Little Ducks Childcare Birkdale

July /August 2016

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to the July/August edition of our newsletter. Hard to believe we have made it to mid year already and what a great year it has been so far! Over the coming months you will notice some changes around the service. Miss Andrea will be joining Miss Julie in the Nursery when Miss Andrea returns from leave after July. I will be joining the Kindy Room when Cassie returns as I am a few months into my pregnancy! :) We also have Miss Csilla returning from holidays shortly into Preschool and Miss Tara will continue in her Float Lead Educator position. The Drum Beats show is an event that we booked in this year and was a great success! The children loved exploring the variety of sounds as they each had a drum and explored a variety of different drums whilst singing along to nursery rhyme beats with the instructor. In July we will be celebrating the upcoming events of Naidoc Week followed by and Ngutana-Lui Indigineous and Torres Strait Islander Show in August. We will be receiving a visit from Tooth Fairies on Tour with a show in July in regards to learning about the importance of healthy teeth which will be shortly followed by Dental Health Week. We have centre's photo's scheduled for July the 12th, 13th and 14th with Kylie, we will keep you posted on all relevant information required. The Brett Campbell Dance Show will be help in August and we will also be celebrating Book Week with a Dress Up day. The Book Week theme this year is Australia: Story Country. The centre will be closed on Monday the 8th of August for the Ekka public holiday. Thank you to the families who have been donating resources and recyclable materials for the children. These materials have gone to great use as many fantastic creations have been made from the recyclable materials and they have also assisted in helping provide a sustainable environment for the children. We also still have several Entertainment Books available to purchase and endless Digital Copies that you can purchase online. Come and see myself in the office if you would like to contribute to our fundraiser and purchase a book. The office hours are 8.00am-4.30pm Monday-Friday and I am available to be contacted by phone or email, or feel free to come and have a chat during these times. Please remember if you ever have feedback 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 or a note in our anonymous suggestion box (also located in the foyer). Thanks for reading!





Natasha...

435 Old Cleveland Rd East
Birkdale QLD 4159
Phone (07) 3822 5933

birdale@littleducks.com.au
www.littleducks.com.au

Recipe of the Month!

Veggie Pikelets and Apricot Muesli Balls!

Ingredients

2 cups self raising flour
6 eggs
4-5 cups of vegetable mix
1 cup grated cheese
1 teaspoon of milk
Sour Cream, to serve

Method

Mix flour, eggs, veggies and cheese together in a large bowl. Add seasoning, then add enough milk to the mixture until it is slightly runny. Drop a tablespoon of mixture into the frying pan and flip when golden. Serve with sour cream.



Ingredients

2 cups toasted muesli
1 cup dried apricots
1/4 cup honey
60g melted butter
3/4 cup shredded coconut

Method

Place muesli, apricots, honey and melted butter in a bowl and combine. Place coconut in a shallow dish. Roll tablespoons of muesli mixture into balls. Coat balls in coconut. Set aside and cool for 15 minutes before serving.



birkdale@littleducks.com.au
www.littleducks.com.au

Centre Events!

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

...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 them!

Monday 4th - 10th - **NAIDOC Week**
This week we celebrate the history, Culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.



Thursday 12th - 14th - **Centre Photos**

Thursday 14th - **Bastille Day**

Tuesday 19th - **Tooth Fairy's On Tour**
Learn about our important teeth with a visit from the tooth fairy at 9:30am

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

...August...

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

Wednesday 10th - **Brett Campbell Music, Movement & Dance Show**
Come along for some fun at 10:30am for our special music show.

Monday 8th - **Ekka**
PUBLIC HOLIDAY



Monday 15th - **Ngutana - Lui Show**
Celebrating Naidoc Week with a show at 10:00am

Monday 22nd - 26th - **Book Week**
Bring along your favourite story to share and dress up as your favourite character on Thursday 25th. The Book Week theme this year is Australia: Story Country

Friday 26th - **Daffodil Day**
Wear your brightest yellow shirt today and donate a gold coin for the Cancer Council



Birthdays!

