

Little Ducks Childcare May/June 2016 Newsletter

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to our May/June newsletter edition!
Firstly I would like to welcome all of the new families to the centre. I hope that you are all settling in well & I look forward to getting to know you over the next few weeks. We have shown around a lot of new families lately who have mentioned that they were recommended to us because of the 'family feel' at the centre, so we appreciate that you've recommended us for that reason. In the month of May we will be celebrating Mothers Day on Friday 6th by hosting a special Mothers Day afternoon tea. It would be great to see our families attend. We have a busy couple of months coming up celebrating a variety of events. Please refer to your events calendar for all of our important dates!
Each day we reflect on the day's activities and experiences the children have enjoyed throughout the day. The emphasis is to get more family input/feedback into our program so we can meet the needs of our families. The children are always so proud of their work and they love to share it with you. Families are asked to take a minute or two to have a look at the Daily Journal to see what the children have done throughout the day.
We are also looking for ways to enrich the learning experiences of children at the centre. If you have a particular skill, be it playing an instrument or something crafty, or if you would like to simply read stories or organise a game, we would love to hear from you. It could be a one-off or something more regular. If you have an idea, chat to the educators in the room and they can advise what time or day might work best. Don't hold back! It is experiences like these which can really add value to the children's day. You are invited to join the Little Ducks Facebook group at any time to participate in discussions and share information. We see it as a positive way to have a conversation with our families and educators.
My office hours are 8.00am—4.30pm and I am available to be contacted by phone or email! Until next time….

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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

Upcoming Events!

May 2016

Labour Day Public Holiday— Monday 22nd May

Mothers Day Afternoon Tea— Friday 6th May
We will be celebrating our special mums with an afternoon tea starting at 3.30pm.



Mothers Day—Sunday 8th May

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



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



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

June 2016

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



World Environment Day—Sunday 5th June
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.

Matariki—Monday 6th June
Celebrate the Maori New Year—Happy New Year.

Ramadan begins—Monday 6th June
This is a period pf prayer, fasting, charity giving and self-accountability for Musli

Reminders

- **Security Fobs**—If you do not have a security fob to get into the centre please come and see Maria.
- **Please label all of your children's belongings**— we find it very difficult to track your children's belongings if they are not labelled. Items to label include: drink bottles, clothing & rest time sheets.
- **Sunsmart** – Could parents please remember to bring a broad-brimmed hat and a top that covers shoulders for the children when they go outdoors to play.
- **Sign in/out** – please make sure your child is signed in and out with the correct times. This is a legal requirement .

Policy Reviews

We value your input and feedback so please refer to the Policy Review Folder downstairs in the foyer for more information; along with our Legislation Regulations and our National Quality Framework Standards. We welcome families input into policy documentation and will seek family feedback for review on an annual basis.

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
* 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.

We look forward to working closely with our families to offer transparency and a shared vision between the team and families.

Centre Birthdays!

A big happy birthday to the children who have recently celebrated their birthdays or will celebrate theirs in the coming months. Hope all your dreams and wishes come true!





May

Margarita
Lucy
Frida
Chloe
Stella
Erin
Amelie
Didyme
Ariana
Miss Tanae

June

Oliver
Axel
Violette
Cheech
Sam
Miss Kate





Embedding Sustainability

One of the most significant responsibilities that early Childhood professionals have is to support children to nurture and protect what is beautiful, and to encourage them to appreciate that there are many possibilities for honouring life and wonders that the world holds. (Stonehouse, 2006).

At Little Ducks Fortitude Valley sustainability is incorporated into our curriculum and our way of life. We are committed to educating and inspiring your child to take care of the environment.

The National Quality Standard states that services should take an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future (standard 3.3).

We were very lucky to receive free Native Plants through the Councils Free Native Plant program. All the children had a fantastic time helping the educators to plant them as well as learning about the different type of plants.











Nursery One!

