

Little Ducks Childcare Bardon
September / October 2015

A note from your Centre Manager

Hello families!
No references in this newsletter to being a new Centre—I feel a bit like we have been here for ages!! I hope you are all feeling settled in and comfortable and part of the Little Ducks Bardon community.

Some of the highlights of the last couple of months would have to be the Speech Development Parent Information Session which was well attended and provided us with some great information. Our fundraiser for the RSPCA—cupcake day was very well supported. We hope to make this a yearly event, the children loved it! We raised $220 for the RSPCA which was great! Thank you to Kitty and Emily for organising :).and to everyone who supported the day. Who can 't forget Ocean Life! The children really loved being able to get so close to the sea creatures and the presenter who came along was so animated he kept the attention of even the most active Toddler! In that busy week we also had Rachael Clem one of our super mum's visit with her colleagues to talk about Dental Health. We loved the sample bags as well!!
As a Centre we have been concentrating on celebrating environment week, you will have noticed the new hanging pots and our newly planted vegetable and herb garden. We have also planned a community notice board to be installed in the gated area at the front door. This can be used to display news but also items for sale and community notices.
As you know we have also been trialing extra curricular activities that will commence in Term 4. We are close to a decision and will advise you very soon of what they are:)
Our next big Centre venture will be into the world of literacy. WE are planning in the coming months to stock a borrowing library, begin participating in book club, hopefully hold a book fair and book parade and maybe even a book launch—lots of fun ahead!
We can't wait for you to be part of all the fun.



Michele

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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

Upcoming Events!

...September...

Sunday 6th—Fathers Day



Monday 7th—Brazil's Independence Day



Saturday 19th—
International Talk like a Pirate Day

Monday 21st—International Day of Peace



...October...

Thursday 1st—China's National Day

Monday 5th—Labour Day—Public Holiday– Centre closed

Friday 16th—World Food Day



Friday 16th—Loud Shirt Day

Saturday 24th—Centre Open Day

Saturday 31st—Halloween—dress up with us and enjoy this traditionally Celtic Celebration

Reminders

- **Spare Clothes**—with the change in weather it is a good time to check your child's spare clothes to ensure they are appropriate for the weather fits and is named. Children require spare clothes due to toilet accidents and messy play. ***Undies and pants are the most often forgotten and the most often needed*.**
- **Medication**—It is important that any medication the children require is handled correctly. All medication should be handed to an educator, not left in a child's bag or lunch box. ***All medication needs to have a chemists label with the child's name and the dosage***. All medication needs to be recorded in the medication folder your child's teacher can help you with this

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 May and June are:

- Access, Equity & enrolment policy
- Accident/Incident policy - severe
- Additional needs policy
- Behaviour management/ positive guidance policy
- Biting management policy and procedure
- Infection control policy
- Infectious illness policy and Procedure
- Holiday discount policy

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

September—Lucinda, Scarlett, Sophia, Tayla, Rory, Edmond, Ellia,

October-Lucinda, Luca, Georgia, Alfie, Ethan, Chloe, Max, Thomas, Hansaem



Nursery Natter!

Lead Educator—Emily Patterson

Assistant Educator—Amy Kovchenko

In the Nursery Room we have been focusing on setting a song for each week and making it one of our main topics. So far we have done "The wheels on the bus", "Baa Baa Black sheep" and "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star". We have been very creative and made sheep, buses etc making it even more fun. We feel in the Nursery Room that having this group interaction time for the babies is vital as this is helping with their social, emotional, physical and intellectual development.

We have been working on our routines in the Nursery Room and trying to get a more set routine in place so we can make the days flow even smoother for both us and the babies. As each babies routines change fairly regularly we do have to make changes a lot which means thinking of different ways to do things.

For the older babies in the Nursery Room we are beginning to slowly transition them ready for Toddlers. Some of the things we have been doing is letting them sleep on the mats on the floor, sit on a chair at the table for morning tea or lunch and slowly weaning them off their 2 sleep routine. This seems to be working nicely and we have been working together with the parents to make sure we are all happy with this change.

Next month we are going to concentrate on the different cultures we have in our room by making up the different flags and doing some "cultural" activities with the babies. We are very excited to start this and see what things we can do around other peoples culture and beliefs. This is also a way for us as educators to get to know more about the families that are with us at Little Ducks.

