

Little Ducks Childcare Bardon
May/June 2016

A note from your Centre Manager



Hello families! ***Well here we are in our second year!! A great opportunity to look back and reflect on what we have achieved over the year.***

It has been wonderful to see the children grow and develop over the year with some of our littlest children now up and walking and talking and our older children soaking up all of the knowledge we can impart , conversing, beginning writing becoming soooooo ready for school! We are now 87% full with vacancies only for children over 3 years.

Most importantly we are starting to feel part of this wonderful community. We have made links with the local schools with our preschool teachers taking time both last year and this year to meet will all of the local schools setting up goals for our children based on the requirements of the local schools to ensure they are ready for the excitement and challenges of the next part of their learning journey. We have also made connections with the local library, having set up regular story time visits from Andrea from Ashgrove library - the first visit being only last week! We have loved the connections we have made with the families and the parent input into our programs including visits from parents who are professionals in many industries interacting with the children and teaching the message of their profession. We thank all our families for their support and interactions from your great donations right down to the most important cereal boxes, for your advice, for your expertise, your understanding and for allowing us to care for your most precious possessions - your children.

There are a still a lot of firsts for us to experience this year - our first Mothers Day, Fathers Day and Grandparent Day celebrations ,stay tuned for these special events. July will see us offering our 2017 Government Funded Kindergarten places. All of our current Kindy room children and those in our Preschool room who are eligible for school in 2018 will automatically be offered a Kindergarten Program place in the centre. After these places are filled we will then offer places to those on our waitlist. If you know anyone interested in a place for 2017 for children attending school in 2018, now is the time for them to give us a call and express their interest.

We are really looking forward to our second year, it is great to now be saying "remember when" and to have some beginning traditions to follow. Our educators are more experienced and comfortable with their role and expectations, at our last staff meeting we calculated that between us we now have 134 years of experience!! Not bad for a centre at the end of it's very first year!

97 Jubilee Terrace,
Bardon QLD 4065
Phone 0428 665 645

Kindergarten Approved Program
Queensland Government

bardon@littleducks.com.au

Upcoming Events!

...May...

Monday 2nd – Labour Day — PUBLIC HOLIDAY - enjoy your day off

Friday 6th— Mother's Day afternoon Tea — We will be celebrating our special mums with an afternoon tea starting 3:30pm



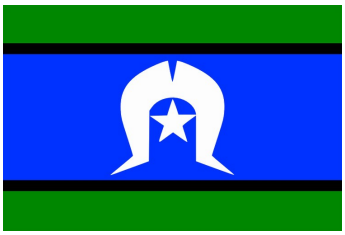
Sunday 8th— HAPPY MOTHER's DAY!!!

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

Tuesday 31st — Drumbeats Incursion — 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!

...June...

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 and 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 Begins — This is a period of prayer, fasting, charity-giving and self-accountability for Muslims in Australia.

Reminders

- **Little Ducks Tshirts —** Little Ducks Tshirts are now available for sale from Michele or Bec. We have sizes 2 and 4 available in yellow, blue and purple. Shirt's are $10 each and can be charged to your account.

- **Entertainment Books** — The centre is currently fundraising for some new outdoor equipment. The sale of entertain books will help us to buy a new parachute and other exciting equipment. These can be purchased online for $65

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:

* Access, equity and enrolment policy
* Accident/Incident policy—Severe
* Duty of care
* Handwashing policy
* Infection control
* Infectious illness procedure
* Infectious illness policy
* SIDS policy and guidelines for safe sleeping
* Orientation policy—Families
* Orientation policy—Educators and families
* Annual leave policy—Staff
* Fee Policy
* Students, volunteers and visitors policy
* First aid action plan on dangerous products
* Holiday discount policy
* Environmental and sustainability strategy.

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



May— *Lachlan, Hadley, Santiago, Angus, Ella, Sam, Nia, Fintan, Max, Savik, Linus, Faith, Harvey, Jack, Charlie Rose.*

June— *Hudson, James, Rowena, Nina, Cameron, Samuel, Cecilia, Charlotte, Ashtyn, Hugo, Aria, Max.*

Recipe of the month ...

