

Little Ducks Childcare
January / February 2017
Newsletter

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to our January/February newsletter edition! First of all I would like to welcome back all our families to Little Ducks childcare! An extended welcome is also due to all our new families who have just joined the Little Ducks family. It feels like just yesterday that we were all off on holidays and enjoying the break over Christmas and New Year!

This is one of the many newsletters that will be emailed to parents on a bimonthly basis. The newsletters will contain information on what each room are learning and creating throughout the year so it's important to update your email details with us if they change, and to continue checking your inbox. If you think you are not receiving emails, newsletters or updates please be sure to let me know. The newsletter will also be used to assist families in keeping up with all of the upcoming events throughout the year.

We love and encourage all members of our families to provide new and interesting ideas to the centre's programming. This can take the form of sharing photos and anecdotes of family trips away, birthday and family celebrations, visits to attractions or general information about a topic your child/ren are particularly interested in. As you continue through this newsletter, you will read about the various topics of interest each group are following. At the moment, many of the children are learning about each other and their family's cultural differences, celebrations and family make-up. We would love it if you would be able to pass on any notes about celebrations and their dates that your family partake in, for example: Diwali, Easter, etc. Please feel free to email details to us. We look forward to sharing your ideas and further encouraging the children's sense of belonging at the centre as they share some of themselves. As part of our commitment to supporting families, Little Ducks in the coming months would like to organise Information/Learning Evenings on topics that our current families would like to know more about, need help with or are simply interested in. To get us started, we really need your feedback to tell us what topics you are interested in. For example, are you interested in: Speech & Language, Toilet Training, Behaviour Management, Sleep Management, Nutrition, Allergies & Intolerances etc. I look forward to your feedback!



Once again, welcome to 2017 and I look forward to getting to know you and your children throughout the year!

Maria Sasiakos - Centre Manager

My office hours are 8.00am—4.30pm and I am available to be contacted by phone or email!

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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

January 2017



Celebrating Australia Day —Wednesday 27th
Come along in your best Aussie outfit of green & gold and bring your favourite Aussie dish to share!!

Australia Day—Thursday 26th
Public Holiday—Center Closed

February 2017



Waitangi Day—Monday 6th
Celebrating New Zealand's National Day.

Crocodiles & Dragons Show—Friday 10th
Kids and adults will love The Crocodiles & Dragons Reptile Show starring Gunarr the saltwater crocodile and his assistant Brian "Furry" McLean.

Chinese New Year—Monday 8th
Chinese New Year's Day is the first day of the Chinese lunar calendar. 2017 is The Year of the Rooster! We will be celebrating by exploring The Roosters lucky colours, lucky numbers and flowers!



Brazil's Carnival—Friday 10th
Celebrate by dressing up in your most dazzling, sparkly Carnival Costume for a day of fun and dancing!

Valentine's Day—Tuesday 14th
Throughout the week leading up to Valentine's Day we will be talking about and celebrating the people that we love.

Love your Pet Day—Monday 20th
Leading up to this day we will be talking about our favourite pets. Got a friendly pet at home? Feel free to bring along pictures to share!



Shrove Tuesday—Tuesday 28th
Shrove Tuesday (known in some countries as Pancake Tuesday or Pancake day) is a day in February or March preceding Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), and in Australia we celebrate by consuming pancakes! Join us for a special Pancake morning tea!

Reminders

Immunisation Certificates

Don't forget that we need copies of your child's Immunisation Certificates. The 'blue books' are no longer acceptable for our records, we need a copy of the Australian Immunisation Register certificate – the one that is sent to you from Medicare after Immunisation. You can download it from the Medicare website if you've misplaced your copy. Please bring it into us when you're next in.



Policy Reviews

We value your input and feedback so please refer to the Policy Review Folder downstairs in the foyer for more information; along with our Legislation Regulations and our National Quality Framework Standards. We welcome families input into policy documentation and will seek family feedback for review on an annual basis.

