Little Ducks Childcare Annerley

March/April 2016

A note from your Centre Manager

Wow what a great start to the year we have had!
We have been extremely busy ensuring that everyone has settled into Little ducks and are having a great time.
We have a lot of interesting things happening at the centre which includes our wonderful feathered and furry friends which the children are very excited about and are looking after them beautifully. There is an amazing amount of learning going on with the introduction of the animals to the centre which the Educators are fostering and engaging the children in conversations based around caring for pets and encouraging the children to help look after them, which is absolutely wonderful to see!
The other big change is the implementations of the "no jab no play" rule which comes into effect as of the 21st March 2016, thankyou so much for all your support and feedback! If you haven't done so already can you please send in an updated immunisation register for each child attending the centre so I can ensure that everyone is current. Any questions in regards to this please don't hesitate to let me know.



Cheers.... Mel

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Upcoming Events!

March Events!

Sunday 6th—Clean up Australia Day
We will hold a "Little Ducks Clean Up Day" on Friday 4th March—each taking part in keeping our environment clean and beautiful.

Friday 11th—Crazy Hair Day
Help support the Leukemia Foundation and the World's greatest shave by coming along with your craziest hair-do and a gold coin donation.



Thursday 17th—St Patricks Day
Dress in green and come along to learn some facts about our Irish friends and families.



Monday 21st—Harmony Day
This is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. Dress in orange to support this wonderful day.

Thursday 24th—Easter Bonnet Parade
The children will be making special Easter hats throughout the week. Come along at 3:30pm to watch our fun parade.
We have organised an Easter raffle so please feel free to donate a small items to the Basket in the foyer areas.



Friday 25th—Good Friday
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday 28th—Easter Monday
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Upcoming Events!

April Events!

Monday 4th—Friday 15th Henny Penny Chicken Hatching
Bring the joy of watching eggs hatching and chicks emerging from their shells, right in front of our eyes!

Thursday 7th—World Health Day
Celebrate your healthy mind, body and spirit and learn all about how to keep ourselves healthy.



Monday 25th—ANZAC DAY
Leading up to this day we will pay our respects to the diggers.



Reminders

- **Centre's operational hours:** This is just a reminder that the centre is open for 6:30am—6pm. I am aware that we have had some families arriving late to pick up children and would like to ask that you please ensure that you are leaving yourself ample time to arrive at the centre. Although I know that traffic can occur our Educators finish at 6pm and would like to go home to their families after a very long day, so please be mindful of this.

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 April are:

- ANTI-BIAS & CULTURAL DIVERITY
- COLLECTION & DELIVERY OF CHILDREN.
- EXCLUSION POLICY
- BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT
- BITING MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE
- COMMUNICATION POLICY
- HANDWASHING POLICY
- MEDICATION POLICY
- CONFIDENTIALITY

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Minnie, Queenie, Charlotte, Millicent, Augustus, Flynn, Madeleine, Evie, Gabriella, Felix, Florence, Quincy, Oliver, Ben, Nate, Hugo.S, Sophia, Aoife, Olivia, Henry, Edith, Tasman, Tilda, Rowan, Sophie, Estelle, Albi & Amy



Recipe of the month!

Rainbow wraps

Ingredients

- 225g can sliced beetroot, drained
- 4 spinach and herb wraps
- 50g baby spinach
- 90g (1/3 cup) chargrilled capsicum, halved
- 1 large carrot, grated
- 60g Lemnos Full Cream Fetta, sliced



Method:

Step 1

Pat beetroot dry with paper towel to remove excess moisture.

Step 2

Place 1 wrap on a flat surface. Arrange ¼ of the spinach, capsicum, carrot, beetroot and fetta along 1 side of the wrap. Season with salt and pepper. Roll up wrap, folding in ends, to enclose filling. Cut in half. Wrap in plastic wrap.