Anzac Biscuits

Ingredients

1 1/4 cups plain flour, sifted
1 cup rolled oats
1/2 cup caster sugar
3/4 cup desiccated coconut
2 tablespoons golden syrup or treacle
150g unsalted butter, chopped
1/2 teaspoon bicarb soda



Method

Preheat oven to 170°C. Place the flour, oats, sugar and coconut in a large bowl and stir to combine.

In a small saucepan place the golden syrup and butter and stir over low heat until the butter has fully melted. Mix the bicarb soda with 1 1/2 tablespoons water and add to the golden syrup mixture. It will bubble whilst you are stirring together so remove from the heat.

Pour into the dry ingredients and mix together until fully combined. Roll table spoonfuls of mixture into balls and place on baking trays lined with non stick baking paper, pressing down on the tops to flatten slightly.

Bake for 12 minutes or until golden brown.

Building Resilience

Resilient children share four basic skill sets- independence, problem-solving, optimism and social connection. As educators and parents it is our job to help children build resilience. We can support children's resilience in the following ways

1. Model a "you can do it" attitude yourself. Be positive and share your positive insights with your children during difficult or challenging periods.
2. Make the most of "teachable moments" view difficult circumstances as an opportunity to build strategies with your child to get through the challenges.
3. Involve children in decision making and make them active participants in the class/family.
4. Teach your child coping strategies including, acceptance, normalisation, relaxation techniques and self-confidence.

Nursery Natter!

Lead Educator—Dani Norris

Assistant Educator—Amy Kovchenko

We have Welcomed Josephine, Jedd and Sam to the Nursery we look forward to build strong relationships and a sense of belonging with these children (EYLF Outcome 1 and 2). We have been learning about senses exploring our physical wellbeing (EYLF Outcome 3). How things feel, smell and taste. The children have really enjoyed the sensory and messy play activities that we have for them to experience. This includes finger painting, play dough and water and sand play. We are using our gross motor skills outdoors on the obstacle course helping with balance and problem solving. Fine motor is being used with stacking cups and using pencils to draw with. Our program is on the wall for you to look at and the daily journal as well. Your input is always appreciated.





We are teaching the children a few new songs and the actions to go with them. The Hokey Pokey is a favorite, we are going to be doing this regularly so that we can learn the whole dance building understandings about language, processes and our physical wellbeing (EYLF Outcomes 3 and 5). If you have a moment at home maybe you could do the Hokey Pokey with your children they love it. Another song that we are singing regularly is “Head’s , Shoulders, Knees and Toes” which will familiarize the children about body parts.

As the cooler weather is coming we ask that you pack the appropriate clothing for the conditions outside. The children still like to play outdoors under the verandah but need to be dressed accordingly. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to speak to either of us at anytime. We are always available and open to suggestions.

Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator— Tamasin Batten
Assistant Educator— Tatiana Hogan

We have enjoyed a busy month in April. Welcome to Max Harriet who have moved from babies into our room. We hope their journey with us is one of enjoyment and learning.

Most of the month has been involving eggs, baby chickens are Easter. The centre has loved watching eggs from Henny Penny's hatch and grow into fluffy little chickens. Our activities have been egg painting, collage on eggs, egg matching games, egg stamping and making chickens. With these artistic experiences children have been building fine motor skills and hand eye coordination (EYLF Learning Outcome 3). We have also been reading animal and farmyard stories as well as counting books to further our understanding of early literacy understandings (EYLF Learning Outcome 5).

We have been using egg cutters with our playdough and decorating our buckets and Easter hats for our parade. The children did very well learning to sing and do actions to "Little Peter Rabbit" and
Five Little Bunnies". The children's showed a strong sense of confidence and pride in themselves as they performed for their families (EYLF Learning Outcome 1). Moving forward we look forward to spending time together with our mothers for our Mother's Day Afternoon tea planned for Friday the 6th.