The policies/procedures in review during January and February are:

*Child Protection Policy *Emergency Evacuation Policy *Emergency Lockdown/Intruder Alert Procedure *Maintenance Policy *Manual Handling and Back Care Policy * Natural Disaster/ Severe Storm Policy * Smoking, Alcohol and Drugs Policy *Critical Incident Policy *Feeding Policy—Infants *Occupational Health and Safety Policy

We look forward to working closely with our families to offer transparency and a shared vision between the team and families.

Centre Birthdays!



A big happy birthday to the children who have recently celebrated their birthdays or will celebrate theirs in the coming months. Hope all your dreams and wishes come true!





January

Hugo McKerron
Simon
Lulu

February

Kai
Alexis
Molly J
Olivia F
Matilda
Elias
Montse



Nursery One!

A massive welcome to our Nursery 1 Families, here's hoping everybody had a fabulous Christmas and New Year.

In 2017 we would like to welcome Miss Faye as our Lead Educator working alongside Miss Caitlin.

As Educators we want to work on developing our relationships with all the children, new and existing families as this is a very important part of our job in helping care for your children.

As part of our profession at Little Ducks we love getting family input. We encourage all families to talk to educators, email, or call to talk about your child. Let us know what you have been up to, what skills your children are developing, what toys they are enjoying etc. This gives us a chance to better plan for your child.

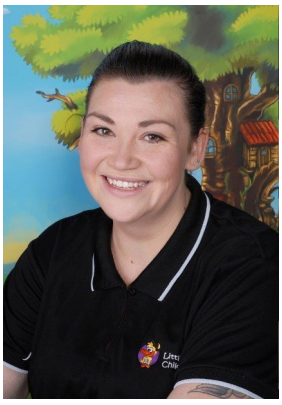


Get to know a little bit about your educators…

Kiaora. Hi my name is Faye. I am from New Zealand. I have been working with children of all ages, in the Early Childcare sector. In the nursery, I will be providing a warm, friendly, caring environment in which the children are given the opportunity to develop socially, emotionally, culturally, physically and intellectually through interactions with myself and peers, and the environment. This will be done by developing relationships with children and families. My goal for 2017 is to offer indoor/outdoor play, construction, music along with my guitar, manipulative experiences and make believe, incorporating cultures into the routine. I have an open-door policy, please feel free to chat to me anytime. Kind regards

Miss Faye (*Lead Educator)*

I've been working childcare for about 4 and a half years now having completed my Certificate III in Childrens Services in 2014, Over the last couple of years I have gained experience working with all ages from 8 weeks to 5 years.



I believe every child is special and unique in the way they learn and play, not one way is the correct way for something to be done, I've found myself learning from the children as well as helping them learn.

I find myself to be a happy go lucky kind of person and in my role as an Educator I want to not only assist Faye in her job as lead but have the children settle in to a point that Little Ducks just becomes a loving, caring home away from home for them.

Miss Caitlin *(Educator)*

We hope your beginning to the year continues to be amazing and brings so many more beautiful memories. Please feel free to email, call or talk to us about absolutely anything.

Nursery Two!

Welcome back everybody. We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year break and are ready to start a new year! 2017 is going to be a great one with Myself (Amy) and Taylor teaming up to be your Educators in Nursery 2. We are both very excited to be working with your babies.

For the families that we don't know, here is a little about ourselves so you can get to know us as your educators.

Amy (Lead Educator)

