Little Ducks Childcare Birkdale

May/June 2016 Newsletter

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to the May/June edition of our newsletter. I cannot believe that this newsletter is the last one before we enter the second half of the year! Time flies when you're having fun!
Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to share some wonderful news with you. Miss Renee has given birth to her beautiful healthy twins, Zachary and Zoe. Congratulations to the Halpin family on your new arrivals. Miss Kerri also surprised us with the early arrival of her healthy baby boy, Harvey. We are so happy for you and wish you and your partner the best of luck as you become first time parents.



We have been busy over the past months working on building connections with our community as this is something we believe is very important and an area where we felt we could do more. So far, we have made connections with the wonderful people at Indigiscapes who are in the process of helping us choose some new native plants for our playground and gardens, where we will be able to teach the children how to care for and contribute to the care of plants in nature. By selecting an array of edible native plants, we will also be able to teach the children about indigenous cooking and baking. We are very excited for the projects ahead and look forward to sharing these experiences with you.
We have also had a visit from some of our local heroes, the Capalaba Police! Two of their officers came along to educate the children all about why they are such an integral part of our community, and how part of their job is to assist in making our communities safe. What fun we had holding the real handcuffs, listening to the radio walkie talkie and climbing all through the paddy wagon! We even got to listen to the extremely loud siren as they waved goodbye and returned to keeping our streets safe.





Thank you to the families who have reviewed our Centre Philosophy and given us feedback in our new family feedback area in the foyer. If you ever have feedback of any kind, it is always welcome and there are many ways you can leave this. You can drop a stone or note into the corresponding jars in our family feedback area, a note in our anonymous suggestion box (also located in the foyer), by emailing birkdale@littleducks.com.au, giving me a call on 38225933 or come and stop by for a chat. My office hours are 8.00am-4.30pm Monday-Friday. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.
We will see you here again in July!

Cassie...

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Recipe of the Month!

Sultana Sushi and Fruity Rockets!

Ingredients

1 piece Mountain Bread
1/3 cup cream cheese
1/3 cup sultanas

Method

Spread 1 piece of Mountain Bread evenly with 1/3 cup cream cheese, then sprinkle over 1/3 cup sultanas. Roll up tightly and wrap in plastic wrap. Place in fridge for 2 hours or overnight. Cut into sushi-sized pieces.
Serve



Equipment

You'll need 4 bamboo skewers, halved.

Ingredients

1/2 (1kg) rockmelon, peeled, seeded
8 large strawberries
16 2cm slices of banana

Method

Cut rockmelon into eight 2cmx8cm pieces. Trim 2 long sides of each piece to form a rocket tail shape. Thickly slice strawberries horizontally into three pieces. Slice banana into 2cm slices. Using the picture as a guide, thread rockmelon, strawberry and banana pieces onto skewers to form a rocket-ship.
Serve.



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Centre Events!

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

...May...

Monday 2nd - **Labour Day**
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

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



Sunday - **Mother's Day**

Sunday 15th - **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 mis-treatment of the country's indigenous population.

Thursday 26th - **Red Nose Day Disco**
Let's raise money by bringing along a gold coin for SIDS awareness and have some fun dancing the day away.



...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.



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.

Wednesday 8th - **Fire Truck Visit**
Let's learn about Fire Safety and the importance of the community service.



Birthdays!

A very happy birthday to ...

May

Abby
Noah
Miley
Charlie
Ebony
Amber
Isabel
Matthew
Theodore
Indianna
Zachariah
Samuel
Charlotte
Elijah



June

Cooper
Kyan
Layla
Manx
Maxwell
Jake
Tarlia
Ezra
Mason
Monika - May
Miss Zarif

Nursery Natter!

Hello Families! We hope you had a fantastic Easter! Following Easter, we had a visit from the Henny Penny Hatching Farm! The children loved meeting the baby chickens and exploring their sensory awareness as they had visits from the chickens over the time they were in the centre, providing the children with the opportunity to observe the chickens and touch their soft feathers.



Myself and Miss Julie have been focusing on our displays throughout our indoor environment as we have created picture frames made from environmental materials to support sustainability and have used the creative frames to display the children's individual masterpieces throughout the year.

Recently we have been focusing on introducing colours to the children, helping them begin to gain knowledge through the many coloured materials which are placed on the colour activity table in the room and us using the words of the colours when interacting with these resources. Every few weeks we focus on a different colour and provide a variety of experiences from sensory to creative to help encourage the children to observe the differences.



