

Little Ducks Childcare Annerley

May/June

A note from your Centre Manager

Hello and welcome to the May/June addition of our newsletter.
I would like to thank all those families who have provided us with feedback on the questionnaire that we sent out and we are currently reviewing all your suggestions and will keep you updated on the outcome. The main consensus was that you all miss the weekly news for the individual rooms so we are currently discussing how we can achieve this without having the Educators out of their rooms for too long, so we will let you as soon as possible how we can achieve this as I know as a parent myself that a little email here and there is a great way to keep in touch with what your children have been doing each week.
As you all know we had our centre photos last week which went really well and the children were amazing. Kylie informed me that they should be back within 2-3 weeks, but I will email everyone once they arrive.
We are going to start to put together a list of names of Educators and families who would like to join in with the 5km walk for the Mater Little Miracles, so if you would like to join in with the worthy cause please let one of the Educators know or email me and we will start putting plans together.
We are going to start our blanket collection over the next few months so if you have any old blankets please bring them in. We will put together a designated area for drop off and when we get a collection I will take them to our local drop off point. Currently there are 105,000 homeless people in Australia so we would like to do our bit to help out in any way possible, If you have any questions please don't hesitate to see me at any time.
And lastly I would like to thank each and every one of you for helping to make my first few months here at Little Ducks so enjoyable and I look forward to many more to come.
Cheers for now.
Mel

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Kindergarten Approved Program
Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

May Events

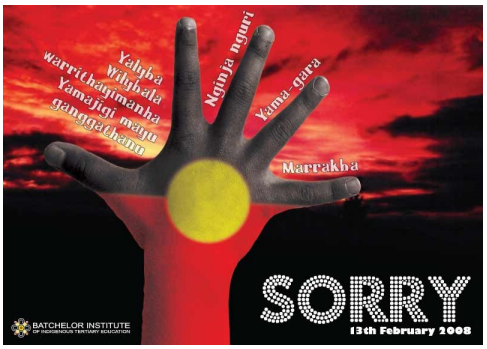
Monday 2nd May
Labor Day Public Holiday—the centre will be closed for this day.

Friday 6th May
Mothers day afternoon tea—we will be celebrating our special mums with an afternoon tea starting at 3:30pm

Sunday 8th May
Mothers day

Sunday 15th May
International day of families—leading up to this day we will be talking about what makes our families special.

Thursday 26th
National Sorry Day—we will remember and commemorate the mistreatment of the country's indigenous population.



Thursday 26th
Red nose day disco– lets raise money by bringing along a gold coin donation for SIDS awareness and have some fun dancing the day away.

Upcoming Events!

June Events!

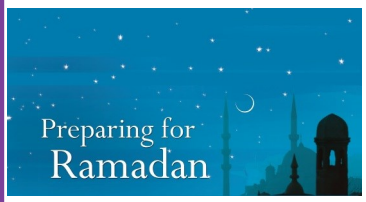
Friday 3rd— Mabo Day
Commemorates Torres Strait Islander and Indigenous land rights.



Sunday 5th—World environment day
On the lead up to this day we will learn about why it is so important to be inspired to care for an nurture our environment. We will be having a special visitor come to Little Ducks and help us get closer to nature.

Monday 6th—Matariki
Celebrate the Maori New Year, Happy New Year!





Monday 6th— Ramadan beings
This is a period of prayer, fasting, charity-giving and self accountability for Muslims in Australia.

Tuesday 7th—Drum beats Australia
Join us in learning how to tap into rich universal traditions of using music and rhythm as a tool of communication and develop the ability to express ourselves rhythmically in a positive way.

Reminders

- **Sign in and out sheets—** It is a requirement under the Department of Education, employment and Workplace Relations that all permanently booked days must be signed by a parent, guardian or authorised person these include: Illness, Holiday and Public holidays or any absentees. These days must be signed for you to be eligible to claim CCB or your rebate at the end of each quarter. Failure to sign for the below dates will result in your account being charge at full fees.

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 May and June are:

- Accident/incident policy
- Behaviour management
- Biting management
- Handwashing
- Infection control
- Discrimination, harassment, bullying and occupational
- Fee (13)

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Edith, Annie, Sophie, Jude, Asha, Nicolai, Millicent, Augustus, Flynn, Madeleine, Gabby, Felix, Florence, Quincy, Isabelle, Alina, Hugo, Sophia



Recipe of the month!

Healthy LCM bars

Ingredients

- 120g (4 cups) rice bubbles
- 45g (1/2 cup) desiccated coconut
- 1 tablespoon chia seeds
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds



Method:

Step 1
Line a 16 x 26cm (base measurement) slice tin with baking paper, allowing paper to overhang two long sides of tin to form handles. Combine the rice bubbles, coconut, chia, sunflower seeds and raisins in a large mixing bowl. Set aside.

Step 2
Place rice malt syrup and peanut butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Cook stirring, until melted, well combined and just coming to the boil.

Step 3
Add to rice bubble mixture and stir to combine. Working quickly, spoon into prepared tin, pressing down firmly with the back of a spoon.

