115g (3/4 cup) plain flour
- 30g (1/2 cup) moist coconut flakes
- 100g (1/2 cup) coconut sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 125ml (1/2 cup) milk
- 80ml (1/3 cup) light olive oil
- 1 egg, lightly whisked
- 170g (1/2 cup) Passionfruit & Chia Jam

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180/160 degrees. Line six 200ml muffin holes with paper cases.

2. Use a whisk to whisk together the flours, coconut flakes, coconut sugar and baking powder. Make a well in the centre. Add the milk, oil and egg. Use a large metal spoon to mix until just combined. Stir in the jam.

3. Divide mixture among prepared muffin holes. Bake for 15-18 minutes or until a skewer inserted in the centre on one muffin comes out clean. Set aside to cool.

4. Optional, brush with passionfruit and chia jam warmed.

5. Enjoy!



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Centre Events!

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

November

Tuesday 3rd – Melbourne Cup Day—the day that stops the nation!

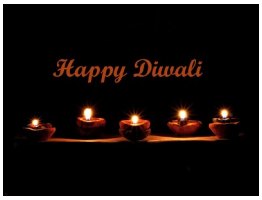


9th –15th - National Recycling Week

Wednesday 11th - Remembrance day - we will be making poppy's in remembrance of the diggers that gave their lives for our country and paying our respects on this day



Wednesday 11th – Diwali - the 'festival of lights'



December

Thursday 3rd – International Day of People with disabilities

Monday 7th - Preschool Graduation - 6pm

Saturday 12th - Children's Christmas Party—Come along and celebrate the year with us. There will be a sausage sizzle and a special guest appearance! 9:30—10:30am at the centre.



Friday 25th - Christmas Day
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Saturday 26th - Boxing Day
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Birthdays!

A very happy birthday to ...

November

Aleeia
Jack
Isobelle
Mckenzie
Kristine
Dominyk



December

Tatum
Lana
Jacob G
Holly
Summer
Lily
Tyson
Noah

Nursery Natter!

Wow, what an exciting time has September and October been. Miss Jamey is the new Lead Educator, as Miss Natasha moved into the office for Miss Cassie's maternity leave. We have had new children start in the nursery and we would like to say a big welcome to those families, we're very happy you chose Little Ducks and we can't wait to watch your little ones grow!



We have been very busy over the last two months, forming close bonds with the children. We have been concentrating on our Sensory-Motor Skills as the children have shown a keen interest in this learning area. Experiences that support this learning development has included making our recycled sensory bottles which have water, glitter, cel-mix, or noisy items in them. The same items have been used in our Sensory Balloons which have been hanging in the room. The children have absolutely love engaging with these hand made resources and exploring the textures.



Group Times have become a large interest too the children also as the children engage in story telling experiences, singing songs, puppet play and dancing to a variety of multicultural music including the Mama Africa Album. The children's biggest interest has been bubbles! The children love participating in this experience as this provides them with the opportunity to explore their senses and observe movement and motion. To help the children gain on their colour recognition we have incorporated powder paint into art experiences as this also provides the children with the opportunity to gain on their sensory skills and texture awareness.



We have been enjoying more time outside as the weather has got warmer. The children have been learning about "Slip, Slop, Slap" practices gaining on their self help skills applying their hats and sunscreen with assistance from carer's. Our gross-motor skills are being explored and strengthened as the Obstacle Course has become a favourite physical challenge outside. Throughout the warmer months we will also be implementing a lot of Water Play! During the next few months we ask if you can please ensure your child has appropriate clothing and extras as well a drink bottle.



The start of November will bring transitions as some of the older children move up to the Toddlers Room. To help support the children with this transition we have been learning self-help skills and independence. This has involved sitting at the table, self feeding and encouragement to use words to communicate their needs.

During the next two months comes Christmas and the New Year. We are very excited and cannot wait to get started in making Christmas decorations and crafts. If you have any parent input into the room or want to inform us on what your child did over the weekend please take the time to inform us as we are always seeking for family input to support the children's recent interests and needs.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this addition of the newsletter, see you soon.
Hannah and Jamey!

Toddler Tales!