The children have been showing a large interest in exploring the Home Corner resources over the past few weeks. As an extension of the children's interest myself and Miss Julie set out recycle milk cartoons and bottles into the Home Corner area which the children responded to with much enthusiasm and interest as they iniated role play, mirror and repeating daily practices that they see occur with these materials. We would like to further extend on this interest of the children's and provide other recyclable materials for the Home Corner Area. If you have any empty food boxes please feel free to donate them to our room and we can incorporate these recyclable materials into the children's learning environment.



In the past two weeks we have been busy exploring the outdoors as we are all enjoying the recently extended small playground. The children have been very eager to explore the natural grass area and build on their physical skills exploring the variety of obstacle course's we have set out each day. Many of the children are showing development in their gross motor milestones as they are each attempting to crawl, roll, climb and pull themselves into standing position as well as some of the older children now walking! This development of the children's is a large focus that we are encouraging the children to become confident with and are working in partnerships with the families to assist in the children's physical abilities.



During meal times we are encouraging the children to further develop on their self-help skills as we are assisting the older children to sit at the table on chairs and guiding the children to use spoons for self-feeding as well as holding their own bottles to build on their independence. Research has also shown that children who self feed, tend to be less fussy when it comes to foods when they become toddlers. It is very important for children to be able to explore their food before consuming and we are so please that we are able to support this.



There are so many new outcomes being achieved in our room and we would love to hear of any parent input you may have to help us assist the children in their development. We can't wait to update you all on what we have learnt in the next two months.

Until then we will see you again for our next newsletter addition. Julie and Natasha

Toddler Tales!



Throughout April, we have had three new children who have joined us and we would like to welcome them to the Toddler family. Quinn, Zara and Sam. We will endeavour to make your experience with us as enjoyable as possible and assist you in settling into the room and finding your sense of belonging. What a great age to be having fun and making new friends.

The children showed a great interest in the Henny Penny Project as they visited the baby chickens on a daily bases. This encouraged the children to express their interest through their language skills and they showed feelings of curiosity being very engaged in the experiences. These experiences lead to the children being very interested in exploring animals from all of the world. The children have been participating in several experiences which relate to this such as initiating role play with the dress up animal costumes in Home Corner. They have also been showing much enthusiasm to explore the animals sets in the sandpit, burying the animals and finding them using the shovels and buckets.



The love of books has also brought out lots of communication with their friends with textures and touching a variety of materials representing animals in the books. This is still ongoing as now one of our favourite songs at present is Old Mac Donald. Through this creative thinking and the children songs we have made our farm yard wall and we are still exploring there ideas further.

We are now beginning to encourage self help skills and responsibility by encouraging the children to help put their sheets in their bags and also help put their beds away and this is going well as they are also beginning to ask for help when needed and exploring verbal communication. Our communications skills over the next couple of months will be ever-developing and I am sure we will see a lot of chatterboxes while having meaningful conversations with them. The children area also beginning to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing by recognising that they need their hats before they go outside to play. To further support this, as it is coming up to colder weather and as the nights creep in, please put some warm clothes in your child's bag and make sure all belongings are named. We will be beginning to teach them about cold and warm weather and dressing appropriately.



Do you have any special talents or interests? We always welcome and appreciate any of your ideas that you could share with us here. Can you speak another language? Or are you a fabulous cook and can come in and demonstrate this with our children. If you have any spare time have a think about coming in to share an experience with the children at the centre, we would love to see you here. We look forward to focussing on building your child's independence and broadening their experiences over the months to come in our room. In addition we have really enjoyed getting to know each and every one of your children on a more personal level and watching them learn and grow in the first months of the year.



Thanks for reading, Christine and Amanda.

Junior Kindy Jabber!

A big hello again its April already!
The children have enjoyed coming to the centre and settling now into their kindy routines. The children's outlook on life has opened up and they have gained a greater sense of independence and explore their world as they enjoy their level of relationships with their peers now especially in the big playground.



We have welcome Miss Brianna and Miss Kristie to our room who bring with them a wealth of knowledge of childcare with compassion and fun, the children have warmed to them immensely.
We are so excited that our friend "Locky Bear" has been going on holidays to all of your houses. This has provided a wonderful addition to our room the children have enjoyed looking at his journal when he comes back into the centre to see what he gets up to. The children have embraced him into their play given them a sense of belonging and extending their social and emotional skill we all take turns at taking him home. The children all know whose turn to take him home when he comes to join us in mat time.