Welcome to the world!



Welcome to another Nursery 1 Newsletter, we cannot believe how fast this year is flying by... almost half way through already!
Last month we said goodbye to Miss Danielle which we were all sad to do but we send a big WELCOME to Miss Caitlin who will be in our room to help out and support Miss Sandra and each and every child until we find the perfect permanent fit for our room.



The centre has had many exciting events in the last few months which saw our children learn about the life-cycle of Chickens with The Henny Penny Program. The children enjoyed being able to go upstairs to Toddler 1 to see and touch the chickens, and learn about their life cycle from watching the eggs hatch into little chicks running around. As Easter fell around the same time as the chicks were with us we thought the room needed to have some little chicks so we used our hands and feet to create some of our own. They were very cute!!!



Everyone is changing so much everyday growing and reaching new milestones. Josette and James have both started walking showing balance and control, Thomas is well on his way to walking by pulling himself up and taking steps. Evelyn and Margarita have all started pulling themselves up on everything in the room, enjoying the view from a new angle, while Sehaaj, Cian, Michael, Axel, Henry, Rupert are all sitting by themselves and trying to get into the crawling position. Crawling around the room everywhere is Hugo & Oliver. We couldn't be more proud of them and their achievements. In Nursery 1 over the next few months we plan to look into more of the children's interests while also encouraging their fine & gross motor skills by using the buttons on a keyboard and clicking the buttons of a mouse so if anyone has any old keyboards or mouse they no longer need please feel free to bring them in.



Nursery One!



We also want to look into gardening as they have showed interest in the plants in the outdoor area. We also invite parents to bring in empty bottles, cardboard boxes and any other things they feel would be good to recycle with as the children enjoy playing with the shaker bottles so much.
The centre has a host of exciting events coming up Mother's Day (Afternoon tea Friday May 6th at 3:30pm.) National Sorry Day, Red Nose Day (Disco Thursday May 26th – Dance the day away and support SIDS) Mabo Day and Matariki.



Miss Sandra is also interested in using her background to teach the children another language by singing and speaking Spanish throughout the day in group times and in everyday activities.
We really encourage Parents to be involved in the room as much as possible, we want to hear from you about everything from the little things to the big, we also want feedback about what you did on the weekend. Nursery 1 is going to start a book share, where we get the children to bring in their favourite books so that we can read it to everyone, then it will be returned at the end of the day.
We still need a few family photos for our family tree so please bring them in!

Sandra & Caitlin





Nursery Two!

Welcome to the latest Nursery 2 Newsletter.
We are enjoying creating relationships with all our families. The babies room has adapted to the changes with a few children progressing up to the Senior Nursery room and also new children starting. Our focus has been on ensuring our new families and babies feel safe, secure and supported, as well as encouraging independence with our older babies. It has been nice to see the new children settle in quickly and enjoy making friends and love the company of other children as well as educators.



Our babies have recently enjoyed getting very messy, exploring a variety of different textures. Both the educators and children have enjoyed playing with a lot of different materials. The children are continuing to explore colours and consistencies of messy play using everyday household items provided by the educators
We have been enjoying the indoor and outdoors, playing with pull push toys, crawling through tunnels, playing in the sand, stacking the buckets and sieves, scooping and watching sand fall through the sieves. We love playing with big balls and have been encouraging balance and coordination through walking and crawling through the tunnel and swinging bridge. We have been working on our gross motor and fine motor skills as well as sensory development skills. Many of the babies have either begun babbling and pointing to communicate as well as using single words to describe objects or needs. Many of our younger babies have shown that they are beginning to understand a couple of words including their own name. Some babies have also developed an understanding for sounds, as they have begun to imitate the sounds they hear. Some children have been able to follow simple directions such as “give me five”, whilst holding your hand up towards their hand.