Hi families and welcome back to our exciting newsletter! It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the year, how quickly has this year gone!
The toddlers have been busy creating a variety of different artwork which was an extension from our ocean life discovery show. We used different mediums to create a blue painting of the ocean. This experience fostered curiosity in the children as they used their sensory skills to touch and feel the textures. We also created sand paintings using natural sand from the outdoor environment and created jellyfish using recycled plastic bags, fostering sustainability. Recently we have been exploring the variety babies in home corner extending on our feelings of care and compassion. The toddlers have been implementing role play putting the babies to sleep, wrapping them in blankets which encourages their co-ordination and fine motor skills and they have also been pretending to feed the babies with bottles and food which provided opportunity to discuss healthy eating habits. The children also attempted to role play nappy changing which encouraged hygiene practices and sparks toileting ideas. We have also been bathing the babies which also teaches and supports hygiene practices. The toddlers used wipes and nappies to put on the baby dolls to which then extended their emotional development gaining on their feelings of care and compassion. The doctors equipment that we incorporated into the learning environment also supported this area of emotional development. This set provides doctors coats and a variety of fine motor equipment and doctor role play utensils. The care the children showed for each other was truly exciting to see. The use of plastic thermometers and role play of giving medication and transferring their knowledge from their own experiences was initiated by the children which showed great development in their thinking abilities.
As an extension we provided a variety of blankets and beds for the children to which they pretended to put each other to sleep by patting one another on the back and placing blankets on each other. It has been very adorable to observe all the children's responses to the provided resources and we have been implementing these experiences on a daily basis to support their interests.







We have also been focusing on further developing the children's physical skills, exploring outside in the big yard gaining on there balance co-ordination and gross motor skills on the obstacle course and climbing fort. We have been creating other different artwork on a daily basis fostering creativity, which have been suggested or requested from the children or parents. These master pieces then gave us the idea to explore sensory materials such as goop, slime, playdough, kinetic sand and snow dough which the children have loved exploring. Music and dancing have also been a big part of our leaning over the last few months with the toddlers using the instruments to create different sounds and exploring different music rhythms as well. We have listened to classical, jazz, dance and of course the wiggles is the most popular music of all. The toddlers have started listening to the words in the songs and implementing these through actions during dancing. Hot potato, everybody clap and Hi-5's jump forward/jump back songs are our favourites.
As we move into the last few months of the year we will be starting to work on our Christmas activities, which we are so excited about! Some of you may already know but for those who don't, Tara will be away for the month of November.
We look forward to the next upcoming months.
Tara and Chris

Junior Kindy Jabber!

Hello families! We hope everybody has enjoyed their year so far and is starting to get ready for Christmas. Only so many weeks till it will be here!!
We have had recent changes with Miss Kelsey and Ms Csilla starting in the Junior Kindy room. Our Room has been progressing with the changes in season, weather and all the animals that go along with it. We started the quarter off with our rainforest. The children showed an ever-growing interest in animals around the world. Firstly, we made bright birds with feathers, wings and beaks! We then tried out a new style of painting called chalk painting. This got us using our fine motor skills, as we had to scrape the chalk into the water then lay a piece of paper on top. This created our beautiful butterflies. The children also used their hands to make unusual and unique patterns on leaves to hang in the rainforest.



The children then started talking about other animals they liked, lions being one of their favourite 'ROOOOAARRRR' they all yelled as we began making our safari animals. The children made ions faces and then decorated them with a main made of their handprints. We extended on this making giraffes. We talked about Giraffe's eating habits as we discussed how the giraffes eat the leaves in the tallest trees in the jungle to which the children responded saying "Their heads must reach the sky!" with enthusiasm and interest in the jungle animal topic.



We also had the ocean life experience occur which provided the children with the opportunity to learn about all different types of sea animals and provided children with the chance to touch real life Sea Urchins, Cucumbers and Sea Stars. The children even got to pat a turtle which they loved! After the children's large interest in the sea animals we began making Octopus, counting their 8 dangly legs as we glued them on one by one. We then made fish and the children glued on the tails where they thought it belonged encouraging the children to apply their thinking abilities. We painted pictures of the ocean using a special roller that made a wave effect. We made sea horses and talked about how their bodies were shaped like the letter 'S'. We even had a go at making turtles, this was a very tricky and fiddly activity but those who participated had persistence and the outcome was great. We took the time to make our own picture of the beach which involved using all different types of materials such as sand, cellophane and crepe paper helping the children gain on their creative skills. The children are becoming socially responsible and showing respect for the environment as they are starting to understand and appreciate our natural environment through discussion during story telling time and exploration of the outdoor areas. The children are making connections with animals and their living environments. These experiences are helping the children begin to understand that animals are living breathing creatures and are all throughout the world. The children are exploring all different aspects of the different environments animals come from. We are looking forward to the last semester of the year, as we bring in colour. We will be learning about primary colours and encouraging development in colour recognition. This will also bring in a lot of sensory activities for the children to participate in. Parents please inform us if there is anything you would like us to focus on in the room or any input you may have.