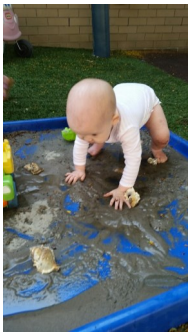
Step 3

Repeat with remaining ingredients. Store in an airtight container in the fridge until transporting

Nursery Natter!



What a great couple of months we have had in the Nursery room! All of our friends have settled in really well and are showing their confidence within the room and outside in our play yards! Each of our Nursery friends have been exploring their milestones with either Sitting up on their own, crawling or even starting to walk! All of the children have been very happy with themselves as they explore their abilities more and more! We have been exploring the children's interests with our sensory experiences around the Nursery room! Our friends have been very curious with different experiences such as our sand pit and herb garden outside and also the material bottles and sensory boards within the Nursery room. We have been extending on the nursery children's interest with sensory materials by creating different activities with them such as painting experiences, water play, play dough experience and sensory bags for our friends to explore different smaller craft materials! Some of the favourite experiences were exploring green dyed sand where the children held in it their hands to explore the texture and also painting experiences where they loved feeling the paint with their fingers and squeezing it in their hands!



We were lucky enough to have a sea life show a couple of weeks ago, where our friends were able to venture over to the kindy room and investigate the different sea animals. Our friends were able to see some starfish, a turtle, sea slugs and even a bamboo shark! The Children were even lucky enough to feel some of the sea animals as well! This encouraged our nursery friends to be involved in sea experiences such as bubble painting, sand art, and water play! The children loved splashing their hands in the container of water and playing with the sea animal toys! We also made some sensory bags in sea colours where we stuck them onto the floor in the Nursery room for the children to explore! The children loved the paint bag where they we able to squish the blue paint inside, and also the pom pom and sparkly sequins filled bag was very popular where the children liked trying to scratch them around inside the bag as well!



Until next time! Miss Alana and Miss Madisson

Toddler 1!



Well, the year is in full swing already! At the start of the month we had a visit from Ocean Life. The children had the chance to see and touch sea stars, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, a turtle and they were able to see a baby shark, which obviously we didn't pat! From this experience, we then extended Ocean Life into our room, and had many different experiences for the children to learn and explore all creatures of the ocean. This has seen us use all of our senses in making jelly fish from recycled materials, as well as turtles, sea stars using sand paint, and much, much more. We have created our own ocean hanging from the ceiling in our room, and the children love gazing up at it whilst drifting off to sleep at rest time.



On the 20th February was "Love your pets day." We have recently introduced 3 new centre pets. Two guinea pigs, Bambi and Snow White, and a blue budgie, Bluebelle. The children have been nurturing and tending to the pets, feeding and brushing them. This has been a fantastic way for the children to learn to respect and care for living animals. To extend on with "Love your pet day," Miss Bec brought in her 10 week old Beagle puppy, Kiki. There were lots of smiles on the children's faces when Kiki arrived! The children sat in a circle, where Miss Bec handed out treats for the children to give her. Gently the children opened their hand, and Kiki softly came and ate the treat. This created lots of excitement between the children, with lots of giggles and smiles around the circle.



Just a few friendly reminders:
Please remember to take all of your child's containers home, as well as their drink bottle each day.
As it is getting cooler, we ask that you bring in a top sheet for your child at rest time, as well as a fitted sheet, in a materiel bag. A pillow case is a handy way of storing sheets.



We are in the process of creating a belonging tree for the Toddler room, so we would love to have a family photo, to add to it.
We look forward to seeing what the next few months have in store for us!
Love Miss Erin, Miss Brooke and Miss Bec.

Toddler 2!

Hi Everyone,



We are currently working with the children to develop their self help skills with hand washing, collecting and putting away their water bottles and their belongings into their lockers. Over the next few weeks we will be focusing on toilet training for the children, so they get used to sitting on the toilet comfortably. Can you please ensure your child has a water bottle, sheets in a sheet bag and a hat everyday they attend childcare. In our room you will have noticed a few changes with the room set up and routine, this has been working well with the children as in having learning areas to engage in play with their peers.