We had fun during Easter week making jam drops, greeting cards with footprints like a carrot, for our little bunnies to take home. We had our Easter hats on while crawling around the play area.
“Henny Penny” chicks became the highlight of the month to the whole center. Our babies enjoyed the journey in the cot all the way to the Toddler room taking the lift to spend time with the chicks and sometimes the chicks came to visit us in our room. That was a great experience for our babies to know about the life cycle of other living creatures on earth.

Nursery Two!

On Anzac Day we paid respect to our soldiers who served and who are serving for our country to make our life worry free. We did activities like military helmet, Wreath, and Poppy flowers to honor them.
More events are yet to come throughout the coming months.
Wow!!!!!

- Our Mother's Day afternoon tea is on May 6th (Friday) at 3:00pm.
- National Sorry Day on May 26th (Thursday). Let's remember and commemorate the mistreatment of the country's indigenous population on National Sorry day.
- Red Nose Day Disco falls on the same day, May 26th Thursday. Let's have fun dancing the day away and donate a gold coin for SIDS awareness.

Here, I conclude by leaving some kind words for our beloved families. Please name all of your children's belongings especially milk bottles and milk powder tubs to avoid any confusions. Please feel free to bring in any recyclable items that you think the children will love to use for art and craft. We look forward to continuing work on all areas of development with our babies.









Miss Suder and Miss Suchi

Senior Nursery!



Welcome to all our new and existing families, it's great to have you all a part of the Senior Nursery room for the rest of the year. Well time certainly flies when you're having fun!! We can't believe it's beginning of term 2. All the children are doing well and it's so rewarding to see them happy and quickly developing friendships with educators and peers. Building



caring, trusting and meaningful relationships with the children and their families is always one of our main goals and one which is ongoing throughout the year. As a team we have also been working on strategies to meet individual's needs as well as the needs of the group for the room to run well. The children are now familiar with the routine and look forward to interacting in smaller groups. As educators we are able to meet individual needs more effectively and get to know each child on a more personal level. We spend a lot of time during our day singing and reading stories and using puppets with children to enhance their development. Our daily programming focuses on language development, cognitive development, social-emotional development and physical development. We always encourage parent input, so please feel free to contribute to our program at any time so we can incorporate a particular interest your child may have, an upcoming event, or weekend experience. To get to know all the children and families, we are going to have a family tree on the wall. We would love to have photos of each child's family. It can have sibling, cousins, aunties, uncles, grandparents or even family friends that are significant to the children. So the children can share with their people in their lives that are significant. Also if you go on a holiday, we would love to share the photos of your journey with all the children and if you have any ideas for the future projects I would love to hear them. A quick overview of the upcoming events/experiences; a Mother's Day afternoon tea is organised for 9th May, we have just purchased some new plants and will be focusing more on exploring and learning about our environments. As we progress into winter, we will be discovering more about the seasons and weather





Please ensure there are a range of spare clothes packed in your child's bag each day. All personal items including: clothes, socks, shoes, and bottles, should be labelled. If your child is prone to nappy rash or a "red bottom" please bring along some powder and cream (clearly labelled) for staff to apply at Nappy Change time. Thank you for your comments and feedback on parent communication book, we update this regularly so that we can keep you informed of the learning that is happening in the room. Have a great couple of months—Thank you, Amy, Kate and Jyoti

Toddlers!

What an exciting month April has been in the toddler 1 program, many events were celebrated, a farewell happened for the lovely Miss Alichia. All the toddlers wishing her all the best and we will miss her. Soon Miss Izzy will be leaving us, although we still have a few more days with her to learn and play. YAY!
If you haven't met me yet I'm Miss Jo and I've been working quite closely with Miss Izzy, learning the routines of all the children and of course getting to know all of the beautiful families that make up our classroom. Miss Megan has also just started in the Toddler 1 program to assist myself once Miss Izzy has said her goodbyes.
Now that all of the serious stuff has been read, let's move onto the fun things that happened in Toddler 1 in!!!