Step 4
Refrigerate for 1-2 hours or until firm. Cut into 18 bars.

Nursery Natter!

It has been a fun filled couple of months in the nursery room! Each one of our nursery friends have settled in really well in their new play environment where they are all very confident in themselves and are enjoying interacting with the other children in the room. We have been very busy in our room with many exciting experiences happening where the nursery children have been able to engage in and extend on with their interests within these experiences. Some of our main experiences over the last couple of months were having the Henny Penny chickens at the centre for a couple of weeks over Easter and the children were able to be a part of the Easter Bonnet Parade. We also had the other centre Animals in our room for the children to see and extended on with the animal experiences. With our nursery children learning through exploring experiences sensory we also created numerous activities for the children to explore.



With the children in the nursery learning through sensory experience we created different activities to extend from this and encourage their sensory motor skills. Experiences that the nursery children engaged with was playdough, water play and exploring natural materials. We made some sensory filled containers where the children were able to explore the different textures and feeling of the materials. We were able to extend on from the sensory experiences and create craft artworks.

Over the Easter month we had the Henny Penny Chickens in the centre over in the kindy room! As the chicken's were still in the eggs for the first week, our friends engaged in experiences surrounding eggs such as searching for the toy eggs in straw and also exploring plastic eggs which the children were able to pull the eggs apart and see animals inside! When the chickens had hatched in the second week, our nursery friends were all very curious as they all sat with Miss Alana and Miss Madisson to look at the little fluffy chickens walking around and peaking at the mat. Some of the children had great confidence to reach out and touch the chickens, where there were many giggles shared! With the children liking the chickens so much, we decided to extend on from this and create more animal experience. We created a Zoo animal area in the room, which to children seemed to really like exploring. We also had the centre animals join us where the children loved being able to get up close with the guinea pigs, Bambee and Snowy! The children had a great time being able to look inside the cage and also pat them. We also had the birds, Sugar and Bluebell join our room where the children liked being able to listen to the bird tweet, some of our friends started to pick up on bird sounds outside in the little yard and enjoyed trying to find the birds up in the trees!



We have recently changed our room around the create areas. The children have responded very positively and have liked being able to explore the different spaces! We will continue to observe our nursery friends with the new room layout and extend on from this to follow the children's interests and learning!

Until next time, Miss Alana and Miss Madisson

Toddler 1!

Toddler One Tales



Welcome to our Toddler One Tales! This year is flying by already, and we have been extremely busy in the Toddler One room, we have had some big events recently at Little Ducks. March was a very busy month for us, with crazy hair day, as well as our annual Easter bonnet parade. On the 11th of March we helped raise money for the Leukaemia foundation, in participating in crazy hair day. It was fantastic to see so many of the children coming in with crazy hair, to raise money for such a well-deserved cause. Even though some of our Toddlers don't have much hair just yet, we set up our own little hair salon in the room. The toddlers sat very still, whilst having their hair gelled and some glitter sprinkled in. After they had finished being pampered, they went and had a look at themselves in the mirror, this provided lots of laughter and smiles. We then moved onto our Easter Bonnet parade the next week. In the weeks leading up to our Easter Bonnet parade, we were very busy making our bonnets. The children's favourite collage material at that point was glitter, so we decided to decorate our bonnets with lots of colourful glitter, and of course we painted their faces for the extra cuteness factor! The Toddies marched ever so proudly onto the veranda and paraded their hats and face paint around the yard. There was lots of applauding and smiles from the parents, it was so special for the children to have their mummy's and daddy's there for the afternoon!





At the start of the month we had the privilege of having some eggs delivered from the Henny Penny hatching program, where we were able to witness the eggs hatching, and chicks emerging from their shells right in front of our eyes! Each egg had a different stamp on it, so we had an idea of when the eggs were going to hatch. We ended up having around two eggs hatch each night, so we came in each morning to some new baby chicks! Over time, the children became more and more confident in holding the chickens, and by the end of it most of them were pointing to the chick, and then to their hand, asking to hold the chicks. The Toddlers displayed such respect and nurture towards the chicks, it was beautiful to see! At the end of the two weeks, we ended up with seventeen chicks, all who have been adopted out to our loving families here at Little Ducks.

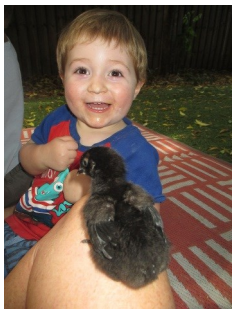




Toddler 2!



The toddler room has been busy over the past few months with many centre events….
Crazy Hair Day, where the children took part in using coloured hair chalk to take turns in colouring their peer's hair.



