Little Ducks Childcare Bardon Mar/Apr 2016

A note from your Centre Manager



Hello families!

We've nearly reached our 1 year anniversary mark and it is exciting to finally be able to say "remember when". As a team we have been reflecting back a lot lately on how far we have come and how far our children have progressed. It is particularly exciting to celebrate those families and educators who have been with us from the beginning. We are proud to celebrate Melina, Amy, Jaimee and myself as the original Little Ducks Bardon Team!

Our very first child to walk through the door was Theo Joyce and his mum Tiffany. Looking at Theo now it is amazing to think of all those months back when he started his very first day. This is just one of the many moments of history that are beginning to emerge now that we are close to our 1 year mark.

On Saturday 16th April we will be celebrating all these events and sharing this celebration with our families at our 1st anniversary and open day. We are currently inviting community groups and local businesses to set up stalls for a marketplace on the day, amongst other exciting surprises. Mark it in your diaries, it will be a day to remember.

We are also busy preparing for our first Easter celebrations at the centre. Our children will be creating Easter hats and preparing a song to sing with the families on Thursday March 24th. Following this we will have a centre wide Easter Egg hunt with a special treat for each child. All family members are welcome to attend, including families whose children do not attend on a Thursday usually.

Michele

Educational excellence through the power of play based learning"

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Upcoming Events!

...March...

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 Patrick's Day— Dress in green and come along to learn some fun facts about our Irish friends and families.

Monday 21st— Harmony Day— This is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and it 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.

Friday 25th— Good Friday — PUBLIC HOLIDAY — Enjoy your day off

Monday 28th — Easter Monday — PUBLIC HOLIDAY — Enjoy your day off

...April...

Monday 4th - Friday 15th — Henny Penny Chicken Hatching — Bringing 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.

Saturday 16th — Little Ducks Bardon open Day and First Anniversary Celebration

Monday 25th — Anzac Day — PUBLIC HOLIDAY - Leading up to this day, we will pay our respect to the diggers.



Reminders

- **1st Anniversary Market Stalls —** We are inviting local businesses, small businesses and community organisations to set up market stalls at our anniversary open day. If you or someone you know has a small business that would like to set up a stall please email bardon@littleducks.com.au
- **Easter eggs and allergies** — It is lovely to celebrate Easter by supplying a treat for your child's classroom friends and we support families who wish to do so. Please remember we have a number of children with allergies to consider. ***All gifts/treats should be given to room educators to distribute.***

Policy Reviews

We value your input and feed-back 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 March and April are:

- Biting Management Policy and Procedure
- Harmful Plants Policy and Procedure
- Continuity of Care Policy
- Communication Policy—Educators and Families

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

March— *Otis, Thehan, Mitchell, Saskia, WIlliam*

April — *Charlotte P, Rafferty, Florence. Isabelle S, Xavier, Henry K, Angus, Sofia, Layla, Louis, Olivia, Nathanial*



Recipe of the month ...

Easter—Carrot Cake

Ingredients

Olive oil, to grease
2 (about 300g) carrots
1 cup (150g) self-raising flour
1/2 cup (75g) plain flour
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 cup (80g) brown sugar
3/4 cup (185ml) olive oil
1/2 cup (125ml) golden syrup
3 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla essence

Icing

250g spreadable cream cheese
1/2 cup (80g) icing sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla essence



Method

Step 1
Preheat oven to 170C or 150C fan-force. Grease a 20cm (base) round cake pan lightly with oil, and line with non-stick baking paper. Peel and grate the carrots, and set aside. Sift the flours, bicarbonate of soda and cinnamon into a large bowl.

Step 2
Put the brown sugar, oil, golden syrup, eggs and vanilla in a separate bowl. Use a balloon whisk to mix until combined.

Step 3
Pour the oil mixture into the dry ingredients. Use a wooden spoon to stir gently until just combined. Stir in the grated carrot.

Step 4
Pour the mixture into the pan and bake for 1 hour. Set aside for 5 minutes, before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Step 5
To make the icing, place the cream cheese, icing sugar and vanilla in a bowl. Use a wooden spoon to mix until well combined.

Step 6

Literacy Matters!

Real World Literacy Opportunities

Building the foundations of writing and reading starts from the moment children are born. Environmental print plays an important role in helping children make connections about the purpose of print and role writing and reading plays.

Reading

- Collect business cards from all the places you and your child visit and make a business card book
- Place letter magnets on the fridge at child height
- Make a book with the fronts of all your child's favourite packaged food boxes.