A very happy birthday to ...

July

Tayla
Sophie N
Isla
Evelyn
Paxton
Hayden
Ashton
Meaghan
Arielle
Lucas
Madeleine
Sam K
Miss Tash
Miss Shannon



August

Noah H
Christopher
Olivia L
Hailey
Malakai
Cooper
Miss Csilla

Nursery Natter!

Hello Families! Firstly a big welcome to our new babies in the Nursery, Arielle and Dylan. We are really looking forward to helping them settle into the new environment and starting them on their journey with us as well as finding out their interests so we can incorporate these into our setting. Over the past few weeks Miss Debbie has been working with us in the Nursery bringing fresh new ideas as part of the children's ongoing learning whilst Miss Natasha has been in the office. Miss Natasha will be moving into the Kindy room and Miss Andrea will be joining myself after her recovery due to surgery in the future.

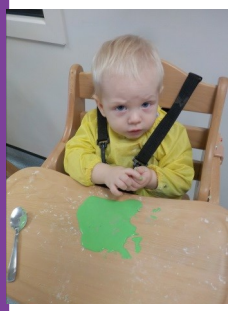


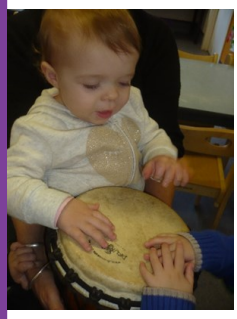


You may have noticed plenty of art work has been displayed on our walls, we have been focusing on creativity, curiosity and fine motor skills recently. Following on from reading the Bear Hunt book we then got messy on a daily basis with clay, grass, textured materials and shaving foam which related to our Bear Hunt story-telling experiences.

In the next few weeks we will continue with sensory play as part of the children's development, as this encourages their self esteem and awareness in different ways. Our focus will be more in exploring natural materials. We have a few children who are now nearly walking, crawling, pulling themselves up and gaining confidence and strength by using their gross motor skills. As an extension of the children's recent milestones we will be providing more opportunities and challenges for them during outside play, providing challenging obstacle courses, standing activity sets and push along walkers. It is now becoming cooler very fast, please bring in warmer clothes for your children and spare clothes. Don't forget you parent input is very important in our programming so if there is anything you can suggest as part of your child's recent interests ,skills and learning development we would be really appreciate your input. We had so much enjoyment attending the recent Drum Beat Show with the Toddlers. This gave the children the opportunity to explore different kinds of instruments whilst listening to fantastic sounds and beats from the teacher. After the show Miss Debbie followed on this experience by providing more musical instruments for everyone to explore sound with. More Centre Events are coming up soon with July the 1st being Canada Day, July the 4th being Americas Independence Day. We will be carrying out some college play, creating buildings by using natural materials to support these events, please feel free to bring in some recyclable items that we could use. The Tooth Fairy will be in on July the 19th to put on a show about the importance of brushing our teeth. I'm very excited about the PJ day on July 20th, bring in a cuddly toy so we can share teddies during group times. That's all for now, thanks for reading!







Miss Julie and Miss Debbie

Toddler Tales!

