Little Ducks Childcare Bardon
July /August 2016

A note from your Centre Manager



Hello families!

What a busy month, as many families will know we have been busy with Assessment and Rating. This means that we have had an Officer from the Office of Early Childhood Education and Care visit us during the last weeks of June to watch our practices and assess our level of quality against the National Quality Framework. The frame work covers seven Quality Areas:

Educational Program and Practice
Children Health and Safety
Physical Environment
Staffing Arrangements
Relationships with Children
Partnerships with families and communities
Leadership and service management.

The assessor looked at our records and watched our practices and interactions. At the end of the assessment period a report will be collated. which will give us information on how we rate against each of the Elements in the National Quality Framework .The ratings that we can be assessed as are—Exceeding National Quality Standard ,Meeting National Quality Standard, Working Towards National Quality Standard, Significant Improvement Required. The assessor gave us some very positive feedback so the wait is on now for our report which should be available mid July.

We have also been busy celebrating some special days, World Environment Day, National Reconciliation week, and Red Nose Day. All of the children and Teachers together had lots of fun at our I heart Radio Red Nose Day Disco raising awareness for SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) A very worthy cause!



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Upcoming Events!

...July...

Friday 1st – Canada Day—Celebrate with our Canadian families and let's learn more about this lovely country.

Monday 4th— America's Independence Day—America's big celebration today, let's celebrate alongside the.



Monday 4th-10th — NAIDOC Week—This week we celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Thursday 14th Bastille Day — The French National Day!

Wednesday 20th—PJ Day— No need to get dressed today, come along in your PJ's for a cosy, chilled out day.

Thursday 28th— Tooth Fairy's on Tour— Learn about our important teeth with a visit from the tooth fairy at 10:30am

...August...

Monday 1st-5th – Dental Health Week—Learning al about how to take care of our amazing mouths and teeth.

Wednesday 3rd— Brett Campbell music, movement and dance show—Come along for some fun at 10:30am for our special music show.



Wednesday 10th—Ekka PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday 22nd –26th— Book week—Bring along your favourite story to share and dress up as your favourite book character on Thursday 25th. This year's book week theme is Australia: Story Country.

Friday 26th—Daffodil Day—Wear your brightest yellow today and donate a gold coin for the Cancer Council.

Reminders

Little Ducks Hats — Little Ducks Hats are now available for sale from Michele or Bec. The hats have an adjustable cord to help them fit all head sizes and come in yellow, blue and purple. Hats are $10 each and can be charged to your account.

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
* Allergy policy
* Anti-bias and cultural diversity policy
* Authorised persons who arrive in an unfit state to collect children policy
* Educator professional development policy
* Educators course of study policy
* Administering paracetamol policy

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



July— *Harry, Zara, Eddy, Sunny, Sylvia, Hannah, Rosemary*

August— *Aiden, Michael, Olivia, Alfie, Josephine, Jedd, Edmond, Xavier, Harriett,*

Recipe of the month ...

Healthy Teeth Grazing Plate

Ingredients

Carrots

Celery

Capsicum

Broccoli

Mushrooms

Tortillas

Hummus (or any other dip your child enjoys)

Method

Raw is best for our bodies and our teeth so don't cook any of the items unless your child won't eat them raw.

Finely cut all ingredients into strips and arrange them on a divided tray or plate.

You can make your plate savoury or spoil them with a sweet treat by using some apples, pear, banana and yogurt.



Exploring Children's Behaviours

Recently educators from all 5 Little Ducks services attended a training session on children's behaviour presented by Phoenix Solutions. From this experience we have taken away some valuable ideas to help us guide children's behaviour.

1. Children will live up to their "story/label", change the story and change their behaviour. If a child has been labelled a biter for example they will fall into the trap of continuing to bite because it is what we all expect.
2. Separate the child from the behaviour. Just because a child challenges us with difficult behaviours doesn't mean we should fall into the trap of labelling them. When we focus on a behaviour we have a better chance of resolving it.
3. Children engage in behaviours to meet a need. When we investigate what need the child is striving to fulfil we can better explore our options for helping them fill that need in socially acceptable ways.
4. Every behaviour can be linked to children attempting to fill one of the following needs, Survival, Love and Belonging, Recognition/Power, Freedom, Fun/Joy.

Nursery Natter!

Lead Educator—Dani Norris

Assistant Educator—Amy Kovchenko

WOW!! June already! Were has the year gone? The children have been on a journey through their Cultural Heritage. We have learnt about traditional dances to these individual countries, food that is customary to these countries. The children had shown great participation when we would watch a You Tube Clip of their heritage's dance. I think that the Irish dancing was an immense hit. The nursery children are developing knowledgeable and confident self identities. LO1 EYLF. We also have been learning new songs and practicing our balancing and using the obstacle course. Which they are managing with great efficiency. Are also focusing on healthy eating and our physical wellbeing. LO3 EYLF

As some of us will be transitioning into the Toddlers Room, Amy and I have been supporting the children with their self help skills, to enable the transition to be as seamless as possible. They will still be with us, but spending a bit of time getting to know the children and the educators in that room. This means that we will still be close by if they need us. The children are developing a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation. LO2 EYLF.