Writing

- Have a designated note book for your child to write their own shopping lists to take to the supermarket
- Help them write their name on birthday and Christmas cards
- Let them read their scribble writing stories to you and scribe their words.

Nursery Natter!

Lead Educator—Dani Norris

Assistant Educator—Amy Kovchenko

Big “Thank you” to all the Families and Staff at Little Ducks Bardon. I

have been made to feel very Welcome.

So far a little of last month and for the next few months we have been focusing on “self help” skills. Using cutlery to feed ourselves, putting our dirty dishes in the washing up tub, washing our hands before meals and before and after toileting. Our Nursery children are doing an amazing job too. Amy and I have been there to guide and encourage them.

We are learning lots of songs with the actions” Be Be Bumble Bee “ is one that we have introduced for our transition song. The songs goes like this if you would like to practice with your children at home. Be Be Bumble Bee can you say your name to me? Your name is …..Get them to repeat their name to you.

We will be performing a song for Easter for the families. We will be busy practicing the song and the actions.

We are having a lot of learning and fun with the children and, it is something that we both Amy and I are guided by what the children are wanting to experience.



Please feel free to look at the Daily Journal or speak to myself or Amy regarding any concerns or questions about your childs day.

Have a wonderful day..

Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator— Tamasin Batten
Assistant Educator— Tatiana Hogan

This year is going by so quickly. We are learning so many new things.

During the month of March we have been focusing on sea and land animals. This is due to the interest from the children in the Ocean Life visit. The hands on approach is great for Toddlers and we have since enjoyed many sensory experiences such as, water and sea animals, goop and insects and painting our favourite animals.

We have built houses for bears, lions and zebras using lego and magnetic blocks and as a group we have discussed what animals eat and where they live. We have also enjoyed animal stories with lift the flap books being our favourite.

Art has also played a major role in our learning as we made lions, polar bears, fish and octopus. These are displayed in our room, the children really enjoy looking at their learning when it is displayed showing pride in their work

Next month in April we will be doing lots of Easter activities such as hats, baskets and collage pieces. We will also be celebrating Harmony Day on the 21st of March and would appreciate it if the children could wear the colour orange to embrace cultural diversity.

Lastly some housekeeping requests, please remember to provide your child with a hat and several changes of spare clothes each day, that would be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to a fun filled year of learning with you child.

Thank you,

Tammie and Tatiana



Junior Kindy Jumble!

Lead Educator : Kitty Spencer

Assistant Educator: Jaimee Thompson Assistant Educator: Jess Johnson

The year has been off to a great start, we have learnt so many new things! Our focus for the last couple of weeks has been on our bodies and investigating our identity (EYLF Outcome 1). We have done lots of different activities for the children to further explore their self-identities. The children's favourite experience at the moment is the height chart we put on the wall, they all run up every day and point to the picture of themselves. They all get so excited about it! Another favourite was making pizza muffin faces, the children are developing their knowledge of where each feature on the face goes. We continued this focus by making paper plate faces.



We also shifted the focus onto our bones. The children were fascinated with this topic as we showed the children real life x-rays and they made their own pretend x-ray of their arm using cotton tips as the bones showing understandings about technology, curiosity and wonder in world (EYLF Outcome 4). We have also done lots of mirror play as the children draw their own self-portrait showing fine motor skills and determine the colour of their hair and eyes (EYLF Outcome 1 and 3).



We have been asking the junior kindy children what they want to learn about at kindy and do at kindy next month. We have had a lot of requests to learn about cars and trains showing autonomy, agency and self-direction of learning (EYLF Outcome 1 and 4). This will be our focus for the next coming weeks as we explore different modes of transport. We will do lots of engaging activities with the children including, learning about traffic lights, making our own road signs and roads, doing car track painting, making cars, trains and boats out of boxes. The children are really eager to learn about this. If you have any big boxes at home we will love some donations.

We will also be working on further developing the children's self-help skills. We have been encouraging the children to put their own sunscreen on, open their own lunches and pack their sheets away after sleep (EYLF outcome 1 and 3). The children love feeling a sense of pride when they show their independence and often will clap and applaud their own achievement and their peers achievements (EYLF Outcome 1 and 3). We will continue to focus on these self-help skills.

We look forward to an exciting couple of months to follow!

Kindy Catch Up!