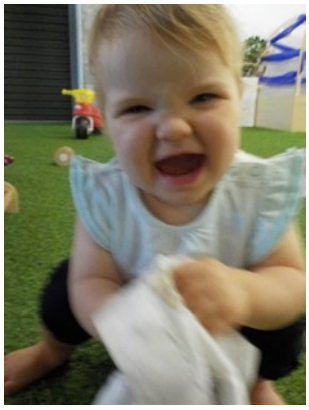


I have a happy, bubbly, easy going, and approachable personality and am passionate about my work. I am almost finished studying my Diploma of Early Years Learning which I hope to finish by Easter time! I have been working with children from birth to five years for about 5 years now, and have had some great relationships and role models to learn from throughout these years. I love the nursery and toddler age group and how much children absorb learning in their first two years of life. I believe children under two learn through investigation if their environment, relationships and through lots and lots of sensory and physical movement investigation. My main aim is to ensure all children are safe, happy, are having lots of fun and learning whilst in my care. I love the saying 'It takes a village to raise a child' and firmly believe this is true. I believe children thrive to learn and they learn from all that is around them at every point of their day. I am looking forward to being a part of your child's growth and development and working together to ensure your child will have the best possible start in his/her journey of life.

My name is Taylor, and I will be your child's new educator in Nursery 2, I'm so excited to meet each and everyone one of you and of course your wonderful children. Since I started working in childcare early last year, I was always striving to be in the nursery, it has always been my dream to work with babies and enrich the starting years of their life so they can go on and be confident little learners. The reason why I've always wanted to work with babies is because it's always been a passion of mine, hearing a child say their first word, or watching them take their first step or observe them accomplish something they haven't been able to do before is to me one of the most rewarding things in life. We are both looking forward to a fun filled year together!!!



Nursery Two!



To kick off our learning for 2017 we hope to build some great and strong relationships with each child. We think it is important to learn about each child's family as much as it is important to know about each child's individuality. We want to get to know you as families by starting a family album!

To do this we hope that you can share with us some photos, this can include family photos, photos of pets, extended family, anything you like that you think captures your family or child's personality. Your welcome to bring photos in for us to photocopy or send some copies through to our email address, any contribution is greatly appreciated!



We look forward to learning more about you as the year goes on. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to come and talk to either of us.

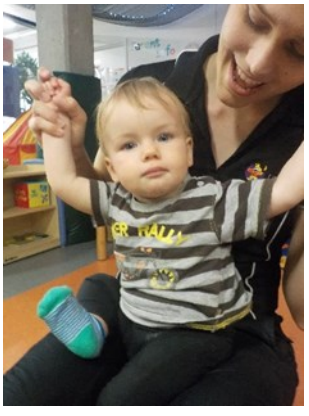
To end, just a few housekeeping reminders; each day your child attends day-care don't forget to pack a hat, as we hope to go down into the Kindy yard for plays in the fresh air, always pack some extra clothing because we all know babies can get messy sometimes, Please let us know about any medications that you have in your bags or that your child has had, or needs to have at any time of the day, lastly please ensure that we have nappy rash cream available for your child just in case it is needed whilst at day-care.



Talk soon!

Love, Amy and Taylor





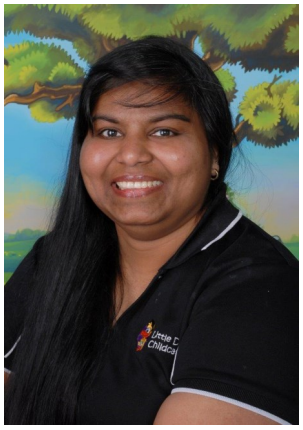
Senior Nursery 1!

This is a great opportunity to welcome new and existing families to 2017 at Little Ducks Fortitude Valley. We are all very excited for another big year! Our new Educator team for Senior Nursery 1 this year will be Grace (lead Educator), Suder (Educator) and Yumeko (Educator). Each Educator brings in different strengths to the room and we have great goals for this year. One of our first goals will be to work to develop strong relationships with the children and families at the beginning of the year. We will be working on this with our existing families as well as the children will have a transition to a new level and new expectations within the room.



My personal philosophy as the lead educator in the room is that I believe that childhood is important and sacred. Children have 4-5 years before they begin formal schooling. I believe that childhood should be about creating everlasting memories, getting messy—eating, painting and playing in the sandpit should be a full body experience. Most important of all child agency—children should be involved in their environment and decisions that influence them.