We are learning about textures and sensory experiences. We will be investigating this further. If you have any thing at home that we could use for an experience would be greatly appreciated.

Plants, material, nature based items, recycled anything..

Friendly reminder that the cooler weather is upon us and we might be needing shoes and socks and some warmer clothing.





Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator— Tamasin Batten
Assistant Educator— Tatiana Hogan



We have had a busy, exciting month where we have been building strong relationships and a sense of belonging with our toddlers (EYLF outcome 1 and 2). We have been learning about interacting with care and respect towards others. How toddles can be a part of a group during shared play and learning experiences. We have been role modelling our manners and also sharing with the children intentionally setting up experiences where the toddlers can share toys with each other. One way we have explored this is through posting. The children love posting items into boxes, holes and containers and this is a great opportunity to practice our turn taking skills and build relationships with our peers.

The toddlers really love home corner and in particular the dolls. As some children have new siblings at home we have enjoyed activities such as feeding, changing dolls nappies, learning to wrap them and care for our babies. As many of our children are expecting siblings soon we have used this interest to develop empathy, confidence and a sense of identity and wellbeing around this concept of babies. The children showed us their skills in changing nappies demonstrating fine motor agility, hand eye coordination and an understanding of the steps in nappy changing. We explored the foods that babies eat and pretended to feed the home corner dolls playdough food and other foods building understandings about the needs of babies and developing understandings about nutrition.

We are teaching the children a few new songs and actions to go with them. “Miss Polly had a dolly” is a favourite, 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 outcome 3 and 5). Singing songs is a great way to develop oral language skills for children and build vocabularies. It is also a wonderful way to back up our teaching and intentional practices in a fun and engaging way.



Our program is on the wall for you to look at and the daily journal as well. Your input is much appreciated. As the cooler weather is now approaching we ask that you pack the appropriate clothing for the weather outside. The toddlers like to play under the verandah but need to be dressed warmly. If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to approach either of us to discuss them.

Junior Kindy Jumble!

Lead Educators : Jaimee Thompson and Paige Rymer-Hamilton

Assistant Educator: Jess Johnson

We have a very busy month including celebrating and exploring World Environment Day (Learning Outcome 2.4). Throughout this week we learnt about the importance of our Australian wildlife and how to keep their environment safe. This included why it's important to not leave rubbish on the ground or water as animals could become sick or caught in it. The children were very involved in this, painting their interpretation of wildlife and where they live, also working as a group and contributing their thoughts to where certain animals may live, whether on land or in water.



Also this month we explored the importance of being healthy and getting our bodies moving (Learning Outcome 3.2). For this we set up on own Junior Kindy Hospital complete with doctor's kits, bandages and eye charts. The children showed great care looking after each, taking temperatures listening to heartbeats and bandaging each other. We were also able to look at real x-rays on our light board, and discuss where these bones our in our bodies and how they work.



We also enjoyed a cooking experience, making spaghetti bolognaise, where we discussed the importance of healthy eating. We identified our healthy ingredients including tomatoes and pasta, which is ok to have sometimes. This was very yummy with lots of children having two or more bowls!



We were also very excited at the introduction of our worm farm. We discussed what food scraps we can feed them, and are able to take turns going out to feed the worms.

Just a few friendly reminders as the weather is now quite cool. Could you please ensure your child had a jumper, socks and a top sheet or blanket. Also as we have limited space in our fridge, there is not a lot of room for large lunch boxes so if food could be separated into morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea it would be very much appreciated.

Kindy Catch Up!

Kindy Lead Educator— Alex Gayed Kindy Lead Educator—Melina McCormick

Kindy Assistant Educator— Georgia Redfern

We have had a busy few months and have welcomed many new friends into our Kindy family. We welcomed Sunny, Eddy, Flynn and Charlie, we are looking forward to watching them grow and learn. We have had fun times showing our new friends, all our activities and experiences we enjoy build a strong sense of identity feeing safe, secure and supported in our new environment.

Miss Alex returned from getting married and we were privileged to get to share some photos of Miss Alex at her wedding. Many of the children said she looked like a fairy princess. The children engaged with technology and ICTs while attempting to contact Miss Alex via Skype while she was away. Some of these attempts were not successful but it was great to explore these unique ICT experiences with the children in a real world learning opportunity building our sense of being a confident and involved learners.

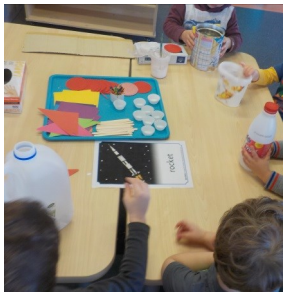
Cultural understandings were a big interest in our room this last few months after welcoming some children who have lived in other countries. We also have some very lucky children who have been on holidays visiting other countries recently. This was an amazing opportunity for us to explore other lands, cultures, different languages and foods from around the world building respect and interest in diversity showing that we are connected with and contribute to our world.

