

Little Ducks Childcare Birkdale

September/October 2015 Newsletter

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to our September/October edition of our newsletter! Only 17 more Fridays until Christmas! Can you believe it!? Where has this year gone?

Firstly, I would like to start this edition of the newsletter by reminding you that this will be my last one for the year as this Friday (4/9/15) is my last day before maternity leave! I am leaving the centre in the very capable hands of Natasha who has been in training for the role over the past few months. Please feel free to stop by the office and have a chat to Tash whenever you are available. Her office hours will remain the same as mine have been so she will be available from Monday—Friday, 8.00am—4.30pm. I am anticipating a return to the centre in the first quarter of next year so I look forward to seeing you all back here then, with my baby in toe!





We have some exciting things upcoming, namely our open day which will occur on Saturday 12th September from 9.30-11.30am. Here we will have Old MacDonald's Farm, a jumping castle, sausage sizzle and face painting. The centre will be open to all community members so if you know someone who will be looking for care in the new year, bring them along to check us out! We will also be taking 2016 enrolments on this day.

Recently we have had some great experiences occurring in the centre which you can read about in each rooms updates however I would like to make a special mention to all the families who have donated a gold coin on Jeans for Genes day and Daffodil day. These donations were passed on to the respective charities on behalf of the families at Little Ducks Birkdale. I would also like to acknowledge the families who have made donations to the centre recently, whether it be toys that you have outgrown or recycled materials for our collage trolleys, it has been lovely to receive so many thoughtful donations.



As I mentioned above, the office hours are Monday—Friday 8.00am-4.30pm so please feel free to come and have a chat! Alternatively you can communicate with us via phone or email.

I would like to thank all of the families who have passed on their well wishes to me as I approach maternity leave and I look forward to calling in and showing off my new bub!

Cassie

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Recipe of the Month!

This one is good for hiding vegetables!

MACARONI CHEESE WITH A TWIST

Ingredients

- 100 g cheddar cheese
- 60 g parmesan cheese,
- 100 g sweet potato, peeled, 1 cm cubed
- 100 g carrot, peeled, 1 cm cubed
- 150 g pumpkin, peeled, 1 cm cubed
- 1 zucchini, roughly chopped *(peeled if you don't want your children to spot the microscopic green specks)*
- 300 g macaroni
- 500 g milk
- 50 g spelt or plain flour
- 40 g butter, 1 cm cubed
- 200 g ham, diced
- 1 tsp dijon mustard
- 1/2 tsp mild paprika powder
- 1 tbsp vegetable stock concentrate
- pinch of pepper

*Recipe courtesy of Skinnymixers and adapted from Thermomix

Method

1. Grate the cheese and set aside.
2. Cook pasta to packet directions. Whilst pasta is cooking, prepare vegetables and steam until soft.
3. Drain pasta and set aside.
4. Puree vegetables in a food processor then add and stir through pasta.
5. Put flour, milk, butter into saucepan and whisk until it begins to thicken.
6. Add ham, reserved cheeses, mustard, paprika, vegetable stock concentrate and pepper to saucepan and continue to cook for 2 min/ or until cheese has melted and it is heated through.
7. Pour sauce over macaroni and stir through.
8. Enjoy!



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Centre Events!

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

September

Wednesday 2nd – Superhero Day! Come along dressed as your favourite super hero and make a donation to muscular dystrophy.

Wednesday 2nd —Early childhood educators day!



Thursday 3rd - Australian National Flag Day – celebrate the red white and blue flag that makes us all proud Australians.

Friday 4th - Father's Day Afternoon Tea

Sunday 6th – Father's Day leading up to this day we will be making gifts for the fathers in our lives

Monday 7th – Brazil's Independence Day

Saturday 19th- International 'Talk like a Pirate" day – Come along on Friday 18th ready to talk like a pirate - let's dress up too!

Monday 21st – International Day of Peace

October

Thursday 1st – China's National Day.