Just a few housekeeping reminders. As the days are getting cooler could you please provide extra sets of clothing for your child and check their bag for a reminder note if nappies are needed to be bought in. Thank you for continuing to provide a hat each day as the children are very good with putting it on and keeping it on outdoors. We hope you have a lovely month and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries about your child.



Junior Kindy Jumble!

Lead Educator :

Jaimee Thompson and Maddison Purdel

Assistant Educator: Jess Johnson

We have been busy exploring our senses learning about touch and smell building stronger understandings about ourselves and our bodies (EYLF outcome 1 and 3). We have explored many different sensory experiences with our sense of touch. We have used finger paint exploring vocabulary including smooth, wet and cold. We have pulled, twisted and poked goop. We have explored the gritty rough texture of sand.

We were very lucky to be visited by the fire engine. Firemen Mark and Derek visited us and taught us about all the things they do in their work with the community. The children learnt a lot about safety in a fire and how fire officers can help them (EYLF outcome 2). The children got an opportunity to use the hose. The enjoyed seeing the big truck, hearing the sirens and seeing all the equipment and gear the firemen wear.

We have been exploring many different tools through art exploring cause and effect (EYLF Outcome 4). We have explored fly swatters, spray bottles and rollers in our explorations. Each item gives a different effect when used with the paint.

We enjoyed celebrating Anzac day with the children. We listened to the last post building our sound and listening skills whilst learning more about our cultural heritage. The children decorated poppies and made Anzac biscuits. What a fantastic way to remember our troops and build stronger understandings about our culture (EYLF Outcome 2).



Kindy Catch Up!

Kindy Lead Educator— Alex Gayed

Kindy Lead Educator—Melina McCormick

Kindy Assistant Educator— Georgia Redfern

Over the last month in the Kindy Room we have had a some exciting changes to our room. The Kindy children and Miss Alex have warmly welcomed Miss Melina and Miss Georgia to our team and we have had a positive start to this new chapter in the Kindy Room.

After celebrating World Health Day in early April, the Kindy children became particularly interested in the role of doctors and other health practitioners. We decided to embrace this interest and transform our construction site in to a doctors surgery. With the help of our Kindy children we decided to name our new dramatic play area 'The Kindy Doctors'. Through our doctor surgery we have extended our interest to learn about the tools that doctors use, we have investigated our bones and body parts and are now moving on to exploring our 5 senses. Last week we used our doctors surgery as a 'Teddy Hospital' and invited one of our mothers, Doctor Tish, to visit us and show us how to care for our toys. Doctor Tish taught the Kindy children how to bandage, use a stethoscope and give our toys medicine for their illnesses! (EYLF Outcome 3).

In recognition of ANZAC Day, the Kindy children have been discussing and exploring the role that the Defence Force plays in our community. With our centre being in close proximity to the Gallipoli Barracks and being connected to Defence families, we decided to invite members of the Australian Army to visit us and talk to us about the significance of ANZAC day. We had the pleasure of meeting Private James and Corporal Geraldine, who brought in a lot of interesting items for us to explore. The Kindy children asked the soldiers some fantastic questions and were even given a special torch from Private James. To show our appreciation for their hard work, the Kindy children presented Private James and Corporal Geraldine with a beautiful card and some ANZAC biscuits we had baked for them (EYLF Outcome 2).



We have also had a lot of birthday's in our room over the last few months. We have celebrated Saskia, Henry, Angus, Sofia and Nathanael's birthdays. We love to share these important milestones with each other and we believe it is an important and meaningful part of each child's identity!

Preschool Pride!

Early Childhood Teacher—Kindergarten Program—Carly Dooley

Pre School Assistant—Cintia Nunez



This month, after accepting a promotion to become room leader with the kindy children we farewelled our co-educator Miss Melina from the preschool program. We are very happy for Miss Melina, and are excited to still share learning experiences with her whilst in the playground.