Hi my name is Alisha, I have recently joined the Little Ducks team and I am now the Lead Educator in the Toddler Room with Miss Amanda. I have been in the child care industry for the last six years and have worked with a variety of age groups. I am looking forward to getting to know and create bonds with each of the children in my care and creating a partnerships with their families. We have been very busy lately providing many learning experiences for the children that relate to their recent interests. The toddlers loved exploring lots of different textures during sensory play. The children did so by engaging in resources found amongst their environments and have particularly enjoyed engaging with their senses in the art area, using their hands to engage with the resources and create masterpieces. The toddlers are constantly on the lookout for new and exciting materials which they have been finding in their outdoor environment, exploring many new textures through feelings of leaves, sticks, rocks and much more. Over the next month we will be spending a lot of time engaging with their surrounding environments, investigating natural resources, exploring life cycles of animals and other living creatures and gaining knowledge on sustainability. The baby dolls in Home Corner have been very popular with children and they have showed a large interest in these resources as they have been working together to care for the baby dolls. The children have particularly enjoyed feeding the dolls before helping them to sleep and expressing their emotions through feelings of affection giving them cuddles. These experiences also help the children gain on their sense of identity and support feelings of belonging and being. As an extension of the children's interests myself and Miss Amanda will be turning Home Corner into a nursery and will continue to add different resources to encourage the children to further extend on their interest. Gross Motor development has been such a large focus for us in the toddler room as the children have loved exploring their physical abilities, balance co-ordination and upper body strength whilst testing and challenging themselves on obstacles which encourage the children to climb, crawl, roll, balance and jump. These experiences also encourage the children to build on their physical confidence and feelings of persistence facing challenges. We would love to share your family photo's in our environment for the children to view as we are planning on creating a family wall to help the children develop a sense of belonging and identity as well as extend on their knowledge on diversity, culture, uniqueness and different ways of being. We are also looking for recycled materials such as boxes, containers, tubs and cooking utensils such as pots and pans, etc. if you have any spare that you would like to donate. These resources can be used to further develop and explore the children's imaginations in the sandpit or can be used for role play in Home Corner providing open ended opportunities for play and learning. Thanks for reading until next time, Miss Alisha and Miss Amanda







Junior Kindy Jabber!

Welcome to the Junior Kindy news for May and June.
As many of you can see we have been spending a great deal of time getting to know each other with our two new additions, Miss Kristie and Miss Bree. Thank you to everyone for being patient and helping us both settle into the routine. We are making some lovely relationships with the children and having a lot of fun.
You will notice that our walls are almost bursting with all the creative activities that the children have been participating in. Our most obvious display being 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar" whom is making his way around the room eating everything he can find. These activities came about from an observation Miss Bree made of an interest of the children. They enjoyed the story a great deal and this was extended further by telling the felt story and IPad versions. The children became very good at predicting the text, especially "...but he was still hungry!" Through this idea we have been able to assist the children with their cooperation skills. There have been many group craft activities where the children have had to wait their turns and share resources. It has been a great task to build their resilience and their ability to verbalise their wants and desires.



You will have noticed that verbal language seems to be a focus in the Junior Kindy at the moment. Many children in this age group are developing their ability to string a sentence together. Due to this they encounter a great deal of frustration when they cannot get the desired response. Through encouraging expressive and receptive language it is anticipated that the children's ability to resolve conflict will be greatly improved. If you look at our doors you will see a chart for each child of things we have heard them say (expressive language). Over the next few months we will be assisting the children to develop their listening skills and abilities to follow directions (receptive language). I must say that they are all doing extremely well with our new routines so this should be easy to achieve. Many of our Junior Kindy children are reaching some major milestones in class, especially with regards to toileting. They are undressing and dressing themselves with little assistance and they have been extremely proud of their achievements with using the toilet. After seeing this pride we thought we would also celebrate these achievements through our special moment's rainbow. When we see a child display pride or overcome a challenge we will put their special moment certificate on the rainbow. We hope you enjoy joining in with your child's successes. Around the room you will also see many notes and reminders. While we do try to get to each of you individually we sometimes miss our opportunity. For this reason we will put a little reminder on the list when we notice one of the children needs something. Please feel free to put ideas on our parent input board on what your child has been doing or how you would like us to extend the program. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and is vital for providing the best care for your child. We look forward to getting to know you all better in the months to come.
Thanks for reading! Miss Kristie and Miss Bree



Kindy Kapers!

Hi again from the Kindy Room!
The year is flying by and the children have been very busy learning all about spiders and numbers as well as the alphabet. We are all beginning to recognise our names, we introduce writing books with the children's pictures on them and there names are written for them to trace on these books to provide children with the opportunity to practise their writing.