Monday 5th - Labour Day – PUBLIC HOLIDAY—centre closed

Wednesday 7th – Life Education health and well-being show – 9am and 10am

Friday 16th – World Food Day

Friday 16th – Loud Shirt Day

12th -18th - National Nutrition Week

26-30th – Children's Week

Saturday 31st - Halloween – dress up with us on Friday 30th and enjoy this traditionally Celtic celebration!



Birthdays!

A very happy birthday to ...

September

Emily
Max
Eve
Olivia N
Thomas
Makenna
Jacob
Nathan
Brodie
Enuki
Sabrina
Kaitlyn
Leah
Audrey



October

Olivia B
Angus
Arabella
Gemma
Mia
Lachlan
Harper
Miss Cassie
Miss Holly

Nursery Natter!



How exciting has July and August been! We welcomed a new Educator, Miss Hannah we love her! We were sad to see Miss Chloe go but we wish her all the best. We have also had some new children start as well. Welcome to those families. were very happy you chosen Little Ducks, we can't wait to watch your little one grow! This past two months we have celebrated some big events including Dental Health Week, Jeans for Genes Day, PJ Day, and Book Week. PJ Day which meant we could be dressed in our pj's all day long, how comfy that was. Next Dental Health Week (3rd-9th August) meant we practice and encouraged swish and swallow and keeping our teeth all nice and clean. We even did a painting using a paintbrush. Jeans for Genes Day meant we could wear our comfy Jeans in order to help support and raise money for the foundation. Book Week was our favourite, we had dress ups on the Monday, but the Ocean Life Discovery Program was also on this day! We absolutely loved this! The children were able to touch some of the animals as well as see a baby bamboo shark and a baby sea turtle. This also tied in with our Sensory-Motor skills which we have been exploring and experiencing. The children have been given some experiences in which they have had to use their senses to explore. Including water play, jelly, and paint and glitter contacted to the floor as well as the cardboard pieces contacted to the table. With lots more sensory experiences to come.





In the room we have started to implement the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle practice, we started by making a cardboard box tunnel. The Preschool had a toy order come through with some big boxes, so we reused them to make a tunnel. The children absolutely loved this experience.

We have had some awesome parent input lately, but not so much please tell us what has been happening at home on the weekends. The simple things they do at home could be introduced into the program, and shared with their friends.

Some of the children will be transiting into Toddler Room towards the end of this year and into next year. To help support the children with this transition we have been learning self-help skills and independence. This involves sitting at the table for eating and feed themselves, we have also been encouraging the children to use their words and communicate their bodily needs. All the children involved are becoming more independent in their daily routine. Moving forward we are very excited to continue the year with you all, hopefully welcoming more families into the room. We hope you have enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter, see you soon. Natasha and Hannah.



Toddler Tales!



Well what a busy few months we have had in toddlers! We have learnt about many different things and developed all sorts of new skills and extended some of our existing ones!
Firstly, we celebrated NAIDOC week as we recognised the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and learnt about their cultural ideas and values. We did this through various art mediums like finger painting, stick painting and exploring maps of Australia. We used coloured dots to represent all cultures and stuck them all over Australia. Finger Painting provided an opportunity for the toddlers to express their sensory learning and develop fine motor. With stick painting, we discussed the different symbols used in aboriginal art and the toddlers painted their interpretations of what they saw. We also did some cooking of 'damper' which is traditional Australian bread. This led us into our cooking interest where the toddlers used their imagination to create roles and ideas in home corner for cooking. We added various utensils to home corner which gave the children opportunities to repeat and practice the actions of others and interact co-operate and socialise with each other.



