

Little Ducks Childcare Wilston

January/February 2016

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to our first edition of your 2016 newsletter!
I hope you have all had a wonderful break over the Christmas period and are well rested to hit ground running for 2016!
Firstly, I would like to discuss some exciting changes for our Little Ducks Wilston team this year, including staff changes and introducing the new educators who have joined our team this year. We have said farewell to Mary-Anne who has taken a position as a Pre-School teacher at another centre, Nicola who has taken on fulltime study towards a Bachelor of Primary school teaching, Jess who has moved back to Bundaberg to be with family and Loren who is now on maternity leave! We were sad to see them go but are very grateful to have amazing new educators join our team this year and bring the many new talents that they have with them. I would like introduce our new Kindy lead educator Desirae who is studying towards her diploma in early childhood and has eight years experience in working with children! Teagan is our new lead educator in the Junior Kindy room who is Diploma qualified with three years experience in early childhood and last but not least, Nabia and Mandy who were part of our casual relief staff who have taken the opportunity to join our team full time as room educators!
Thank you to all of our Little Duck families who have been welcoming to our new staff and supportive with the recent changes, I understand that it is natural to be concerned but some changes are not in our control however we do our best to make sure we provide quality care for your children.
On another note, make sure you read our up and coming events page further on in our newsletter so that you are aware of what exciting things will be happening in our centre! Also, don't forget to schedule in our first open day for the year which will be happening on Saturday 13th February from 9am to 11am. Please feel free to bring along your family and friends for a sausage sizzle and a explore our Centre! We will be sure to send reminder emails out before our Open day too.



We understand that the beginning of the year is one of busiest times where a lot of things are happening, please feel free to contact me to chat or arrange a time to discuss any questions with your child's educator that you may have about how your child settling in with us.
Thank you all for taking the time to read through the newsletter, we look forward to updating you in March.
Ata

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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

...January...



Tuesday 26th - Australia Day - Centre Closed

Wednesday 27th - Australia Day celebrations! Come along and enjoy a sausage sizzle in you best Aussie outfit of green & gold or proudly wearing the flag!

...February...



Friday 5th - Waitangi Day - Today we are celebrating New Zealand's national day. A special day for Miss Ata and Miss Vicki as well as our New Zealand families.

Monday 8th—Vietnamese New Year & Chinese New Year—Let's celebrate with these wonderful countries.

Wednesday 10th—Brazil's Carnival—Celebrate with Miss Regina by dressing up in your most dazzling, sparkly Carnival costume.

Sunday 14th – Valentine's Day - Leading up to this day we will celebrate the people that we love.



Monday 15th—Vet visit. Time to learn about looking after our pets and the importance of the jobs of vets

Saturday 20th - "Love your Pet" Day - got a friendly pet at home? Feel free to bring along pictures to share!

Monday 22nd—Ocean Life show—come along and explore some of the amazing sea creatures.

New Year Reminders...

- Please label all of your child's belongings - we find it very difficult to track them down or realise a mix up if they are not labelled. Items to label include the clothing your child wears and rest time sheets
- We endeavour to be a nut and egg free centre. This is standard across all rooms due to various allergies. Please be aware of this when packing your child's lunches.
- Open day— First open day will be held on Saturday, 13th February 2016. From 9am— 11am. Please feel free to bring your family members with you and come have a chat with our educators!
- Sunscreen—if your child does not have sunscreen on in the morning please let the educators know so we can apply sunscreen on for you.

Policy Reviews

We value your input and feedback so please refer to the Policy Review Folder in the foyer for more information or to provide any comments or suggestions.

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

- DRESS CODE POLICY
- EMERGENCY EVACUATION
- POLICY EMERGENCY LOCKDOWN / INTRUDER ALERT PROCEDURE
- STAFFING AND SUPERVISION POLICY

Centre Birthdays!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

* *Jack.C*
* *Elsie. B*
* *Sienna.D*
* *Lachlan.L*
* *Lucia. M*
* *Henry. C*
* *Willow. E*
* *Ashton.G*
* *Hugo.M*
* *Finn. P*
* *Amelia. K*
* *Kelly. M*
* *Torban. M*
* *Leo. P*
* *Finn. R*
* *Harry.M*

Simple Egg-free mushroom and parmesan quiche...