Miss Kelsey, Miss Csilla and Miss Di.

Kindy Kapers!

Happy Spring!
Welcome to the last quarter of the year! Hope you are all ready for some fun Christmas celebrations as we bring in the Summer. During the last couple of months we have been learning all about the spring and what come with the change of season. We have planted seeds which are successfully growing and will be ready to transfer into the garden soon and we made some grass heads which have taken off over night so much so that we needed to give them a hair cut which in turn helped us develop our fine motor skills in using the scissors as well as making sure the grass didn't get too wild and unruly. We have also learnt all about the different parts of a flower such as the petals, stem, leaves and pollen/seeds. We have done experiments which changed the color of flowers and pulled them apart to have a closer look at what each part is like. We have also been taking the time to water our flower garden daily observing the growth and changes in the flowers. If you have a chance feel free to take the opportunity to have a look at what we have created and are working on in our garden in the large yard. Our scarecrow that we all enjoyed creating is also on display which looks fantastic.





Branching off we are starting to look at what bugs and animals you can find in the garden which was triggered when we found a big bouncy grass hopper in the yard! We also found some wiggly worms! Stay tuned to see what happens there.
We are looking forward to Halloween and doing some fun activities, we have been busy making Bats this week with a variety of collage materials and creating faces on these helping the children gain on their facial features recognition gluing, eyes, nose and mouths onto their creations. We are very excited to have Miss Tahlia back from maternity leave and we have enjoyed welcoming Miss Amanda who has settled into the room really well, building great bonds with the children who have taken to her loving nature immediately. Feel free to introduce yourself and have a chat with our friendly Kindy teachers if you have any ideas/ suggestions/ questions or input you would like to contribute. The children have started showing an interest in letters and learning the letters in their name again! To extend on this interest, we have been doing all kinds of activities to foster this interest. We have also been getting some parent input with letter blocks and scrabble letters which have made for some fantastic learning exploration with the children both in individual discovery and group experiences. Some children will be moving up into the Pre-School room soon and in the new year also this is a great skill for the children to be interested in and learning in such a fun way!



As it warms up, we are encouraging the children to wear sun safe clothing and to bring their hats and water bottles. Also, feet are getting hot so if you want their shoes on we suggest you bring sandals or thongs which the children are much more willing to wear as it warms up. Spare clothes are already a necessary item as we are doing more water based activities and struggle to keep dry.
Thank you for reading and we can't wait to spend the rest of the year with you all.
Miss Kerri, Miss Tahlia and Miss Amanda

Preschool Press!

Hello Pre School families!
Wow what a year it has been! Only another few months left of preschool and most of our children will be off onto their new adventures at school. As we are now at the end of the year, we are really concentrating on reviewing our literacy and numeracy skills. We have been reviewing alphabetical letters through worksheets of each letter where the children have been practicing tracing them as well as through hands on experiences on the smartboard. By doing these experiences frequently it has helped the children become more confident and ready to start prep at big school.



The children are becoming more confidant with the pre prep program up at Birkdale South State School and have meet most of the teachers in the prep year. Many of the children have started and are continuing to work on their letter books with Miss Renee. Through these books, it has been a wonderful experience to work one on one with the children on a weekly basis to see what areas are still in need of developing and the skills the children have. Many of the children have really enjoyed doing these books weekly and often come and ask if they can extend on them. During this time, we discuss beginning sounds and it has encouraged the children to really think about what particular things look like and aided in boosting their confidence to have a go at drawing something they previously thought they could not draw. They have taken care and consideration with these books and great pride in their work. Each morning we also continue to use our 100's board to count to 100. We are getting better and better each week! Miss Csilla has been a welcome addition to the room and we have loved getting to know her and doing many wonderful activities with her. As Miss Csilla came to us at the beginning of spring, it was perfect timing to start a spring project. This topic has taken us in many different directions including planting seeds with Miss Csilla and gardening daily as well as doing various science experiments with fruits and vegetables. Discussing all things spring we have touched on insects including life cycles of certain insects, animal's behaviours in spring as well as the different types of foods available and where these come from. We have learnt a great deal about this topic and it has been great to hear children's ideas and knowledge of the topic throughout. We have now moved on to how to keep our bodies healthy through exercise and heathy eating. One of the experiences the children did with Miss Csilla was making soup. The children helped to cut up the vegetables and some of the children tasted some of the vegetables also. It was great to see the children get involved with this activity and experience different types of healthy food.