Recently we have been working on learning about the environment and how to care for it and the animals it houses. This came from some parent input and recycling old milk bottles. The toddlers used their creativity to paint flower pots and flowers, which led us into a discussion about caring for the gardens. The toddlers then used the watering cans to water the plants in the big yard and keep them healthy. Whilst watering the garden a butterfly came past and Olivia discovered a lady bug. From here the toddlers' painted lady bugs and we went on a bug hunt to find some more bugs. This was so much fun, watching their excitement as they discovered little ants and birds in the trees and sky.
Moving forward for the year our goals are to encourage our language and build our vocabularies. We will do this by reading lots of books, singing songs the children enjoy which encourages participation and music and discussions. We also would like to continue the self-help skills the toddlers have been developing. Did you know that we get our own water bottles, pack away our sheets into our bags, put our rubbish in the bin and bowls in the washing as well as help Miss Tara and Miss Chris with their jobs like cleaning and packing away! We are becoming very independent and developing respect for our belongings! How clever are we!! (I'm sure we are that helpful at home J)



We are starting on cars and ocean interests so keep an eye out for these... We are exploring boxes and creating our own cars as well as researching community vehicles and other types of vehicles useful to us. Ocean life visited us and we were very excited to see the animals they had and to pat them. We are creating some of the animals we saw and decorating our own ocean! This helps us connect our environments and extends our thinking.
A few housekeeping notes: If you bring a late snack, there is a green basket on the bench, if you could put them in it. Also remembering that we have late snack between 4-4:30 so if your children would be here at that time, if you could bring a little something for them too. As it comes into the warmer months please remember to pack spare clothes as we will be doing water play and other exciting activities. And lastly, please label all belongings as it is very hard to find lost items with no name.



We look forward to the next few months.
Tara and Chris

Junior Kindy Jabber!



Hello!
To all of our families we hope you all enjoyed the school holidays we have been very busy in our room But first we say good bye to some of our kindy kids Paxton, Ashton, Hayden, Monika-may, Ezra, and Indigo who have grown up so much they are having fun in kindyland with Miss Kerrie as they explore their new room and make new friends, But they come back to say hello and remind me that they are “big kids” now. We would also like to welcome Amber to our room as well as our new Jnr Kindy children from the toddler’s room Hamish, Benjamin, Isaac, Ruby, and Isabel all were keen to be in their new room as they settle into some exciting new learning experiences with Miss Kelsey and Miss Debbie.
As we move into the next quarter the children are becoming successful little learners developing and maintaining their relationships with their peers ”she’s my friend” and showing how to be kind and help each other, engaging with life’s joys in everyday experiences.



WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING?
The children celebrated some events in the centre with NAIDOC WEEK where we learned about traditional practices with some cultural art work of bark painting the children enjoyed the different texture of painting on the bark as well we enjoyed our multicultural show of around the world and how we celebrated through children’s learning experiences to feel connected.
We had our Dental week the children had fun with toothbrush painting and learning about food choices what makes our teeth happy and what makes our teeth sad all the children helped to cut out food pictures for collage that makes our teeth healthy. It is book week this week it was great to see the children dress up in their favourite character and bring a book into read as we learn about books how they empower us and entertain us and help us to grow as human beings.



In our room the children interest has been in our forest area with the children learning all about the different animals in the forest when out camping or with your family at home. We looked at how we care for our forest and what we see with animal paintings and leaf and bark painting the children have shown interest in colours and shapes of different things in our environment as we collected rocks and branches and shells.
We set up a hospital corner as Hailey and Emily had some sick dolls so they helped to make them better in the dolls hospital as they bandaged them back to health and Mckenzie gave out the medicine. We had a few injuries and broken bones Angus and Max had sore feet so Emily to the rescue helped make them feel better.
We have grown in our independence skills with the children helping to pack away their belongings and also the children are forming attachments and developing their rights with their turn taking and sharing skills You can hear them say “My turn for the swing you wait over their”” You have to share the paints” which is magic!! They listen to us!!. At the moment we are focusing on our personal hygiene with toileting training so if you are at the point of wanting to change from nappy to undies please see us so we can start as the weather is getting warmer and a good time to start. We have lots of laughs In our mat time after our story and conversation time the children always have lots to talk about and it is a joy to listen to so if you have any queries or concern please see myself or Debbie or Kelsey in our room also we have our communication book to use if we are not there we look forward to our next adventure together as the children grow more and accept who they are becoming.



Thanks Miss Di /Miss Kelsey/Miss Debbie

Kindy Kapers!

Hello!