The children have enjoyed developing our farm on the wall as well as our photo wall of our pets. Thankyou to all the parents who brought in lovely pet photos to share with us. The children have taken a keen interest in real life "role play" with the baby dolls, they have enjoyed feeding, bathing and cuddling them. They have also enjoyed construction with blocks, drills and screw drivers and collecting food to go shopping in the trolley, baskets and cooking on the stove, we will extend on this experience as we set up a shop area to help with this. Could you please send along any empty boxes, containers from home.



Thanks

Miss Janelle and Miss Vicky

Junior Kindy!

Welcome to March everyone and a huge thank you to all of the parents from the junior kindy room for making Bree and Silvia feel welcome over the past few weeks. The children have now started to settle in nicely with the new educators in the room and the routine has been running smoothly.

Over the last few weeks the junior kindy children have had some exciting things happening around the room! With many of the children toilet training we have been focusing on trying to get the children to take themselves to the toilet when needed, we are also just reminding parents that if your child is toilet training that you are sending spare sets of undies and shorts in case of any accidents.

Miss Leighanne also introduced our two in centre pets which are our little budgie and our two Guinee pigs. This has allowed the children to take responsibility for taking care of the animals by changing their food and water every day, cleaning out their homes and giving them tonnes of cuddles! Along with taking care of the animals, this exercise has allowed time to teach the children how important it is to wash our hands and keep the germs away! They are all doing such a wonderful job at cleaning their hands after each cuddle. Well done!

We are also getting to know and understand our little friend's families, so we ask that each child bring in a family photo so we can hang this on the family tree that will be put up in the home corner. Talking about home corner, the children have been very interested and focusing on recycling! So if you have any Plastic bottles, cardboard boxes of any size, plastic sauce bottles, milk bottles, old Tupperware, paper of any sort, eg. old wrapping paper, cards, old mobile or home phones, kettles, coffee pots, hair dryers, old toasters, pots & pans etc we would absolutely love to re use them within our room.

Over the next few weeks we will be focusing on Easter celebrations which will include various art work, singing and dancing and much more! We are also going to start doing some in house cooking which will allow the children to help create, prepare, cook and eat our recipes!

Within the room we have also started to do up our Cultural Wall and as a result of this we would love it if you told us where you come from and languages you may speak so we can put your flag onto our wall along with some cultural information. This will be fantastic for the children to become familiar with other cultures and where their friends come from.

Overall, we have some very exciting things coming up over the next few weeks! Feel free to speak to any of us if you have any questions about anything.

Kind regards, Miss Leighanne, Miss Bree, Miss Carolin and Miss Silvia.

Senior Kindy!

Hi! Everyone,

Wow! March already and Easter just around the corner. How our year is flying. Our Senior Kindy children are thriving with enthusiasm and so much more confident. They all seem to be really enjoying our new room set up allowing more freedom to explore and engage in whatever activity interests them.

The new carpentry area is open to several construction and fine motor activities encouraging problem solving, co operating, socializing and sharing as they apply thinking strategies while assembling, inventing and constructing.

As our art centre is also set up and readily available with fresh materials to use we have observed more creativity and blending of materials in different ways. The children are using their processing skills as they share conversations and ideas with each other and sometimes even work on the same project.

Recently we introduced our "Visits with Gerald Giraffe". He has had some great times already with some of you and the idea has really taken off. Thank you for participating as we all know you have very busy lives. It has been great for the children as they get up in front of the class at group time giving their own versions of what is happening in the photos building confidence and language skills.

Also a big thank you for adding your little snip bits about your weekends as this is another area the children get excited about as they extend their weekend stories at group time.

