

Little Ducks Childcare Wilston

July/August

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to the July/August edition of our newsletter.

Make yourself a priority once in a while.
It's not selfish.
It's necessary.

Can you believe that we are now in the second half of the year already? It is scary to think that Christmas is only around the corner now. Time has flown by because we have been quite busy here at Wilston with all of our different celebrations and centre events! Our Mother's Day afternoon tea was a hit it was this year! We had a full carpark and at one point needed someone outside to control traffic. It was so great to see so many mothers throughout all of our rooms in the Centre...thank you to everyone who were able to attend our annual Mothers day afternoon tea. Recently we held our very own Red Nose disco here and I would also like to express a special thank you to everyone who joined us donated a gold coin for Red Nose Day. Another exciting event was when the Windsor Fire Department visited. We are very thankful that our community hero's were able to make the time to visit our Centre and talk to us about fire safety. Everyone was given the opportunity to go out into our carpark to explore the big fire engine! Don't forget to have a look at some of the photos we were able to capture. I believe that we have quite a few future fire fighters in our Centre!



On another note, we have started searching for our next Preschool teacher for when Miss Vicki leaves us at then end of the month to go onto maternity leave. Keep an eye out for our Friday emails for a photo of Miss Vicki's baby boy who is due in August! Thank you for reading our newsletter and don't forget to try our new recipe.

Ata

Exceeding
National Quality Standard

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Kindergarten Approved Program
Queensland Government

wilston@littleducks.com.au

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 them!

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.

Wednesday 27th - - **Grange Library Storytime & Singalong**
Listen to some lovely stories and sing some of our favourite songs as our friends from the Grange Library visit Little Ducks. 9:30am.

Thursday 28th - **Tooth Fairy's On Tour**
Learn about our important teeth with a visit from the tooth fairy. 10:30am

...August....

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

Thursday 4th – **Brett Campbell music, movement & 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.**
The Book Week theme this year is Australia: Story Country

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



30th, 31st, 1st – **Centre Photos**
Let's get ready to smile with Kylie Jane Photography.

Community services...

⇒ In need of an electrician?

⇒ Needing a home doctor?

⇒ Have you downloaded the Free Vaci-Date App?

Have a look at the services below...



Make the call.

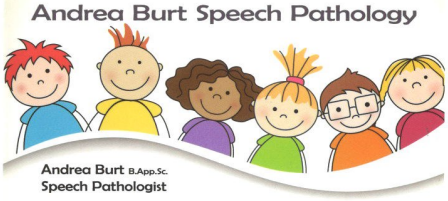
13 SICK 7425

Bulk billed. In home. Out of hours.

Call centre open
weekdays from 4pm
Saturday from 10am
all day Sunday & public holidays
or book at homedoctor.com.au

NATIONAL HOME DOCTOR SERVICE

Andrea Burt Speech Pathology



Andrea Burt B.App.Sc.
Speech Pathologist

38 Lamont Road
Wilston Qld 4051

phone: 0438 638 680
email: aburt@tpg.com.au

IHT
electrical services

Ryan Drewett
0424031802
ryandrewett@gmail.com

Electrical Contractor
ABN 32379738850

Licence no 81022 QLD
146821C NSW
Arctick Licence L120072

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142 Newmarket Road
Windsor QLD 4030

Reminders...

- **We endeavour to be a nut and egg free centre**. This is standard across all rooms due to various allergies. Please be aware of this when packing your child's lunches.
- **Winter is here -** Ensure that you are packing spare long sleeve tops, jumpers, pants and socks for your children due to the lovely cool weather. You are also more than welcome to pack little blankets for your child/rens 'rest time' too.
- **Please label all of your child's belongings** - we find it very difficult to track them down or realise a mix up if they are not labelled. Items to label include the clothing your child wears and rest time sheets.
- **Security Swipes -** If you are still needing a security swipe to get into the Centre please see Ata or let your room educators know so we can organise this for you.

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/ AUGUST are:

- ACCESS, EQUITY AND ENROLMENT POLICY
- AUTHORISED PERSONS WHO ARRIVE IN AN UNFIT STATE TO COLLECT CHILDREN POLICY
- EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY
- TRANSPORT PROCEDURE

Centre Birthdays!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- *Gabrielle.E*
- *Hawaiki.M*
- *Katie.B*
- *Henry.D*
- *Samuel.S*
- *Joshua.B*
- *Hugo.D*
- *Archie.G*
- *Tyronne.L*
- *Morgan.M*
- *Edward.M*
- *Thomas.T*
- *Liam.Y*
- *Zoe.H*

Little Ducks Winter Special...
Brown lentil and vegetable soup
Ingredients:

1 tablespoon olive oil
2 carrots, peeled, diced
2 zucchini, diced
2 sticks celery, diced
1 brown onion, finely chopped
400g can diced tomatoes
2 cups Campbell's Real Stock Vegetable
400g can brown lentils, rinsed, drained
1/2 cup flat-leaf parsley leaves, chopped
1 lemon, quartered
4 crusty wholegrain rolls, to serve

Method:

Step 1

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add carrots, zucchini, celery and onion. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes or until vegetables begin to soften.