Ingredients:

- 1 sheet frozen ready-rolled shortcrust quiche pastry, partially thawed
- 40g butter
- 250g button mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup plain flour
- 1 1/2 cups reduced-fat milk
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh chives
- 1/4 cup finely grated parmesan cheese
- 100g baby spinach
- 1 medium red capsicum, thinly sliced

Method:

Step 1

- Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan forced. Line a 23cm round (base) loose-based fluted flan tin with pastry. Trim excess. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Step 2

- Meanwhile, melt one-quarter of the butter in a non-stick saucepan over low heat. Add mushroom and onion. Cook, stirring, for 2 minutes or until mushroom has softened. Transfer to a colander. Drain.

Step 3

- Melt remaining butter in pan over medium-high heat. Add flour. Cook, stirring, for 1 to 2 minutes or until bubbling. Remove from heat. Gradually stir in milk until smooth. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until mixture boils and thickens. Remove from heat. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in half the chives and half the parmesan. Cover surface with plastic wrap. Set aside.

Step 4

- *Place flan tin on an oven tray. Cover pastry with baking paper. Fill with uncooked rice or ceramic pie weights. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove paper and rice or weights. Cook pastry for 5 to 10 minutes or until golden. Remove from oven. Increase temperature to 200°C/180°C fan-forced.*

Step 5

- *Spoon mushroom mixture into pastry case. Top with flour mixture. Sprinkle with remaining parmesan. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes until golden. Sprinkle with remaining chives. Combine spinach and capsicum in a bowl. Serve quiche with spinach mixture.*

Nursery Natter!

Lead Educator
Miss Kristin



Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new Nursery families to the centre! We are really looking forward to getting to know you and you children and to be there for you during this time where you will be transitioning you children into care for the first time. We understand that returning to work and settling into day care can be a really emotional time so please feel free to speak to any of the staff if you need any assistance or just someone to talk to.

My name is Kristin and I am the Nursery Lead Educator. I have been working at Little Ducks Wilston for 4 years now and I have worked with a variety for age groups. I have been working in the Nursery for 2 and a half years now and find it very rewarding every day. We are carrying out our interview process to find us a fantastic educator to join us in the Nursery as we had to farewell Miss Nicola who has left to take on full time study!

Over the next few months we will be getting to know you and your children and helping them to feel safe and secure in their new learning environment. We plan to help your children develop a strong sense of identity by comforting them and supporting their routines and transitions. We will be initiating interactions with them and support them as they begin to explore the room and engage with us and the other children.

We have already seen the children take an interest into the sensory wall so we will be running with this interest and begin exploring our senses through play.

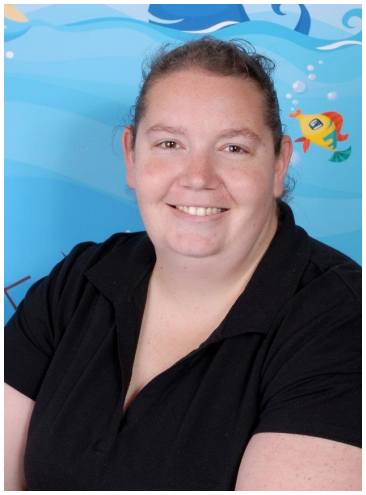
Please remember that it is important to label all of your child's belongings including food containers, bottles, drink bottles, clothing, cot sheets etc.

We hope that you all settle into the Nursery comfortably and please do not hesitate to ask us if you have any questions at any time.