This year has shown no signs of slowing down and we are already on the lower end of the count down towards Christmas! We would like to start off by welcoming Miss Jamey into the room, we look forward to working with her and developing new bonds together.

We have had big changes in the Kindy room and we think its all for the better! With Miss Kerri joining us 2 months ago and Miss Natalie joining us on Tuesdays and Wednesdays we have created a fun, educational and inviting room for the children to enter into each day.

We have gone from learning about sea life to transport and from dinosaurs to the weather. At the moment we are focusing on the main interests of the children which involve learning about the garden with Miss Jamey, we are going to start planting things in our vege patch soon and hopefully will soon reap the benefits!



Miss Natalie is helping us focus on writing, whether its just in every day activities or set plans, we are getting really good at recognizing our own names and some letters. We are also working with her to create some secret Fathers day gifts!



Miss Kerri has been working with us to help us learn about the weather, this came from the interest in learning all about rainbows, we even made our own rainbows with the hose! We are going to be focusing on this as well as learning all new ball and sports skills as we have just received a set of new balls so we will be setting up a "sports" section outside so that you can see what we are learning in the outdoor environment.



As well as all of these learning areas, we use numeracy and letter skills in our everyday activities and are getting more and more confident in using them without any help, some of us are very close to being ready to go up to Pre School in the new year! J

As it warms up, we will be needing less jumpers and long pants and more t-shirts and shorts. We will be doing water play too so make sure to pack extra clothes in case we get a bit wet as well as named hats and drink bottles! As usual, we will keep up with the sunscreen but any additional help from you will be greatly appreciated J

We all look forward to spending the rest of the year with you all and can't wait to celebrate a wonderful year at the end of it ! J

Til next time,
Miss kerri, Miss Jamey and Miss Natalie.

Preschool Press!

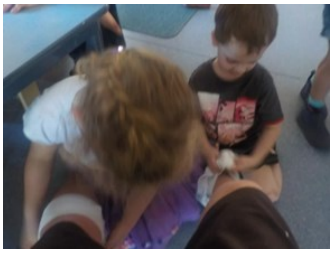


This month is shaping up to be exciting in the preschool room as w have begun our unit on community helpers. This originated from Audrey who showed interest in Sailors. From there each week we have learnt about a different community helper including doctors, nurses and dentists. We have used a number of tools to help teach the children about these occupations including the smart board where we have looked at pictures and videos as well as through books and class hands on activities, such as making our own x-rays and imaginary play. As you would have seen the home corner has been transformed into a hospital. All of the children have enjoyed engaging in role play by being doctors and nurses. This has generated lots of conversations about the different kind of doctors as well as the role these people play and how hospitals work. We have seen some wonderful and positive interactions amounts the children as they go about this role play as they negotiate roles, discuss ideas and share the hospital tools. My aim is to have various community workers come into the centre and talk to the children, however in the mean time we have started with our very own parents within the preschool group come in and share with us what they do for work and bring in some wonderful things to add to the hospital area. Thank you to Eliza's mum Belinda who is a radiologist for donating your time to speak with the children as well as bring in some awesome x-rays and to Ebony's mum, Merryl for also kindly coming in to share what she does as a nurse. We greatly appreciate your input into our program and welcome any other parent who may be interested to share what they do also.





Prior to our community helper unit the children were also very interested in camping. The children have enjoyed the home corner being transformed to reflect all of their interests. We have continued the camping theme outside now with the tent being placed in various areas of the yard to make this experience more authentic. During this interest we had many discussions about camping where we learnt lots of different things such as there being no electricity when you camp and the different types of camping you can do. We all agreed that camping at the beach would be fantastic and so we made a camping Muriel to place on our wall. Through all of the discussions that we have been having lately on the various topics the children have been encouraged to communicate their ideas in a large group setting which is helping to develop their confidence and skills appropriate for mat time and when going off to school next year such as putting their hand up to contribute to the discussion and listening to their peers speak. They are being encouraged to value their preschool friends and interact positively. As of next month we welcome a new preschool teacher for Monday to Wednesday . I look forward to working with her and we will aim for a smooth transition, IF you have any questions please don't hesitate to come and speak with the preschool team.