Our toilet training is gaining success the children are gaining more independence with toileting and moving to be toilet trained but it's a long walk up the hill from outside from the sandpit to the bathroom!
Some of the experiences the children learnt about and welcome to the centre was the Henny Penny chicken program. The children were all excited to see how many chickens would hatch and counting them some of them even had names "Nugget, Roasty" as they learn about the natural world and their life cycle. From there we extended on the children's interest of farm animals we set up a Barnyard area the children have been painting of yellow chickens/gluing and playing with messy brown Goop with plastic pigs and playdough with baby animals. We have read stories and sang songs as well as using puppets to extend their language skills it has been a lot of fun!!
We celebrated World Health day with Miss Kristie and Miss Brianna discussing the importance of washing our hands to clear away germs and discussing how we encourage healthy eating in our day. The children used some coloured dots to place on paper bodies to where germs might go. We talked about keeping our bodies healthy with exercise and set up and obstacle course outside which also supported balance co-ordination.



Moving forward home corner has been a hive of activity with the children exploring this area and implementing role play using their dolls, bags, dress ups and caring for their babies even the children sitting in the dolls cot being patted by their peers. Miss Brianna extend this outside with the children washing their dolls with lots of soap and towels. We are continuing this with adding more home corner experiences/ cooking and having picnic's outside. These are just some of the meaningful experiences your child has had in the Junior Kindy room with many more to come. Finally as the weather is changing please add some warmer clothes to your child's bag and check they have spare clothes. We have so much more to look forward to over the next few month's lots of learning and fun!! Thanks Dianne, Kristie, and Brianna

Kindy Kapers!

Miss Kerri has gone on maternity leave now and will be greatly missed by all, but we are looking forward to her becoming a mummy! Miss Andrea, Miss Shannon and Miss Tahlia are going to hold down the fort while she is away looking after herself while waiting for her little man to come into the world, we all can't wait.



We are excited to welcome Miss Shannon and Miss Tahlia to our team in the Kindy Room, Miss Shannon currently holds her Diploma and has several years of experience in the childcare industry. Miss Tahlia holds her Certificate 3 in Children Services and has worked at Little Ducks in the Junior Kindy Room previously so all children and families are already be familiar with Miss Tahlia.

The children have become very competent at learning their colours over the last couple of months, we have also been focusing on one on one counting using a variety of items so the children can tell us how many shells etc. are in front of them.

We've had some exciting visitors from the community visit us as well such as The Henny Penny hatching Program which was a valuable learning experience for the children. The children all got to watch the baby chickens hatch out of their eggs in the incubator then watch them as they dried their feathers before being laced under the lights. When the chickens were a few days old the children also got to have a little hold and pat of them and we spoke about life cycles of various other animals.



Just a little reminder to please bring in a family photo, we have been displaying these in self-made photo frames in Home Corner to provide a more homely feel for the learning environment. You can e-mail them through or bring in a copy of the photo, whichever is easiest for you.

We are looking forward to celebrating all of the centre events that are coming up, keep an eye out for what experiences will be occurring.

Kindy group is very creative! The walls will be covered in master pieces, photos and observations, so feel free to have a walk around and read the various observations and look at the photos on the walls.



You will have noticed we have created a pull apart table the children are having a great time using their problem solving skills to unscrew all the screws and take apart the various equipment we place on this, so families if you have a old radio or computer hard drive laptop etc we would love to have it for the children to pull apart.

Just a friendly reminder to bring hats, drink bottles, spare clothes, sheets and have them all clearly labelled to avoid any of the children's belongings from going missing.

Thank you for reading! Feel free to come and have a chat, we love hearing your suggestions and questions. Till next time,

Miss Andrea, Miss Shannon and Miss Tahlia

Preschool Press!

Hi from the Preschool Room.
We have welcomed some new children and their families in our centre Sebastian, Tate and Mahta! The new children have done a great job of adjusting to our daily routine so well and finding their sense of belonging. We look forward finding out more about their family traditions, ideas and interests as everyone is welcome to contribute to our dynamic room.



Henny Penny Hatching staff delivered a fantastic incubation program in our centre. This fantastic educational program allowed the children to observe hatching eggs and baby chicks closely. Watching the chicks hatch was a real meaningful and fun learning process for the children. We learnt about chicken's life cycles and we had discussion about where chicks come from. Challenging the children, we talked about which animals come from eggs and as an extension, we added some farm animals as well. We emphasized the importance of a healthy lifestyle and celebrated World Health Day with healthy fruit kebabs. We also made our own banana shake.



The Preschool group are immersed in a range of activities that have revolved around the children's interests. The children were fully engaged in playing with recycling items such as plastic bottles, yoghurt containers etc in different areas. While the children were pouring, filling and measuring containers/bottles their understanding of basic science and mathematical concepts was reinforced. Reusing recycled items also taught the children the importance of recycling and helped them invent new ways of using these items and becoming sustainable with in the centre.