Henny Penny



From the 4th to the 15th of April we had the chance to be a part of seeing chicks cracking their eggs and becoming little fluffy chickens/roosters. There were yellow and black chicks, all the children were completely in love with them.
We came up with many names for the chicks which was great as we had 15 chicks altogether. In the classroom we had many discussions about the chicks, what they eat, drink, where they live, who is their mummy and daddy. We also were able to hold and pat the chick which was fun as the children all enjoyed feeling the fluffy feathers and the sharp claws also the pointy beak. Through the chicks there were many other activities extended such as developing a sensory wall, learning about were our food comes from, healthy eating and drinking, how farmers contribute to us, and of course learning about other animals. Who knew chicks could teach us so much!

Anzac Day— *Lest we forget*

To acknowledge the men and women who fought in Gallipoli, we painted poppy flowers as a group, later during the day we read story about a young girl who attends a dawn service with her family to see her grandfather and his friends march together. I believe it is important for children to learn about these parts of history as it helps develop their cultural and social identity. Especially since many families attended the dawn service with their children as a tradition.



Toddler!

I received plenty of feedback from families who did attend the dawn service and what their child's experience was like. I then discussed this with the children and will be developing an area for children to refer back too in the classroom. Other world events will be added to this area as we learn about them. I would love to hear your opinion about this developing learning area.

New friends

We welcomed two new friends into our classroom, Dominic and Lulu. They have settled in beautifully and contributing so much to our class already.

Books! Books Books!

What can I say, the toddler 1 program just love books!
Our favourites have been:

- Going on a bear hunt
- Roar!
- Baby owls
- Unfortunately
- I went walking
- Old Mc Donald
- Mary had a little lamb

For group times we have been exploring different stories and even the same stories. We have developed quite a few language skills just from listening to the stories. We are learning new words, and sounds, learning to pronounce words, also developing longer sentences.
A few of us shy little ones have become more confident in group settings which has allowed them to initiate interactions with their peers and this all thanks to reading books! Isn't it great!
If you have a favourite story at home feel free to let me know

Pure Tennis

We have also started Tennis with the some of the children and they seem to really enjoy it. Tennis is held every Wednesday. If you would like your child to start Tennis please come and see us.





Miss Joanne, Miss Izzy & Miss Megan

Kindergarten Program!

Bonjourno, families!

What a busy few months we've had! We have welcomed lots of new friends into Kindergarten, as well as having some Toddler friends moving up into our room, which is very exciting. I am so proud of all of the Kindergarten friends for welcoming everyone into our room with a friendly smile and an offer to play with them. We are lucky enough to have some very special children in our room, who always make new friends feel included.



We are very proud to have such well-travelled and multicultural children in our room. We have recently been talking about different cultures and their ways of living. Marialuisa has given us some fantastic insights into Japan from her recent holiday, and Elizabeth and Erin have both recently moved here from the UK! We will be spending some time studying different cultures, and we would love to hear your thoughts. It would be a great help to us if parents could provide us with information about your child's background so we can further our discussions. Our end result will be to create a world map with all of our special places on it, whether those places are here in Australia or overseas.



Living and growing up in such a multicultural country gives these children a wonderful opportunity to become respectful and curious about different cultures. Many of the children in Kindergarten already have such broad world knowledge at their young age, and sharing these experiences among their friends strengthens relationships, increases respect for diversity and builds positive, respectful views about the world around them.
Stemming from our travelling activities, the children often take any play opportunity to make planes out of boxes, flying to Paris or Japan, and playing with trains is also a very popular game!

We have set up a Show & Tell station, and we would love for families to bring in anything of interest to the class. The children will be presenting their item in front of their friends, just like they will be doing in Prep! We will talk about why they like the item, where they got it, and any other questions the children may want to ask.
Our other activities in preparation for Primary School includes writing our name and practicing our counting. All of the Kindergarten children are on their way to writing their name, and all of them love finding "their" letters in everyday life.