Thankyou for reading our article to the newsletter.
Miss Renee, Miss Csilla and Miss Holly

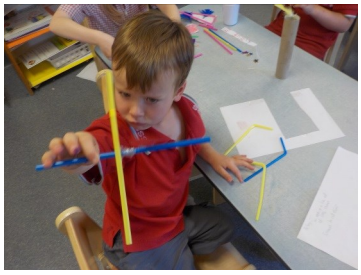
The Schoolies Scoop!



Hi Families,
We have had some recent changes with Miss Kim finishes up at Little Ducks. Miss Monique has been filling in for the Schoolies Program from Monday to Wednesday, Miss Natalie on Thursdays and Miss Holly on Fridays.
Over the last couple of months, we have been learning about our health and wellbeing, nutrition and participated in a wide range of activities of an afternoon with Miss Monique. One of many activities with Miss Monique that we have worked on is our "Schoolies" poster in our hallway. It displays a range of natural materials, which have different textures and colours. This poster strongly shows how creative we are individually and as a group. Just recently, it was Nutrition week, from the 12th – 16th of October. We supported this event taking the time discuss the importance of a healthy food balance for our bodies and which foods we will benefit more nutritional value from. We also stressed the importance of, how vital it is to drink plenty of water throughout the day, so we stay well hydrated through the upcoming spring and summer heat.



To celebrate Children's Week we have encouraged the children discuss with one another and ourselves about each child's individual talents and our skills. Also talking about what we enjoy doing in our spare time, our interests and the children have individually created artwork and drawings that best represents who they are and what interests they each have. The children have shown a large interest in imaginative play and have also been enjoying writing lots of stories together about their friendships with carer's assistance.
Sport activities have been very popular of an afternoon with our new balls as the children participate in a variety of play games such as Soccer and many more building on their physical skills and motor coordination. On a regular basis we have also been encouraging Schoolies to complete some of their homework of an afternoon. Also as a friendly reminder to families please label all items of clothing, hats etc. as we seem to be leaving a lot of school hats around the yard and inside the rooms without names. Feel free to take the time to check the hallway every week or so for what we have been doing of an afternoon on our Schoolies Display.



See you next time! Miss Natalie, Miss Holly & Miss Monique

Past Events!

Ocean Life Experience

























Health & Wellbeing Show

Did you know?

Friendly reminders

.Sock! Sock! Where are you, Sock!?

Who loves lost property?! We don't! In fact, I don't think that anyone likes losing their property. Please join the fight against homeless socks, partner-less shoes and all things unnamed! Help us now by naming your children's items and we will endeavor to reunite the sad, lost and lonely items with their families.

Child Portfolios!

You may have noticed on the top of your children's lockers and shelves some manila folders with your children's names on them. These are your child's portfolios with information on their skills, interests, art work and photos. These are a journey of your child's time here at Little Ducks and you are welcome to look at these whenever you feel the need to see what your child has been getting up to. We send these home every three months for parents to read and treasure.

Cashless Centre!

We want to remind parents that we are a cashless Centre. We do not take responsibility for cash payments that are lost, stolen or missing. To avoid this risk, please make any additional fee payments via our EFTPOS Machine.

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:

~ Anti-bias & Cultural Diversity Policy
~ First Aid Policy
~ Educators and Staff Sickness Policy
~ Safety Precautions Policy
~ Sandpit Procedure
~ Toilet Training Policy and Procedure

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

Little Ducks Fortitude Valley Opening 2016!

Construction on our 5th centre LITTLE DUCKS FORTITUDE VALLEY is almost complete!
The centre will be open in January 2016.

The centre is located in the heart of Fortitude Valley on McLachlan Street.
The multi-level building has been completely refurbished to cater for babies through to school age children, including an approved Kindergarten Program.

Rooms/ Age Groups:
2 Nursery rooms - 0 – 2 years,
1 1-2 years room
2 Toddler rooms 2 – 3 years,
1 Junior Kindy 3-4 years,
1 Kindergarten Program
4 years - School Age

Fee Structure Children

0-2 years $115 * extra $5.60 per day for the inclusion of meals. Children 2-3 years $110 *extra $5.60 per day for the inclusion of meals. Children 3-6 years $100 *extra $5.60 per day for the inclusion of meals. All inclusive of nappies!

The waiting list is growing fast ....

Submit your online/email enquiry now!