My name is Suder and I will be also working in the room with Grace and Yumiko. As an educator I believe young children experience their world as an environment embedded with three key features—relationships, responsive care and respect. They develop and learn most happily in these environments, full of opportunities for them to explore, create and follow their own particular interest. Children learn through playful exploration and through their interaction with others.



My name is Yumiko and I have been doing casual work at Little Ducks for the past year. I am very excited to be working alongside Grace and Suder. My philosophy is that I believe that children are involved learners, children learn from their environment. When children feel secure, they are more able to develop. I want to see a lot of smiles and make a comfortable environment for children to grow in confidence and empathy.



Senior Nursery 1!

Our main focus for 2017 will be helping develop the children's self-help skills and agency (being able to make choices and decisions to influence events and to have an impact on one's world. EYLF). We have been blown away by the children's amazing self-help skills which will allow us to continue to extend on. This will include skills such as inviting children for nappies, supporting them to pack away their sheets after rest, washing their own hands, each child will have their own place mat (designed by them) etc. These skills will be developed throughout the year and supported physically and verbally in different ways by the Educators.



We will share with you our progress and development through learning observations and planning journals.

These skills will help with the children's transition to Senior Nursery 2 later in the year.

Throughout the year we will be prompting you for feedback into our program, routine or room design we appreciate any input you can provide. This is an important part of our framework and appreciate any feedback/input you can provide. We have an input/feedback section on our learning journal and will be adding this to our planning journals to encourage your feedback.



At the beginning of the year we will be asking you to provide a family picture via email. Your family photo will be made into a book that will be accessible to the children at all times. This book will include a photo of your child, your family photo and their culture. This will allow us to better know your child and also continue to foster their sense of belonging.



We have some great events coming at the beginning of the year and would appreciate any input about how you celebrate the event or ideas on how to celebrate it. Our upcoming events include Australia Day (the public holiday will be 26th Jan), Waitangi Day on Feb 6th, Chinese New Year on Feb 8th and Crocodiles and Dragon show on Feb 10th. This will provide us lots of exciting opportunities to learn about different cultures.





Senior Nursery 2!

Firstly I would like to share with you my philosophy as the Lead Educator in the Senior Nursery room. I believe in an Open Door Policy were we encourage participation from families in all aspects of our centre , including the development of the curriculum. I believe building partnerships with families allows us to bridge the gap between home and care, so please come and spend time in the room with the children and the educators.

My name is Suchi and this year I am continuing to be in Senior Nursery 2. It's a wonderful opportunity to continue working in Senior Nursery 2 this year. I aim to provide a loving, caring, safe and home-like environment that is welcoming, warm and inclusive of all cultures, nationalities, abilities and family situations. In relation to the children I aim to implement an educational program and environment that reflects both individual and group needs that promotes each child's interest, culture, learning, development and individuality through play! I believe that children are motivated to learn when they have opportunities to make choices in an environment that is enriching and stimulating. Children can be highly motivated, feel actively involved in their own learning and produce work of high quality when they have the time to engage in short and long term projects.

My name is Megan and I will be working alongside Jess and Suchi in Senior Nursery 2. I enjoy watching children learn about the wonders of the world and seeing their excitement in learning about so many different things. This drives my passion to see children flourish, gain social skills and build friendships at a young age. I take pride in being able to help encourage children to grow and learn more about the world and their surroundings, whilst role modelling the behaviour I would like to teach. I endeavour to learn as much about the children in my care so I am able to cater for their varying needs. I find that learning about children helps me to understand what the child might need when they are faced with challenges, such as finding words or actions within different situations. I try to understand what children are wanting to communicate as this allows me to role model, enabling me to teach.

We would like to welcome our new families that have started recently with us. We look forward to getting to know you all and your children individually over the next few months. That is one of our favourite parts of our jobs, creating warm relationships with our children and their families. We would also like to welcome our returning families joining us for a jam-packed year in Senior Nursery 2! We have so many new and exciting experiences for your children to participate and be involved with, that we can't wait to share.