Kristin

Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator
Miss Savannah



Hello and Welcome to our first edition of the Toddler Tales for 2016. We would like to take this time to welcome all our friends, both the children from the Nursery who have moved up and those that are new to Little Ducks. We hope you have a fun filled time this year as we begin to develop a relationship that will guide you through your learning experience.

To begin the year, the children have taken an interest in cars, where we have been playing with the car structures and creating tracks for the cars to drive on. We have also been exploring animals, identifying the animals and their sounds from flash cards. The children are looking at the pictures and recognizing which animals they are and we have begun to develop this by introducing different types of animals to their daily experiences. Over the past few days we have begun to explore our senses, with the children investigating their sense of touch.

Over the next few months, we will be exploring the children's interests further and using these interests to settle the children into the room and new routines. We endeavor to build a positive relationship with the children while they explore their environment and become involved in learning experiences based on their interests. We are wanting to explore language and communication and develop basic words for the children to say including the use of 'please' and 'thankyou' in their daily activities. If there is anything at home which you use to aid in the development of language, then please come and have a chat to the educators in the room, as we like to encourage partnerships with families.

We all look forward to starting this journey with you and your child, and we hope you have a great time joining in on our learning in the room.

Savannah & Nabia

Junior Kindy Jumble!

Lead Educator
Miss Teghan



Educator
Miss Mandy



Welcome to 2016 we hope you're ready for an exciting fun filled ride in the Junior Kindy Room. My name is Miss Teagan and I will be your Lead Educator this year I have worked in childcare for the last 3 years. I love to sit down with a good book or go for a swim when I am at home and I am excited to become a part of the team here at Little Ducks.

Miss Mandy will be your Assistant Educator. She has been working in childcare for almost a year and is the youngest of the little ducks educators here at Wilston. Miss Mandy Enjoys expressing her creativity and imagination through acrylic painting and also enjoys being adventurous.

Miss Mandy and I are passionate about making our environment a safe and welcoming work-place for you and your family. Our aim is to build long lasting relationships with you and help your children settle into the Junior Kindy room.

Lately we have been focussing on the weather since we have been enjoying such lovely warm days. The children have been learning about sun safety, what we need to be wearing before we go outside in the sun and how to keep sun safe! We have also discussed the different types of weather such as, sunny, cloudy, rainy or windy and what clothes would be suitable to wear in that type of weather condition. This is was a perfect subject for Mandy and I to focus on to help children form a bond and trust with us through our planned learning experiences.

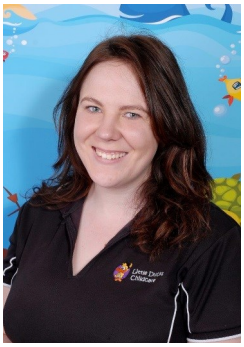
Most recently the children have demonstrated an interest in the alphabet, we plan to explore this through craft activities, song time and reading. We also plan to encourage self-help skills which will include children's toileting, packing away, making their own beds and putting their shoes on and many other day-to-day things.

Over the next few months we will continue to focus on getting to know the children and our families better to ensure that the children are comfortable and secure with Mandy and I. We understand it can be difficult time for both families and children coming in to a new environment as well as having a new educators. We have begun to build these relationships with planned group times with the use of songs, books and games and open communication with our families.

Don't forget to stay tuned with what we are focussing on through our daily journal.
Thank you! Miss Teagan and Miss Mandy.

Kindy Catch Up!

Lead Educator Miss Emma



Lead Educator Miss Desirae



Educator Miss Sawsan



Welcome to a new year in Kindy. We hope that you had an amazing Christmas and new year, and are ready for a fantastic year ahead with us. As you all maybe aware of, there are three educators in the Kindy room, two Lead Educators: Miss Emma who is in charge of the under 3 age group and Miss Desirae who is new to the centre and is in charge of the over 3 age group, we also have an educator the lovely Miss Sawsan who is shared between both age groups. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to meet all of our wonderful families yet but we look forward to meeting and working with all of you and your beautiful children this year in the Kindy room, so if you haven't met the educators yet, please come up and introduce yourselves.