Kindergarten Program!

At the moment, the children are loving everything and anything to do with cats! This has stemmed from our class pet, a toy cat called Rosie. We are even starting to write a book about Rosie! Each child has expressed their favourite thing about Rosie, or their favourite activity to do with Rosie, and we are going to write it down and make it into a book. Once it is finished, you and your children will be able to read it here in Kindy! I will also offer an electronic copy for families if they would like to have the book themselves. If your child has any other interests we could expand on, let us know!

We have also been doing a lot of work on the weather. You will see in our classroom that we are developing a weather wall, which is entirely made from the children and their ideas. Coming into the change of season, it's a great time to talk about different kinds of weather and how it affects our daily lives.

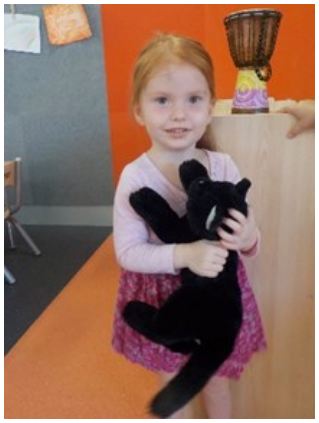


Thank you for being a part of our journey!

Miss Shelley & Kindergarten



The children enjoying playing Tennis!



Ximi with the classroom pet—Rosie



The children made a plane using a cardboard box! The children were taking Scarlett to Paris!

Piece of Kate....

We are very lucky to have Kate one of our Lead Educators in Senior Nursey make these awesome cakes!! Her business is called 'Piece of Kate' and she also has a Facebook Page!! If you have a special event coming up please email Kate on ktstrt@gmail.com to make that extraordinary cake!













Connecting with the Community

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Riverside Markets

Sunday 1st May

The Riverside Markets have moved to the beautiful surrounds of the City Botanic Gardens.

Grab a bite to eat from International food vendors then meander through a wide variety of stalls offering everything from hand-made jewellery, craft, homemade products, pottery, rugs and household goods and clothing of every kind, mostly made or designed by the marketeer.

Babies, books and rhymes

Tuesday 3rd May

New Farm Library

Meet other parents and babies for a fun session of singing, clapping and dancing. Learn songs and action rhymes to nurture your baby's pre-literacy, communication, language and social skills. Ideal for babies and toddlers aged up to two years.

First Five Forever Toddler Time

Wednesday 4th May

New Farm Library

Meet other parents and toddlers for a fun session of singing, clapping and dancing. Learn action rhymes and songs which will help your child's pre-literacy, communication, language and social skills. Ideal for babies and toddlers aged 1-3 years.

Children's Storytime

Friday 10th June

New Farm Library

Experience the magic of Storytime with your child at the library. This interactive session includes stories, songs and creative early literacy experiences for children. Ideal for children aged 2-5 years.

Helpful Online Resources

the bub hub
trusted by parents since 2002

Real people, real info, real support. Check out the Bub Hub for the latest tips, tales and talk from the world of parenting and beyond.

mychild.gov.au

Contains information on the different types of child care and early learning available fro families and how to get assistance with child care costs. You will also find links t other useful websites about children's health and wellbeing, parenting and family support services.

raisingchildren.net.au

On the Raising Children website, parents will find reliable and scientifically validated information and resources to support them in the day-to-day work of raising children and looking after their own needs. This website covers a broad range of up-to-date parenting topics.

Starting Blocks

Startingblocks.gov.au is a new, family friendly resource available to help new parents answer child care questions and better understand the benefits of early childhood education and care. It offers helpful tips for parents on early childhood development and what to look for to ensure their child gets a quality care and learning experience. Starting Blocks is brought to you by ACECQA.



Thank you for taking the time to read our centre newsletter. Please remember our door is always open and that we value family participation across all aspects of our program.