Senior Nursery 2!

For the first couple of months we will be looking at identity and agency. Supporting our children to feel safe, and secure inside their new environment and with their new teachers. Each child will have their own identity tree's, this will consist of photos of families, siblings and achievements, throughout the year. We do encourage families to bring along photos for the trees, this will in turn help your children again feel comfortable in their surroundings and belong to the group.

We will be continuing self-help skills from Senior Nursery 1, promoting washing hands, collecting their own bottles, emptying their dirty dishes and cleaning their own faces after meals. This allows the children to develop increasing awareness of their own health and physical wellbeing.

We would love families to support our routine and encourage their children to repeat some of these actions at home, this will ease transitioning to toddler's room when the time comes.

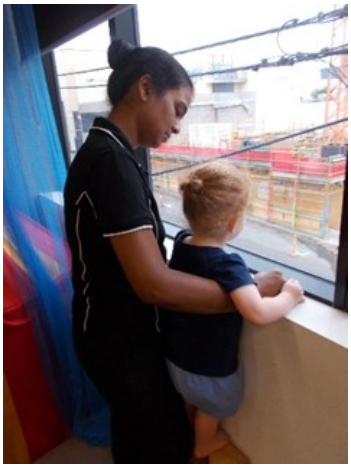
Within the next few weeks, you will be notice some changes with our Planning Journals, Observations and Programs. We understand not all our families are able to read our observations and planning journals during the week, so we have decided to send out a weekly overview of what we have been up to throughout the week. We also will be sending your child's observation, this will not be as frequent but it will help families to have a more in-depth understanding of your child's learning. There is an area in the room that is dedicated to each child's learning which you will find on the grey carpet wall, we urge families to consistently check in to see if there is any new observation of their child's learning.

Throughout the first couple of months we will be establishing respectful relationships with your children, discovering their development skills and interest which we can extend further one on one or within the group. We would love to hear your feedback and involvement from families throughout the year so please don't hesitate to come have a chat with us, your support is welcomed!

From your enthusiastic Senior Nursery 2 Team!

Miss Jess, Miss Suchi and Miss Megan.





Toddlers!

Welcome to the very first edition of the toddler news for 2017.

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas spending beautiful time with your family, children and friends and welcoming the New Year. We are all very excited to be beginning the new year with many new families along with our much-loved families who are still with us from last year. We have a fun-filled year to get on with….. My self (Jyoti) and Sandra will be working as a team in this room until we get our new Lead Educator.

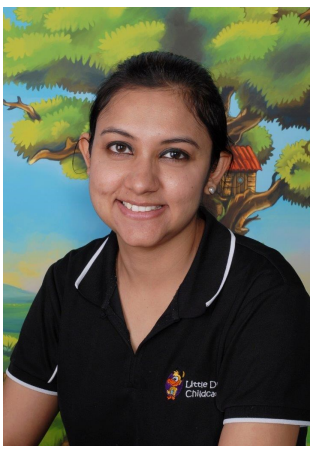


For all the families, a brief introduction about ourselves so that we can start to build strong relationships:

Miss Sandra— It is my vision that each child who comes through our door joins a community of children, families and teachers who are engaged in the joy, work and wonder of childhood. Children are individuals and they need to be encouraged to discover and reach their full potential. To achieve this they need loving, stimulation and a non-threatening environment, which nurtures and challenges each individual child. I believe children need a sense of belonging. I am committed to delivering quality care for children and my goal is to create a warm, safe and caring environment according to the individual needs of the children, I believe that we never finish learning from children!

Miss Jyoti—I chose to be a teacher because I feel children are our future, and to help them learn, I can contribute to making our future and country better.

Childhood is the part of life we all miss! We can't remember how we were as a child, so I like to see that part of life I miss by working with children.



I love helping children grow, facing the challenges of childhood. I want to contribute to the children of today by teaching them and helping them in learning different aspects of their growth, and I want to see them as the green, happy fruitful trees of tomorrow!