Our goals for the next couple of months are to get the children into a routine that suits all of them and to become comfortable with their educators, creating a sense of belonging to the centre itself. We would also like to start on helping the children to become more self sufficient and give them more independence within the classroom and at home.

As the children are still at an age where they are either toilet trained or in the process of toilet training, please ensure that you are bringing enough spare pairs of underwear and pants (four to six pairs) so that there are no setbacks if they run out and need to be put back in a nappy. Also ensure that your child's name is on **everything** including sheets and sheet bags, drink bottles, clothing, lunch boxes and hats.

Over the past few weeks the children have shown a large interest in bugs which we have followed on with by creating an insect area and learning about different kinds of insects. We have also been learning about African animals and have started creating an African animal area. We are all very excited that the children have shown such strong interests at the beginning of the year and are looking forward to what we can teach them and what they can teach us over this year.

At any stage should you have any concerns or just want to have a general chat about your child or children please don't hesitate to come see us.

We look forward to working with you all and can't wait to see what learning and experiences we get up to this year here in Kindy.

Emma, Desirae and Sawsan

Preschool Pride!

Early Childhood Teacher
Miss Vicki



Teaching Assistant
Miss Mel



Wow, what an amazing start to the year we have had! The pre-schoolers have jumped right into exploring and engaging in so many different experiences.
By now hopefully you will have read our pre-school daily adventures page and will have been keeping up to date with all the amazing things that we have been doing. Don't forget to have a quick look even on the days that your child doesn't come, as you will be able to catch up with any reminders and updates with what we will be doing the following day. If you do not receive the daily e-mail, please let Vicki or Mel know and we can make sure we add you to the mailing list.
We started off the year talking about ourselves, our likes, dislikes, family, friends etc. Thank you to the families that have returned your Family / Child information sheet, this helps us to understand your child and family a little more and helps us in planning our environment and program. This focus was so that the children were able to build a sense of security and trust in the pre-school room and build a confident self-identity where they are able to show a pride and confidence in themselves and their family. We have a wonderful family tree and the children love to point out their family members, if you haven't brought along a photo for it we would love to see your family on the tree! This is a great way to continue working on the home to pre-school bond.
The beginning of the year was also the perfect time for the children to learn our mat manners, room rules and learn the different areas of the room and how the daily routine runs. To set the children up for success in the pre-school room we spent time discussing with them why we have rules, manners and routines so that everyone in the room can stay safe and happy. If you would like to see our mat manners, they are displayed on the teaching frame at the front of the mat. Our room rules are displayed on the wall by the fish tank / stereo.
With the children's excitement in being 'big pre-schoolers' we have already begun to work on learning the letters in our names. The children have shown an interest with learning the letters and writing their names and we have done lots of fun activities to keep this literacy interest going; collaging the first letters of our names, practicing writing our names, finding the letters of our names in a rice treasure hunt, using the bead letters to make our names and working on strengthening our pencil grip and so many other activities.
Already this year we have seen that we have lots of keen builders with the construction, interest in dinosaurs, drawing and already we have started a topic on 'Space'. As we take our learning and themes from the children's interests and ideas, who knows what the children's interests will bring for our next topic… we'll keep you posted with any updates!
If you ever have any questions, ideas, or just want to chat about the pre-school room or your child feel free to come in to chat to Vicki or Mel or send us an e-mail.

Vicki & Mel

Float Staff!

Float Educator
Miss Regina



Float Educator
Miss Kerri-Ann



Casual Float Educator
Miss Rochelle



Each day we have 'float staff' in the centre. Their roll is to cover staff with various shift times, programming and planning requirements and lunch breaks. All our centre floats are qualified or studying towards an early childhood qualification and have a strong passion in early childhood. You will see these staff members in your child's room throughout the year, so please feel free to introduce yourself to our lovely float staff.

Little Ducks Christmas Party 2015