Over the next few weeks we will be working on different Easter art, stories and songs. Also as the children have been enjoying a bit more outside time, we intend on doing more gross motor activities playing more games with the children eg. Running races, extending our jumping/landing skills and strengthen other physical skills like catching and kicking balls etc.

A few little helpful tips to help us.....Please name everything !!!

Please make sure your child's sheets are in a material bag, also as we are trying to encourage sustainability .....don't forget "Your Junk is our Treasure". We can use things like...Plastic bottles, cardboard boxes any size, plastic sauce bottles, milk bottles, old Tupperware, paper of any sort, eg. old wrapping paper etc. cards, old mobile or home phones, kettles, coffee pots, hair dryers, old toasters, pots & pans etc. Everything is much appreciated as the children really enjoy playing with realistic things they are used to seeing around the home. Well everyone Ms. Savita and myself are really enjoying working with your beautiful little children. They are building wonderful little friendships and seem very comfortable with their educators. If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to ask for a chat. We will always make ourselves available any time.

Have a Lovely Easter and keep safe.

Love Ms.Nancy & Ms. Savita

Kindergarten Program!

Our year is well and truly under way in Kindergarten and we have covered some fascinating topics in January and February! Our class has taken a journey exploring how plants grow, shared information about ourselves in our 'All About Me' unit, and learnt about our emotions and how to manage them. We have had fun participating in cooking activities, enjoyed external shows about Ocean Life and covered the letters A to F in our literacy program. We've celebrated Chinese New Year, implemented a positive behaviour reward program called 'Fantastic Friends', and worked on the numeracy topics patterning and positional language.

Our group has been very interested in weather changes so Di and I are putting together a unit for the children to explore the four seasons. We will combine this with looking at the structure of a year, where children will learn the days of the week and names of the months. We will also enjoy Easter activities and make our hats for the Easter Parade!

We've celebrated lots of birthdays already with Brooke, Grace, Emma, Anton, Bud, Huxley and Freddie all turning 4. We've also got birthdays coming up for Jesse, Kanye, Ben and Oliver which we will celebrate in the same fashion.

We've got a few things on our Events Calendar coming up that Di and I will be in touch with you about – Crazy Hair Day on the 11th of March, St Patricks Day on the 17th of March, Harmony Day on the 21st of March and the Easter Bonnet Parade on the 24th of March. In April we have Henny Penny Chicken Hatching, World Health Day and Anzac Day, - all three provide wonderful opportunities for learning and we are looking forward to exploring them.





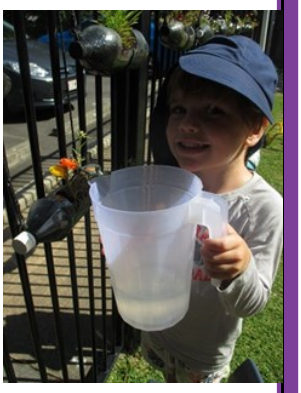












What's happening

EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY

Here at Little Ducks Annerley we have appointed Miss Leighanne as our Sustainability Leader. Leighanne's role is to help develop an action plan for continual improvement to ensure that we are not only doing all we can as a centre but educating staff and children on what we can do to help our environment.

What is sustainability? Sustainability is often thought about in terms of environmental sustainability—reducing waste, minimising consumption and protecting and conserving wildlife and natural habitats. These are all important aspects of being sustainable but sustainability can also be considered more broadly as: 'being able to meet our current needs without infringing on the ability of future generations to meet their needs'. From this perspective, sustainability is not just about conservation but also about related issues of fairness and equity and the importance of thinking about our impact on the lives of future generations. Today's young children represent the first of those future generations and this makes it important for us, as educators, to help them realise the significance of caring for and protecting their environment.

One of our tasks for the centre is to incorporate more natural materials and real life items within the centre for the children to explore and use on a regular basis—so if you have any items laying around the house that you don't need or use any more we will happily take them off your hands, just see one of our friendly team if your not sure!