Kind regards,
Miss Renee and Miss Holly

The Schoolies Scoop!



Over the last couple of months the schoolies have celebrated some important days such as Recycling week. We discussed how important it is to recycle products and came up with some great ideas on how some resources can be used for other things. We decided to create sustainability pictures using a variety of foam pieces, bubble wrap, and cut out materials and paper. This practise teaches our children about looking after our planet by reusing recycled products, which shows appreciation and care for natural environments. For Dental Health week we focused on how we can look after our gums and teeth, we came up with some great ideas of looking at what type of food we eat, our diets, life style and decided to create our own Dental Health Poster practising our creative skills and motor skills. For an intentional teaching practise Miss Kim demonstrated how we floss our teeth and the proper way of brushing our teeth to keep our gums and teeth nice and healthy to avoid more fillings and tooth decay. These experiences help educate our children about health and hygiene. For Jeans



For Gene Day we talked about raising money for children with genetic diseases, and how this was an important cause to help our children with these disorders. We decided to extend on this topic by becoming creative decorating drawings of jeans with a variety of cut out materials. This discussion teachers our children about having empathy and compassion for others who are less fortunate than us throughout the world .To celebrate Book week our children decided they wanted to extend on their motor skills and imagination by drawing their favourite book character by looking at story books. This allows them to become creative as they accept new challenges and celebrate their own efforts and achievements. For spontaneous play our children have shown a lot of interest in the outdoor environment where they have extended on their concentration skills, co-ordination skills and balancing skills by playing follow the leader over the obstacle course. We have extended on this interest by engaging our children in balancing bean bags on their heads whilst walking over the obstacle course and participating in a tyre balancing competition. This experience encourages the children to further develop on their physical skills and social skills.



For indoor play our children have been focusing on fathers day. They have used a variety of sustainability products to create their own presents for their fathers to make them feel special on the day. This allows them to express their creativity through their art pieces and encourages the children to experiment with materials and reflect on their work. Thanks for reading Miss Kim

Come to our open day!



Little Ducks Childcare Birkdale

OPEN DAY!

Saturday 12th September
9.30am-11.30am

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

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

Please contact Little Ducks Birkdale with any further enquiries:



Ph: 3822 5933

www.littleducks.com.au

435 Old Cleveland Rd East, Birkdale



Did you know?

Friendly reminders

Jimmy, Jimmy, are you here Jimmy?!

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

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.

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 located in the foyer.

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.

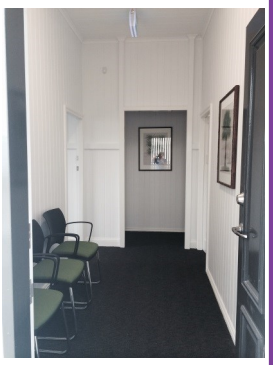
Some of the policies on review are:

~ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Culture Awareness Policy
~ CONTINUITY OF CARE POLICY
~ Orientation Policy - Families
~ ORIENTATION POLICY - EDUCATORS AND STAFF
~ PROGRAMMING POLICY
~ PETS ON PREMISES POLICY
~ HARMFUL PLANTS POLICY & PROCEDURE
~ROBBERY POLICY
~SUN PROTECTION AND CLOTHING POLICY
~TEMPERATURE POLICY
~ SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT POLICY

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 Bardon
Office space available!

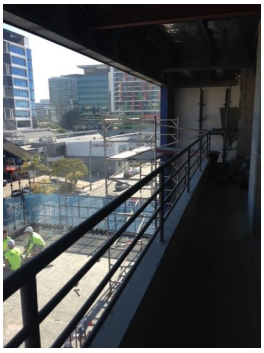
Our Bardon centre also incorporates great office spaces that house child related services (i.e. speech pathologist) for Little Ducks parents and the local community. We currently have some availability for more tenants. If you, or you know someone, which has a business that may fit in well with us please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







Little Ducks Fortitude Valley
COMING SOON!



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.