We have had a great couple of months getting to know each and every one of your babies more and more each day. We feel we are a little family now in the Nursery and having lots and lots of fun each week. We feel very lucky to have been with your children watching them develop and move through the milestones. Watching the children go from crawling to walking, independently spoon feeding and self-settling is just fantastic to see for us.

Emily and Amy





Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator—Kitty Spencer
Assistant Educator—Jaimee Thompson

We have been having so much fun in the toddler room. Our focus has been on our body parts at the moment with lots of singing of Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes. The children are enjoying different activities using different body parts. They all enjoyed the foot printing and hand printing the most! We have been doing lots of sensory play to further explore our bodies, a few of the children's favourites are the play dough, coloured rice and exploration of contact with our hands and feet.

The children enjoyed our Enviro Week celebrations. In the toddler room, we decided to make a garden for our outdoor playing area with lots of herbs and flowers. We can't wait for them to grow really big so we can enjoy them a bit more. We have been encouraging the children to water the plants everyday, this is their favourite part of the day. The toddlers are so eager to water them that they are now able to fill up their own watering cans! We have also integrated the Enviro Week celebrations into our daily routine. Each afternoon, we enjoy having afternoon tea on the grass in the playground. The children really look forward to this part of the day as it is nice to have some quiet and relaxing time in the outdoors as a group. Every day we try to change our afternoon tea spot to a different shaded area around the playground.

Our toddlers are really enjoying group time lately; they are doing so well with singing new songs each day. Their favourite songs at the moment are Open Shut Them and Row Your Boat. Next month we will be focusing on different stories and nursery rhymes. We will encourage families to bring in their toddlers favourite story to share with their toddler friends at our morning group time. This will play a part in our book week celebrations throughout the next couple of months. Please keep an eye on the notices on our white board for when we will be doing this.





Junior Kindy Jumble!

Lead Educator : Leighanne Clancy

Assistant Educator: Ashley Nicoll

Assistant Educator: Tiana Stirrup

It is hard to believe how fast the year is going – but what a wonderful time we have been having in the Junior Kindy room. We would like to welcome all of our new friends into the room – those whom have come up from the toddler room and also the children who are new to the centre – we have very much enjoyed getting to know each of our new little friends, and it has been wonderful watching all the friendships grow within our room.

Over the past few months we have been working a lot on toilet training the children – and are really happy with the progress most of the children are making progress in this task. Almost all of the children are now feeling confident in sitting on the toilet and many of them are actually using the toilet – and are so proud of themselves. We hope that now the weather is getting warmer we can progress further with this task and have many of the children in underpants before the end of the year.

We have also been working very hard over the past few weeks on making our garden in the playground – which the children have been very excited about. The children have really embraced this project – learning about how plants grow, how to look after the garden and taken responsibility to ensure that our garden is properly cared for. Now that the children are starting to see some progress in the garden – there is even more excitement as we explore each day to see what changes have occurred. We intend to continue to work on this project over the coming months – also making small plants for the room and for the children to take home as well.

The children have really started to extend on their gross motor skills – and show much more confidence as they engage in these experiences – especially on the obstacle course, where they are exploring different ways that they can manipulate the equipment and maintain their balance and coordination. The children are also enjoying many more group games – such as Duck Duck Goose, what's the time Mr. Wolf and Hide and seek – with the other children from the centre – so the children are developing a wider sense of belonging not just to our room – but to the centre as a whole.

Recently the children have shown an interest in exploring our Globe of the world, learning where we live now and about other countries around the world – so over the coming months we will be looking at the different countries that our families come from and learning more about their heritage – if anyone has any interesting objects, music, stories or any other items that the children may be interested in – please let us know.



We welcome any input from the families into our program – so if you have anything you would like to add – please do not hesitate to contact us – thanks.

Kindy Catch Up!

Kindy Lead Educator—Joshil Dhaliwal

Kindy Assistant Educator—Melina McCormack

Kindy Assistant Educator—Gayle McKeown

The kindy children have a had a wonderful month exploring healthy eating. They had the opportunity to make their own vegetable sandwiches and later on their very own vegetable stew! These activities helped the children not only learn about various vegetables and the importance of healthy eating but also allowed them to work on their fine motor development as they chopped up vegetables and well as learning to follow steps to a recipe!