The children have been exploring natural materials such as pebbles, shells, leaves etc. We created a corner in our room with these beautiful natural items. This sensory hands-on activity helped to foster the children's imagination and creativity. These treasures also provided them with more tactile stimulation to help them improve their hand/finger awareness and coordination.

The children are building on literacy and numeracy skills through use of rulers, counting natural materials, board's games, domino cards, letter fishing rods. Through the everyday exposure and interactions with these types of experiences the children are 'incidentally' learning how to count, and how to extend their own knowledge about concepts as distance, size, weight, height, and amount.



The children have also shown a huge interest in role-play and they began to act out being doctors, shop assistants and hairdressers so we extended on the children's interests by turning home corner into hospitals, grocery shops and beauty salons. It's great seeing the children, gaining confidence and communicating through role play, extending on their own imagination with enthusiasm. Recently, we added hand puppets to our home corner collection. The children also have been showing great interest in playing with hand puppets. We have been encouraging the children to extend their own personal confidence skills through drama and acting out stories, and standing up in front their peers.



Thanks to all our Preschool families for their ongoing support – we really appreciate it. We would like the parents to know, that Miss Csilla is going overseas from 16th April-16th May. Miss Kristie will replace her position during that time. Until next time, Csilla and Holly

The Schoolies Scoop!

Well it's that time again! What a busy few months we've had.
The schoolies have been enjoying making decisions about the program and having input into what we do for the day. We have begun our own individual journals which the children can write in. They have been using them for writing down ideas and suggestions for play, feelings and drawing pictures. Through this the children are able to develop a sense of belonging and independence.



We've also celebrated some events such as Clean up Australia Day and St. Patricks Day. For Clean-up Australia Day we had some conversations about how we could care for the environment. Indi said "watering trees" while Sophie suggested we could put our rubbish in the bin and Abby recognised some recycling materials such as paper. St. Patricks day saw us creating some four leaf clovers which then lead us to a hunt in the yard for some real ones. We discovered some and used them to laminate on our pictures.
Tayla and Miley explored the natural environments outside by exploring the rocks. Tayla cracked hers open and looked what was inside while Miley lined hers up and sorted them into smallest to biggest. Further extending on this we used these rocks and some paint to create coloured rocks/pet rocks. This helped extend on the children's own ideas and followed their learning.



Recently the schoolies were involved with the chicken hatching program we had visiting our centre. One afternoon we cuddled the chickens and discovered their features like eyes, beak, wings and little feathers. The girls decided to name the chickens they cuddled. Abby named her first chicken 'Fluffy' and her second 'Jasmine'. Miley called her black chicken 'Kaven'. Sophie's was named 'Tuckshop' and Tayla called her two boys 'Handsome little boy' and 'Tomboy'. Ebony's two girls were named 'Lilly' and 'Princess'. The next day we extended this learning by exploring the lifecycle of a chicken followed by learning how to clean the cage and keeping the food and water filled.



Miley and Abby also used the trucks as caterpillars to fling wipes across the table. Using their reflective thinking they were able to discover that the harder they hit the tray of the truck the further the wipe would fly. Extending this idea, we created caterpillars with paddle pop sticks, milk lids and paint.
The schoolies have also been playing a lot of games like Marco Polo, Hide and seek, Blind man's Bluff, Tunnel Ball and 3-legged races. These games came about after a friendship was blossoming and we wanted to foster this further as well as helping others to become part of a team and work together. Ebony made some group rules for Hide and Seek which begun her leadership role while Tayla explained the game of tunnel ball to us all and how to play.



Moving forward we will be continuing to follow the children's interests and ideas to create fun and excitement after a busy day working hard at school. Events coming up include Mother's Day, International Day of Families and Red Nose Day. We will celebrate these with various activities and to a level the children understand.
As always parent input would be greatly appreciated. We have created a new display in the foyer with our daily journal and an area for you to give feedback. This is located just outside the preschool room. Feel free to take a look at our daily happenings and learning!
Much love, Tara

Did you know?

Friendly reminders

Hats and Shirts!



We now have Little Ducks shirts for sale and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our Little Ducks bucket hats! These are available for purchase from Cassie or Natasha in the office, during office hours.

The more you know...

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.

Lost property!

In order to ensure we don't mix up your child's belongings and can rehome any lost property, we ask that you name everything that comes to Kindy. This includes, sheets, hats, drink bottles, containers, clothes, shoes, nappies etc; We appreciate you taking the time to do so and hopefully this will help with things getting miss placed.

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 March and April 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.

You can find copies of these policies available in the foyer in the policy review folder. We welcome any feedback you may have.