St Patricks Day, the children used green paint on their hands, then placed on paper to create a shamrock.
Harmony Day, we engaged in being united as one in Harmony by creating an orange self-collage holding each other's hand.
Easter Hat Parade, where we all proudly walked along the deck showing our parents the lovely Easter hats that we all had made.
Police Visit, the children had the opportunity to climb in the police car and look at all the interesting things inside.
World Health Day, we focused on health and hygiene with how important it is to wash our hands as well as eating healthy food.
Chicken Hatchlings, the children really enjoyed the hands on holding the chickens and watching them crack from the eggs to emerge as a chicken.
Anzac Day, we read a story all about Anzac Ted then painted a poppy plus the children experienced making Anzac biscuits.
Earth Day, this day was celebrated with water play and sea animals by discussing how important our water is for our sea life, then made a little turtle.
We have been focusing on our self-help skills with hand washing, toileting, making our own toast and colours which the children have had a variety of learning experiences from coloured water in sand play, painting, blocks and play dough.



Thanks to the parent input in to our program each week, as we then follow up on this with a learning experience for your child. Thanks Miss Janelle and Miss Vicky

Junior Kindy!



It has been a very busy and rewarding last few months in the junior kindy room!

Firstly we would like to welcome Miss Rebecca and Miss Anna into our room as the new educators and say a huge thank you to all the families for making them feel welcome.



One of the main focusing that the children have been interested in over the last few weeks has been the sustainability and recycling that has been going on around the room and centre. With Miss Leighanne being our centres sustainability officer the children have been engaging in various activities on a daily basis. We have introduced the warm farm, which the children have been doing a fantastic job at keeping their scrap foods from lunch and putting into the farm of an afternoon, we have been focusing on using recycled items and materials to conduct our art work pieces and most importantly we have started growing our own immature plants in the room. Along with the children focusing on using recycled materials in the room for our arts and crafts, we have introduced a new section into the room called our “art studio” and this is where children have the freedom to access the arts and crafts as they please to make what ever they desire! Its been fantastic to see the children using their creativity and imagination.

Another one of our main focuses in the room has been the outstanding amount of feedback we have had from the parents in regards to each and every child's cultural background! We have had a few parents come into the room and read stories, sing songs and bring in traditional clothing that relates to where they come from. The children have been loving seeing all the different cultures we have in the room, so if you as a parent are interested in sharing some stories with us, please feel free to speak to any of the girls!



Senior Kindy!



Hi Folks!

Here we are well and truly into term 2 already. The children have been engaged in several interesting learning experiences lately. Firstly contributing to our sustainability practices, we created our own little herb and vegie garden. This has encouraged the children to care for and respect their environment. We have many eager little participants helping with the gardening chores daily. This has also extended their sensory skills as they smell and taste our herbs as they grow. We are hoping to expand on this by using some of our herbs in cooking experiences coming up. Our dramatic play areas inside have encouraged the children to engage in several different imaginary play roles from Princess's and Princes to our very busy emergency services officers they are role playing at present. Our Police car visit was a real hit and this is being followed up with a nice Big Fire Truck visit happening very soon!! Date to be advised. Our new art centre area had promoted more enthusiastic little artists to expand their creative skills as they explore and experiment using different utensils and materials. A "BIG" thanks to all the parents who have been adding these interesting recycled materials to the centre. They are really appreciated. As some of the parents have mentioned their children have been attempting to write their names etc. we have been offering basic writing sheets with dotted names and running circles to help promote early writing practices. This term we will also be exploring and experimenting with a few different science experiences contributing to the already very popular interest in our science table area. The children continually contribute to the science table bringing in items of interest particularly their favourite being insects. Not a day goes by without several children gathered around studying the different objects on the table. It's great to see the steady interest.

As the weather is getting cooler we are also planning to extend on the children's gross motor and ball skills being able to enjoy longer plays outside. Well everyone Savita and I are looking forward to furthering the children's interests and learning skills this term sharing in more fun learning experiences.

Till Next Time Nancy & Savita.

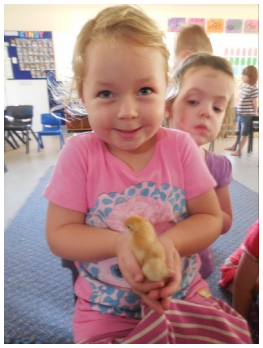




Kindergarten Program!



What an amazing few weeks we have had at Kindy. The chicken hatching was a great success and all of the children loved caring for the chickens and watching tem grown. They had a lot of fun when we put the chicken on the floor and would laugh when they would run around and sometimes hide behind the furniture. This is a great experience for the children and helps to develop respect for the nature around them.



We had a wonderful visit from Constable Chris from Annerley police station. He talked to the children about road safety; how to cross the road correctly and wearing our seat belt when we are in cars and why it is important to be a kind and caring friend. The children who were involved had lots of fun inspecting the police car and a couple of them even found the siren button "oops".



Over the next few weeks we are going to be exploring the human body and will be looking into our five sense. We will also be putting our science hats on and observing the changes in our environment, before learning about the four seasons.



We look forward to celebrating Mother's Day next weekend and have been working on our presents, but shhh, they are a surprise!

Just remember to keep sending in you family photos for us to keep display on our wall.

Thanks, Lauren and Diane.