Toddlers!



We believe that age two is one of the child's most important ages for emotional development. Toddlers go through lots of emotions in this age group, so our primary goal will be to work on this by building strong and positive relationships with all the children.

We will be practicing "turn taking"; which, as you know, for toddlers can be quite a challenge. We will be using and learning colors through paints, food coloring, craft material, songs, clothes and fruits to express and reflect on creative expressions.

Some other areas of focus will be language and fine and gross motor development. We will be taking a close look at nature and its changes by experimenting with natural materials. In our program, we will be including lots of water play activities so that children can express themselves.

Our focus will be promoting the positive learning environment for the children, as this is all about children, so we will be working on initiating the children's interest and doing all the activities that are of their interest as well as providing a strong base for their further overall personality development.

We will be celebrating the multicultural events in the month of January and February. We will also be celebrating Olivia and Elias's second birthday (Hurrahhh! that's exciting) in the month of February.

We will have a beautiful family wall in our room. We would love it if everyone could bring in their family photos for us to display. Also, you are most welcome to share your experiences and ideas with us in the form of email or photos or any form of communication you like. If you have any questions and concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see any one of us.

Until next time…….

Jyoti and Sandra







Junior Kindy!

Welcome back families from your holidays and back to daily drop offs to our new Junior Kindy room!
Yay, it has been so exciting to open this program for children 2.5 to 3.5 years. I (Miss Jo) will be the Lead Educator alongside Jamie who will working with me and your child.
As most of you know me, although for new families who might not, I have worked at Little Ducks for just under a year now. I have developed beautiful relationships with all the children in the program and believe that all children should be encouraged to express themselves in their own way. I have worked in the industry for 5 years and have accumulated plenty of experience with all ages groups in the Early Learning Sector. I'm passionate about children and their learning journey, I always want to provide the best for each child's journey as each is different and beautiful. Last year I met most of you and with new families joining our learning group, I can't wait to meet you and develop a relationship to ensure your child and family have the most amazing experience yet. Welcome Mr Jamie the new addition to our Junior Kindy Team, here is a little bit more of an introduction and what Jamie beliefs in: I believe that during your childhood is when you are given the skills and foundation of starting your life, children are encouraged to learn about the world around them and who they are. It is with the skills they learn now that they will move forward, taking what we have taught them and developing into their own person, growing up and discovering their own life path. Throughout this year we will be preparing children for what's next, in the Kindy room with Miss Tracey. This includes children developing the confidence and independency to go to the toilet, encouraging children to understand expectations as well as boundaries in the class. I have come up with a few ways to increase children's literacy and vocabulary skills, along with Mr Jamie who has also thought of a few ideas to implement for the children. This includes new songs on a weekly basis, exploring the alphabet, listening to each other during show and share which could be a fantastic way to boost children's confidence, self-identity and speech, as children begin to ask questions and respond in a way that allows them to become capable listeners and speakers.



Junior Kindy!



Throughout this year we will be preparing children for what's next, in the Kindy room with Miss Tracey. This includes children developing the confidence and independency to go to the toilet, encouraging children to understand expectations as well as boundaries in the class. I have come up with a few ways to increase children's literacy and vocabulary skills, along with Mr Jamie who has also thought of a few ideas to implement for the children. This includes new songs on a weekly basis, exploring the alphabet, listening to each other during show and share which could be a fantastic way to boost children's confidence, self-identity and speech, as children being to ask questions and respond in a way that allows them to become capable listeners and speakers.

In January we will be continuing the FUN program, then we will be beginning our usual program, I would love to see loads of family input as last years was amazing! All the input made it fun and easy to program for each child, it also allowed for lots of discussion. Mr Jamie and I would like to use this month to settle all the children back into routine as the class routine is almost the same as last year. I will be sending new *Me Sheets* home for families to write on and bring back to help with programming when the FUN program concludes. It will also be useful as a document to look back on throughout the year as I would like to keep the children's portfolios in book area, to allow the children to have constant access to their learning.