Kindy Lead Educator— Alex Gayed

Kindy Lead Educator—Kate Fawcett

Kindy Assistant Educator— Tiana Stirrup

This month in the Kindy room we have been very busy engaging in learning experiences that are based on the individual interests of our kindy friends! We are finally putting the finishing touches on our construction zone and are about to begin challenging our Kindy friends with building replication and problem solving strategies. The children have enjoyed experimenting with the tools and screws on our woodshop table and definitely look the part in our new high vis vests and hard hats! We have had some lovely discussions about the purpose of safety wear and the special precautions builders on construction sites might need to take. We will continue to build on our knowledge of construction as well as expanding our language skills as we learn new, construction specific vocabulary!

After we caught the magpies scratching around in our vegetable garden we discussed ways that we could save our plants and decided to make a scarecrow! We have had some beautiful help from our families in sourcing clothes and stuffing for our scarecrow and have spent our mornings working on sewing skills and stuffing. We have also had many discussions about our scarecrow's head and the flippy floppy hat that he will need! It will be very exciting to see how this unfolds!

There has been a wonderful improvement in the children's self-help skills during the last few weeks! The children are attempting harder tasks as they learn and master simple actions such as pulling their pants up and down during toileting and packing away their own sheets! We are so grateful for all the support we have had from our families in reinforcing these skills at home, we have such confident and self-sufficient children!



Preschool Pride!

Early Childhood Teacher—Kindergarten Program—Bec Bosher and Carly Dooley

Pre School Assistant—Melina McCormack

Following on from Miss Melina's visit to the nail salon to have her nails done we created a Day Spa in our classroom. The children have shown a strong interest in role playing in this space. They have been showing empathy and strong relationships by taking turns to pamper each other (QKLG Connectedness). The foot spa was particular popular and the children built in their own understandings and prior knowledge about the spa by asking each other what colour they wanted and reminding them to sit still (QKLG Active Learning).



We extended on this by teaching the children about money including the 5, 10 and 20 dollar notes helping them to recognise each note and how to use the money in the spa. This is a great opportunity to play with learning about numeracy (QKLG Communicating). This lead to an increased need to develop an appointment book providing us with an opportunity to explore time with the children (QKLG Communicating). We will be moving forward with further investigations into time and understanding the mechanics of analogue time and clocks. We also look forward to other literacy and numeracy opportunities offered by this new interest area.



As a way of building strong relationships with Miss Bec and our new teacher Miss Carly we have been exploring self-portraiture in our art. The children have had the opportunity to engage in a number of different self-portrait experiences each time working closely with Miss Bec talking about themselves, their interests and their personalities (QKLG Identity). These are on display in our classroom currently.

We farewelled Miss Emily this month and welcomed Miss Bec to our room for a short period of time before our new teacher Miss Carly arrived at the end of February. Miss Carly has recently moved from Melbourne with her husband and is a recent graduate of the Bachelor of Early Childhood from Deakin University. Carly believes that through play-based experience children foster both creative and critical thinking skills as well as developing confidence and learning how to connect to their community. She hopes to empower children to become life-long learners. Carly believes that individuality should be celebrated and is strongly motivated to create a curriculum that is designed to include all levels of learners.

We are looking forward to a great Easter in our room, preparing our Easter bonnets and baskets for our centre Easter celebrations.

Sustainability Corner

How to pack a litterless lunch box

1. Reusable food containers, ditch the paper and plastic bags and pack lunches in washable reusable containers.

2. Pack a refillable drink bottle.

3. Buy in bulk and save. Cut back on packaging avoiding individually wrapped snack such as yoghurt, dried fruit and chips. Buy larger sizes and portion them out in reusable containers, saving both resources and money.

4. Buy fresh, eliminate the quick fix packaged lunches and aim to have only compostable scraps like apple cores and banana peels remaining. Not only is it healthier, it supports Australian farmers.

5. Shop and cook with the children. Children are more likely to enjoy eating their own creations and less likely to throw away food knowing the work that went into it.

Other News!!

New Early Childhood Teacher

We welcome aboard Carly our new Early Childhood Teacher to the team in Preschool. Carly has her Bachelor of Early Childhood Education from Deakin University. Prior to studying and working in the education system she worked as a wedding coordinator in several venues in Melbourne. She has recently moved to Brisbane from Melbourne with her husband. We are very excited to get to know Carly and grow with her as she fulfils this role.



Little Ducks Fortitude Valley!!

LITTLE DUCKS FORTITUDE VALLEY has opened their doors!!

We are located in the heart of Fortitude Valley on McLachlan Street .
The multi-level building has been completely refurbished to cater for babies through to school age children, including an approved Kindergarten Program.
If you have friends who need a space for under 3's,
Fortitude Valley Little Ducks has some vacancies remaining,
call Maria the Manager for Fortitude Valley on 3252 1841.