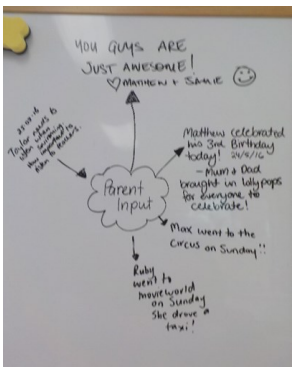




The children have been enjoying the pull apart table. Miss Andrea had some pieces of wood made up with screws so the children could further develop their hand eye coordination buy screwing the screws in an out again from the wood that is included on our table. Miss Shannon has settled nicely into our room and the children are building great bonds and relationships with her. Stella's dad from preschool donated some very large boxes for the children to explore. We utilised these materials in our art area and we worked together to collage and paint our boxes to create a wonderful construction play area with the children from these materials. We extended from this experience and created a road and car construction area and made this designated area larger for the children to have had lots of fun exploring. Miss Tash in nursery has exciting news and will be expecting her first baby in December! This means she will need to swap rooms with Miss Andrea due to risks from changing nappies in Nursery, so with some sadness Miss Andrea will resuming in Nursery when she returns from leave and she will miss her little people very much. Miss Andrea is also looking forward to the new challenges in the Nursery with Miss Julie and Miss Tash is excited to be go into the Kindy Room when Miss Cassie returns. Parents as it is getting a lot colder in the afternoons can we please make sure your children all have named spare clothes and come with shoes and jumpers. This avoid sickness and illness from occurring and spreading throughout the room. Our new white board it working a treat and we are loving reading the comments from parents of what their children have been up to and their input. We utilise this input to provide experience that branch from the input to support the children's current interest and skills. Please continue to feel welcome to document your input on this board or inform either of us on arrival or departure times. If you have any questions feel free to talk to the staff in Kindy we are here to help.







Thankyou till next time, Miss Andrea Miss Shannon and Miss Tahlia

Preschool Press!

Hi Families!
Well as you know we have been busy learning our letters and numbers through all sorts of various games to help make learning fun. The pre-schoolers have come a long way in recognising the letters we have done so far and are starting to be able to identify them by name. We have done letter hunts outside, played red rover with letters, letter memory, bingo and dancing before moving to a corner with the letter that is called out. With the numbers we have also played memory, what's the time Mr wolf and the children have been helping me count the number of kids in the day after we mark our roll. We have also begun discussing the day, month and date as part of our group times as well as recognising our Aboriginal ancestors.



We have also enjoyed exploring the nature table inside so we extended on this learning with rainforest paintings, changing the table around with different mediums, creating trees with our recyclables and creating an awesome treehouse from our giant box! These activities help us to build our knowledge on ways in which we can care for the environment and its animals. This interest then moved into our camp fire obsession which is still ongoing! We gathered up some sticks from around the yard and painted some rocks to place around the outside and pretended to toast marshmallows. We continued building on these ideas by adding home corner to our camp site, picnics outside and having fruit kebab sticks.



This led us into discussions at group time about how to put fires out and the sorts of places we might find fires. Using their knowledge and verbal skills they were able to describe what we might do to keep safe during fires. Call the fire man, get down low and go, go, go and turn our hot things off.



More recently we have been exploring cars and creating a road track for them on one of our box lids. The children came up with the ideas of what would be needed to go into our lid. They came up with ideas such as roads, train tracks, buildings and tunnels.
Home corner has been an area of interest ever since our café was started by Miss Debbie. The children use this on a daily basis creating lots of different roles, scripts, ideas and scenarios. There is always a server, customer, till manager and shopper. The children use their negotiation skills to be able to decide who will play what role on that day and are able to take turns changing these roles around.



Outside we have been enjoying the balls that we recently received. Basketball and Soccer have been our most favourite games to play as we can play in large groups with all our friends. We have also played games like trying to get it through the hole in the box, rolling it in a circle to each other and also some tunnel ball. This builds our co-ordination and gross motor skills. Hula hoops have also been popular with us trying to mirror and repeat the actions of our elders that we have observed and trying to swing our hips to get the hoop to move. We then learnt how to use it as a skipping tool and before long it had turned into a game of jump through the hoop which gave us lots of enjoyment as we shared our humour and happiness with each other.