Kindergarten Program!

Welcome to Kindy News for 2017! I trust that you all had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and are ready to tackle 2017 with us head on through meaningful play. Firstly I would like to thank you all for choosing Little Ducks Fortitude Valley as your Kindergarten of choice. I will work with you and your child throughout the next 12 months to encourage them to reach their full potential before they start school in 2018. We will laugh, we will learn, we will investigate and we will think. But most of all we will have fun learning through play.



I would love to share my personal philosophy with you all. I entirely believe that by allowing children unhurried time in a supportive and stimulating environment provides them with the opportunity they need to learn and develop new knowledge and skills. I believe that the most important part of teaching is nurturing a child's social and emotional development and providing an environment where children can learn through play, encouraging their personality to shine and in turn develop the strategies to become a confident and involved learner.

To start off our year, I will establish some class and individual goals to work towards through the first quarter. These will be very flexible and likely to be in support of building a confident self-identity in the Kindy room. Developing a sense of belonging is very important to me and the children will work together as a group to decide what they would like in the room, where they would like it and will participate in the designing process. We will engage in activities such as drawing portraits of ourselves, highlighting our strengths and identifying our weaknesses – all through play and in a positive way. I would love to hear suggestions of activities to promote this if you have any, your feedback is always welcome.

Furthermore, throughout the hot days of Summer the children like to engage in water play and lucky for us we have an outdoor area suitable! Don't forget to send along your child's swim clothes including a sun shirt and hat and I will send them home on the last day of attendance each week.



Kindergarten Program!

To end, I will leave you with this little ode so you can see how important this year is going to be for your little one:

Everything I needed to know, I learned in Kindergarten.

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in Kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandpit at Kindy.

Share everything.
Say sorry when you hurt somebody.
Play fair.
Wash your hands before you eat.
Put things back where you found them.
Warm cookies and milk are good for you.
Clean up your own mess.
Live a balanced life.
Don't take things that are not yours.
Learn some and think some and dance and sing and play and draw and work some every day.
Take a nap every afternoon.
When you go out into the world, hold hands, watch for traffic and stick together.





Spotlight on... Jamie
Junior Kindy Educator

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a lot of different suburbs all around Sydney, attending a few different primary schools in that time. I then moved to Brisbane to start my high school career. I loved Brisbane and knew that this was were I wanted to live.

What was your first job?

My first job that I started when I finished high school was a house painter. I then thought I would try a variety of different jobs and see which one I would love! I then was a cleaner followed by a gardener and then started to work in retail which I did for a few years. I then got a job working in childcare which then I knew that this was the right job for me.

What do you do when you're not at work?

When I'm not at work I spend a lot of time out with my friends or relaxing at home playing video games. I have been playing my favourite video game called, 'Find Fantasy' since I was seven years old.

Where would you like to visit?

I would like to visit Japan or Italy. I would like to visit Japan because of the culture that the country has to offer. I would also love to go during cherry blossom season. As for Italy I missed a chance to do student exchange when I was younger and it is still on my to do list.

5) What is your secret talent? or if you had a super power what would it be?

If I could have a super power I would like to have the ability to talk to animals. I feel like being able to talk to animals would give us a better understanding of the world around us :)



Healthy Eating....

Baby corn and noodle fritters



Ingredients:

- 85g dried rice vermicelli noodles
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- 125g fresh baby corn, thinly sliced
- 1 long red chilli, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon oyster sauce
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1/4 cup self-raising flour
- 4 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 tablespoons oil
- Sweet chilli sauce, sliced green onion, sliced red chilli and mixed salad leaves, to serve

Method:

1. Place noodles in a heatproof bowl. Cover with boiling water. Stand for 3 minutes or until softened. Drain. Cut into 2cm lengths.

2. Combine onion, corn, chilli, soy sauce, oyster sauce, sesame oil and flour in a bowl. Add eggs. Stir to combine. Stir in noodles.

3. Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Using 1/4 cup mixture at a time, cook in batches, for 2 minutes each side or until golden and cooked through. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towel. Serve fritters with sweet chilli sauce, onion, chilli and salad leaves.

Mexican meatball cups



Ingredients:

olive oil cooking spray

- 250g packet mini flour tortillas
- 200g lean beef mince
- 1 small brown onion, grated
- 1 small zucchini, trimmed, grated
- 1/2 cup fresh multigrain breadcrumbs
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3/4 cup (200g jar) mild taco sauce
- 1/2 cup Campbell's Real Stock Chicken Salt Reduced
- 1/3 cup grated tasty cheese and guacamole dip, to serve

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C. Spray ten 1/3-cup capacity muffin holes with oil. Using a 12cm round cutter, cut 1 round from each tortilla. Press 1 round into each muffin hole. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until golden. Cool in pan for 20 minutes. 2. Meanwhile, place mince, onion, zucchini and breadcrumbs in a bowl. Using clean, damp hands, mix until well combined. Roll heaped tablespoons of mixture into balls. Refrigerate for 10 minutes.

3.Heat oil in a large, non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook meatballs, turning, for 10 minutes or until browned. Add taco sauce and stock. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer for 5 minutes or until meatballs are cooked through and sauce thickens slightly. 4. 4. 4. Spoon 1 meatball and 2 teaspoons of sauce into each tortilla cup. Sprinkle with cheese. Top with dollop of guacamole. Serve.

Connecting with the Community.....

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

BRISBANE Mums Group .com.au

Brisbane Mums Group is an online Facebook group for Brisbane parents to ask questions, seek advice, share experiences and join a vibrant and supportive community.

Group members are encouraged to initiate conversations about absolutely any topic, but there's also a fun theme each day to get discussions flowing.

Day Out with Thomas

Meet this popular blue steam locomotive along with his friends at the Workshops Rail Museum these school holidays for a Day Out With Thomas.
This month-long exhibit brings Thomas's railroad adventures to life. The Fat Controller will captivate youngsters in his energetic performance and littlies can meet Thomas and the Fat Controller throughout the day. The fun continues as children hunt for the miniature Thomas on the model railway, get crafty with Thomas activities and climb board the small train for a short ride (for an additional $3).
Event: 02/01/2017 -



Maker space

Wednesday 1st February 2017
10:30 – 11am
New Farm Library

Stop by the library these school holidays for free children's craft activities. Ideal for children aged 3-12 years and their carers.



First 5 Forever toddler time

Wednesday 15th February

Meet other parents and toddlers for a fun session of singing, clapping and dancing. Learn action rhymes and songs which will help your child's pre-literacy, communication, language and social skills.
Ideal for babies and toddlers aged 1-2 years.
The First 5 Forever initiative is funded by the Queensland Government.



Helpful Online Resources

the bub hub
trusted by parents since 2002

The Bub Hub Blog, or Hubhub as we like to call it, features entertaining, fun, and informative blog posts on a wide range of baby and parenting topics.
Real people, real info, real support**.** Check out the Bub Hub for the latest tips, tales and talk from the world of parenting and beyond.

Australian BabyHands

Australian Baby Hands was developed to introduce Australian parents to the joys and benefits of using Australian Sign Language with their baby, otherwise known as baby sign language Australian Baby Hands provides parents with a simple step-by-step guide to baby sign language using Australian Sign Language.

http://www.australianbabyhands.com/

raisingchildren.net.au

On the Raising Children website, parents will find reliable and scientifically validated information and resources to support them in the day-to-day work of raising children and looking after their own needs. This website covers a broad range of up-to-date parenting topics.

mychild.gov.au

Contains information on the different types of child care and early learning available fro families and how to get assistance with child care costs. You will also find links t other useful websites about children's health and wellbeing, parenting and family support services.

Quote:
""Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn".
Benjamin Franklin

Thank you for taking the time to read our centre newsletter. Please remember our door is always open and that we value family participation across all aspects of our program.