The children also greatly enjoyed the incursion by ocean life which later on resulted in a beautiful joint painting collage that the kindy children created all on their own! Summer the Golden Retriever from RSPCA was also a great favourite with the children who had the chance to learn about the important role the RSPCA plays while helping to raise money for them via cupcake day.

As its father's day soon, the children focused their attentions on making cards and a present for their fathers. Since vegetables seem to be the theme of the month the children made vegetable print cards for their dad's and planted cress seeds as a gift. This activity was a great way for the children to show their appreciation of their fathers whilst learning about the environment. The cress gifts are a gift that keeps giving as the children can cut the top as a garnish for family meals and wait for them to sprout again in a few days! The children have been very excited to see their seeds grow a little bit everyday

In the months to come the children will be exploring more about healthy eating and working more on crafts as they have showed a great interest in creating their very our pieces of art.



Cupcake Day for the RSPCA

Preschool Pride!

Early Childhood Teacher—Kindergarten Program—Emily Bates

Just a reminder…

· Please ensure that you pack a hat for your child each day. It is starting to get warm now and we do abide by the UV ratings in regards to what time of day we can be outside, however if your child does not have a hat, they will not be able to participate completely in outdoor play and will be restricted to undercover play.

· There are lots of belongings being left behind in lockers each week. Please ensure that on your child's last week day that the locker in left empty.

· Please pack spare clothes that are able to get dirty or wet for sensory, mud and water play!

· We are currently learning about houses so if you could please bring in a photo of your house or email a photo - that would be great!

Upcoming events…

· Wednesday, 16th September – Talk Like a Pirate Day! Dress the children in their best pirate outfit!

School readiness…

In August I attended a great workshop with the Department of Education and enjoyed hearing about their new plan to promote successful transitions between Kindergarten and Prep. In light of this, I have asked our families to write down what school their child will be attending in 2016 and based on this, I contacted these schools to begin to construct an effective transition plan. The main idea is to ensure that not only the children are ready for school in 2016, but the teachers and schools are ready for your children! Transition is much more than the orientation days and interviews that you will need to attend as transition occurs over an extended period of time. As we enter Term 4, we will be focusing on transition to school through our curriculum plan as we include local schools uniforms, look at photos of our future schools, talk and meet our new teachers and learn about the school routine. As I have started to make contact with local schools to hear about their current transition plans and to construct new plans, I have had many invitations to visit the school and Prep teachers, and many Prep teachers are eager to visit Little Ducks to see the children in our environment and discuss effective plans.

There are some families that are still uncertain about their child's school readiness. A large part of the transition plan is to encourage families and schools to be focusing on school readiness in the way of 'social and emotional readiness' rather than 'academic readiness'. Children can easily be academically ready for the Prep curriculum, however this does not mean the child will successfully transition into Prep if they are not socially and emotionally confident and prepared for change. Our aim is to support each individual child in their transition to school and I look forward to working with all schools and families to individualise this approach and successfully transition the children into Prep for 2016. I am open to discuss any plans, concerns or questions that you might have about your child's school readiness and am available for phone calls, arranged meetings or emails.

We have now entered into the busy remainder of the year – which can sometimes be overwhelming, but guaranteed fun! Our large priority is to be focusing on transitioning to school, so be prepared for plenty of questions about school from your child!

Emily

Other News!!

Little Ducks Bardon – office space available

Our centre also incorporates great office spaces that house child related services (i.e. speech pathologist) for Little Ducks parents and the local community. We currently have some availability for more tenants. If you, or you know someone, which has a business that may fit in well with us please don't hesitate to contact our office for more information on 3251 6060.







Little Ducks Fortitude Valley!!

Construction on our 5th centre LITTLE DUCKS FORTITUDE VALLEY is well underway!!

We are located in the heart of Fortitude Valley on McLachlan Street and will open in January 2016.
The multi-level building has been completely refurbished to cater for babies through to school age children, including an approved Kindergarten Program.
Anyone who would like to join the waiting list can do so on our website or call our office on 3251 6060.