Moving forward for the year we will be beginning to start our school transitions soon which will help us to settle into school next year more easily and will help the children adjust into the routines and have some knowledge of what to expect when they start. During this process we will get to meet the teachers, spend some time in the classrooms, learn where things are located, borrow from the library and play on the playgrounds. That's all for this article, thanks for reading!
Until next time,
Csilla, Holly and Tara

The Schoolies Scoop!

Hello! We have been busy enjoying our spontaneous play and continuing to build on our own ideas and interests. Using the boxes and some recyclables, we made our own city that had buildings with windows, roads and trees. Tayla used her building to create a Hungry Jacks with a day side and night side. Abby also created a day and night side on her building but hers was an office building for the mums and dads. We used paints and collage materials to bring our ideas to life. Ebony made a road for the cars and Charlie made some trees to go along with his buildings. Gemma made some animals to put onto the buildings like butterflies and she created a sea building with coral and sand which was home to her crab. This gave the children the opportunity to be creative and also to work together as we assembled our buildings to form a city from pieces of cardboard. They used their reflective thinking skills as we decided to arrange the buildings before sticking them down to the cardboard in case we needed to rearrange. More recently the recyclables have been used to create a variety of ideas and we have been working very hard on our projects persisting with difficult tasks when the pieces we desired wouldn't stick where we wanted. Gemma made an aquarium, Ebony made a ship to go with Gemma's aquarium, Tayla also made a boat with an ice cream container and Abby created a mouse house with an egg carton and some material to hide the beds.





We also created some bracelets with beads and extended this with loom bands. The schoolies listened to my instructions and were able to follow these instructions to create patterns. We made bracelets, necklaces and rings. We made some for us, our siblings and our parents. If you have any other ideas like these that you wouldn't mind donating, we would love to hear about them!

Just Dance is a popular as it always was but these past few months the schoolies have extended on this to include dance competitions and singing competitions in which we all judge each other to decide a winner. This came about after Abby talked about her audition for the school's competition and the schoolies loved this so much that they wanted to hold a little ducks concert. They built on this idea again with designing their own puppet show. Hiding behind the easel and selecting puppets we all watched each other as they created different scripts and ideas to perform. Doctors play in Home Corner has been a big hit also with Tara adding some white coats and doctor's materials like thermometers, stethoscopes, slings, bandages and masks. The schoolies were able to transfer their knowledge from one setting to another as they mirrored and repeated the actions of others to care for one another. One person would play the receptionist answering the phones and making appointments while others played the doctors and nurses to check the patients and give the medicine and surgery. Lachlan and Riley found some dentist materials among the doctors set and decided to change their play around to include a dentist role. We treated babies with temperatures, broken legs, colds, check-ups and ear infections.



Extending on their literacy learning as well the schoolies have been using the whiteboard to play games of hangman. Abby has been using her books to find words to use while Tayla has found words around the room. The girls have been able to negotiate between themselves as to whose turn it would be first and each has their own way of drawing the hangman when letters are guessed wrong. We have also recently been exploring the basketball hoop and providing ourselves with challenging tasks like moving further away from the hoop, shooting from facing backwards and making the hoop higher. Moving forward for the next few months we will continue to follow the children's ideas and interests as well as some ideas suggested by myself.

Until next time,

Tara

Did you know?

Friendly reminders

Hats and Shirts!



We still have Little Ducks shirts and bucket hats for sale. These are available for purchase from Cassie or Natasha in the office, during office hours.

Entertainment Books

We have sold many copies of the Entertainment Book's which is supporting our fund-raising and will also have several left to purchase. You can purchase the book from the centre or online and you can go onto their website to purchase a digital copy also.

Naming Belongings!

In order to ensure we don't loose or mix up your child's belongings 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 July and August are:

* Access, equity and enrolment policy
* Allergy Policy
* Authorised persons who arrive in an unfit state to collect children policy
* Educator professional development policy
* Transport Procedure

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