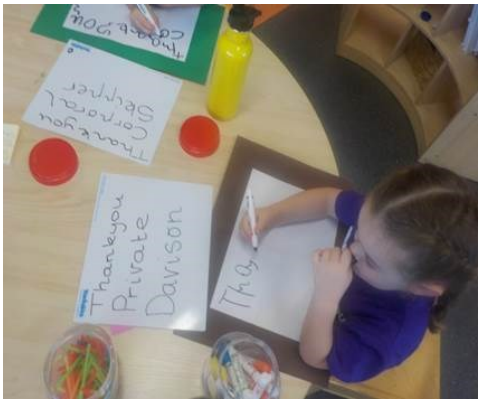
At the start of April, we welcomed Miss Cintia into our room. Miss Cintia is a mother of four and grandmother to one, who brings a world of knowledge and experience to our room. Having two new educators in preschool, our focus this month has been building safe and secure relationships between all families, students and educators (QKLG Wellbeing).

I was recently away while I travelled home to Melbourne for my graduation ceremony. During the ceremony I was extremely excited to have learnt that I finished within the top 20% of my course, completing my Bachelor of Education with Distinction.

We continued to extend on the children's interest with money by including the $50 and $100 note into our play and transformed our day spa into a grocery store. The children created their own currency for the 'preschool mint', where they added their own photo, denomination of choice and decorations onto a 'note' building strong understandings abour numeracy (QKLG communicating).

We felt very privileged to have Private Davidson and Corporal Skipper visit our room for Anzac day to share insights into their jobs working for the defence force. Our children had some fantastic questions for them focusing on the who, what, when, where and why of Anzac day building on our previous understandings of the difference between questions and statements (QKLG Communicating). We extended on this by reading "Anzac Ted" and building our literacy understandings, developing empathy and learning about culture (QKLG Connectedness and Communicating).

We introduced our 'Gallery of Greatness' a permanent space within our classroom where each child has the opportunity to decide what they would like to showcase to our wider community (QKLG Identity). We have worked individually with each child discussing, creating and exploring with them the possibilities for their space. This space is at adult level as it is a showcase, leaving the lower levels of the wall free to continue with project work.



The children have begun preparations for our Mother's Day celebrations, and are looking forward to celebrating and spoiling the important women in our lives.

Sustainability Corner



We were very excited to a receive an order of 50 native plants form the Brisbane City Council plants initiative.

The preschool children helped to bring our plants inside and worked closely to identify the different types by colour, texture and smell. Our new sustainability officer Miss Melina worked closely with the children to plant these saplings in bigger pots and water them daily to help them grow.

We look forward to using these plants to beautify our center and help teach the children about the value of caring for our environment. Building strong understandings in learning outcome 2, children are connected with and contribute to their world, children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment (Early Years Learning Framework).



Moving forward Miss Melina is working closely with the families to establish a list of everyone's professions and talents. We look forward to our families sharing their interests with us in the future and are excited by the possibilities this brings. We have already had a visit from Isla in Preschool's dad who is a fire fighter. The children were excited to see the fire engine and have a turn holding the hose. Community partnerships are
something that is very important to our service and we look forward to building strong connections with our families, local schools and businesses now and into the future.

Other News!!

First Birthday

On April 16th we celebrated our first birthday in style with an Open Day and Community Market Place.
Thank you to all those who donated items to our raffle including:



Elders Real Estate
Seaworld Family Pass

12RND Fitness Milton
5 Gym Session Passes

Linque Linen and Accessories
Sheet set

Kovchenko
Delicious fruit platter

Councillor Peter Matic
of the Toowong Ward Office
Beautiful hamper and duck



Thank you to all those who hosted a stall in community market place:

Petit Ballerinas **Polkadot Possum** **Sally's books**

Lola and the Toots **St Josephs Primary School**

Chess Mates **Heidi Dibble** **Cath Brown**

Baby Baumbach **Kitz Learning**

Our wonderful educators who baked for the bake sale