We used these as an opportunity to engage in some real world cooking experiences. We



cooked pizza, cheesy Brazilian bread and made healthy fruit smoothies. Cooking gives us an opportunity to practice our mathematical understandings as we measure and weigh items and talk about liquids, solids and powders. It also helps us learn about keeping ourselves healthy and teaches us to take increasing responsibility for our own health and physical wellbeing. Our children are now excellent cooks. Have a go cooking with them at home and see all the beautiful skills and language they have learnt.

We were very excited to welcome some new pet worms to the centre in the worm farm. The children are now responsible for feeding their fruit scraps to the worms each day building strong understandings about the impact they can have on their environment. We look forward to watching our worms grow and change and how we can use worm juice to grow healthy plants and vegetables in our garden. Our garden has been growing delicious vegetables including carrots, lettuce and broccoli which the children got to wash and taste. This was a great way to learn about fresh home grown produce and we look forward to continuing our learning in this area.



Preschool Pride!

Early Childhood Teacher—Kindergarten Program—Carly Dooley

Preschool Assistant—Cintia Nunez

We have been having a very exciting and busy time in the Preschool room! After meeting Cintia the children became curious of her Argentinean accent. Seeing the opportunity for intentional teaching Cintia planned a series of lessons to educate the children about her culture. We learnt that the Argentinean flag is blue, white and features a sun. We worked as a whole class to help cook empanada's, an Argentinian family favourite, similar to a meat pie. We discovered that Argentina and Australia are both in the Southern Hemisphere and therefore experience similar weather conditions. We then studied Carly's English heritage, enjoying a meal of bangers, mash and mushy peas, while looking at images of England, the Queen and her impressive collection of jewels (which the girls LOVED).



In May after locating an abandoned wasp hive we spent several weeks discovering wasp facts, creating wasps and their hives from arts and craft supplies and using ICT to observe how wasps fly, eat and reproduce. We learnt that the average life span for a wasp is 22 days, the largest wasp in the world is the Giant Asian Hornet (measuring 5cm in length) and that there are certain wasps who eat spiders!!

We celebrated World Environment Day, educating the children about how humans impact the environment. We learnt how we must be mindful of our waste and ensure our rubbish does not end up in the rivers or oceans as it could cause sea life to become sick or injured. We spoke about endangered animals and learnt the difference between endangered and extinct. World Environment Day coincided with a student's discovery of animal bones on a recent hike with his family. Referring to his discovery as 'dinosaur bones' we starting a journey around dinosaurs, fossils and how they are an extinct species.

Our home corner has been transformed into a pizza shop, after many children were using triangular magnets to create pizza. We worked with the children to create pretend pizzas, price lists and an extensive drinks menu. A small group of children then created a car from a large cardboard box which they chose to use as a 'delivery van'. Moving forward, we are excited to celebrate Canada Day on July 1st, with a student who recently visited Canada we plan to hear stories about Canadian life. We will look at the difference in climate between Australia and Canada, Canadian native animals and sample Canadian maple syrup.



Sustainability Corner



We have been busy exploring our natural environment in relation to World Environment Day this month. We learnt all about the Giant Sable an endangered animal living in Angola. This lead many of the children to explore habitats and build understandings about the impacts we as humans can have on the environment and habitats for animals.

This lead to a number of fantastic learning opportunities for the children. Many of the children created nature collages and went on nature hunts. Caring for our worms was a priority during this time as well. Thinking about our environment and how we can preserve it lead to many discussions about litter and waste. We talked with the children about litter-less lunchboxes and how using reusable containers can have a positive impact on our environment.



Moving forward into July and August our sustainability goals will be centered around building our sustainable role play/home corner supplies. Talk with your classroom teacher about how you can contribute to this process by donating shoes, business shirts, hand bags, old uniforms or pots and pans. Some rooms would appreciate donations of small indoor plants. Please make sure you check with Michele and the teachers first to ensure these are safe and appropriate for childcare.

As we will celebrate the Ekka in August we will dedicate this month to exploring home grown produce. If you grow your own vegetables, have back yard chickens, regularly visit farmers markets or local farms we would love to hear your stories and see pictures. Talk to your classroom teacher about sharing these things with us in August.

Other News!!

Our Assessment and Rating Visit

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A huge thank you to all our dedicated educators who worked tirelessly to ensure the centre was presented in a professional manner whilst limiting any disruption to the children during Belinda's visit.

We also extend our thanks to our management team; including Miss Michele (Centre Manager), Miss Jo (General Manager), Miss Ata (Centre Manager of Wilston) and Miss Bec (Educational Leader) for their dedication to Rating showcasing our wonderful service whilst trying to keep things "business as usual".