Step 2

Add tomatoes and stock to pan. Cover and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer, partially covered, for 15 minutes or until vegetables are soft.

Step 3

Add lentils to soup. Cook for 5 minutes or until heated through. Ladle soup into bowls. Sprinkle with parsley and squeeze lemon juice. Season with freshly ground black pepper. Serve with lemon wedges and bread rolls.

Nursery Natter!

Newsletter – July/August



Hej Nursery Familier (Hello Nursery families in Danish),

Can you believe that we are already in the second half of the year? It will be Christmas before we know it. Firstly, I would like to thank you once again for reading our newsletters and keeping up to date with what we have been learning and doing in the Nursery. We sent out an email a few weeks ago asking for you all to bring in or send in a family photo to add to our wall. Thank you for those who have contributed, we really appreciate it. If you haven't brought one in yet, we would love to see your family photo to add to the family tree.



Our Nursery is beginning to look more like a toddler room these days with a lot of children now walking and moving to the same routine where they are all eating and sleeping at the same time. This routine will be same routine that the children will follow when they eventually move up to the toddler room, therefore the children will fell some sense of belonging when they move up as they are already used to that routine.

It has been amazing to see lots of milestones reached over the past few months and to be a part of that with the children is truly rewarding. Camilla, Theo, Henry and Lachlan are now all walking on their own and are loving exploring the room and initiating their own play experiences and becoming confident and involved learners. Recently we have also seen Gabrielle, Hawaiki and Lucas take small amounts of steps on their own here and there and it won't be long until they are also running circles around us. John loves he commando crawl and is also beginning to become more confident in his balance and gross motor skills. Riley is our newest addition to the Nursery family and he has settled in really well. Riley is now the youngest of the group and loves engaging alongside the older children.

Within our room environment we have been learning about many different topics including shapes, colours, words, the alphabet, counting, sensory play and sensory art and we have also done a little bit of cooking.

Last month we had Drum Beats Australia come and visit us here at Little Ducks which was a very exciting experience for the children. Jack, Henry, Archer. H, Camilla and Gabrielle all had the opportunity to come down to the pre-school room where we learnt about the different types of drums from Africa and South America. We also had a dance and sing along with Nick from Drum Beats. It took the children a little while to warm up to the experience and the noise of the drums, but it wasn't long before the children began to bang the drums with their hands and begin to demonstrate to us that they are becoming effective communicators. It is great to see the children becoming involved in a range of media and making meaning using song, dance and music.



Once again, thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. If you have anything you would like to contribute to the program or the room, please have a chat to Nat or myself!

Until next time...Kristin and Natalie

Toddler Tales!

Hello and welcome to the next edition of the Toddler Tales!



What a busy month it has been! We began the month of May by learning all about the worm lifecycle. We taught the children about which food scraps they could save after meal times and took the children to the worm farm to feed the worms their scraps daily. This taught the children about recycling food instead of letting food go to waste. We also bought some worms into our classroom for the children to observe; the children were very curious and learned to identify the worms, how they move and the type of environment they live in, some of the children were even brave enough to hold the worms in their hands to see what they feel like.

We then moved on to develop our knowledge of shapes; the children have learned to name and recognize a variety of different shapes and also use their knowledge of colours with this as well by looking at different pictures, using magnetic boards and shapes and also by stamping, painting and creating a shape collage. The magnetic board was definitely one of the favourite experiences for our Toddlers!



Towards the end of May and into early June we had a lot of cultural celebrations, we celebrated National reconciliation week where we focused on our history, our story and our future. One of the children's favourite stories was a dreamtime story about the Rainbow Serpent…the children loved this story and it had to be read on a daily basis. Because our children loved the story so much we then moved on to creating our own rainbow serpent through art exploration!

We also celebrated Sorry Day and used this to help the children identify different emotions and feelings with the use of pictures of faces expressing different feelings. We asked the children to mimic the different faces and we explained the different emotions behind them; we also used certain colours to associate with those feelings e.g. yellow for happy, red for angry etc. The children have become very good at identifying different emotions, they can now recognize the different emotion pictures and identify the feelings of their friends. It is always a working process but it is so rewarding to see that the children can now communicate their own emotions and how they are feeling.

Toddler Tales!



We celebrated many significant days such as Mabo Day where the children were introduced to The Torres Straight Islander people through books, songs and art! Matariki was another special day where we learned about the Maori people from Aotearoa and their New Year (MATARIKI). Our toddlers loved learning the new Te Reo Maori songs that we introduced…it was not easy to pronounce but we all enjoyed the learning process. We extended on by making our own Matariki stars out of cellophane and glitter which the children really enjoyed. Through all of our cultural activities the children are beginning to learn about cultural meanings and develop a strong foundation in culture, and diversity.



As we continued our cultural journey we were very lucky to have Nick from Drum Beats Australia come to visit us at Little Ducks…it was perfect timing! Nick brought with him an array of drums from different parts of the world for the children to play with as we sang songs together. We learnt that special drums were from Africa! To extend this learning we began to introduce a variety of other musical instruments from around the world. We began to teach the children the different names of the instruments, how to use them and encouraging them to explore creativity through music and movement. The children loved to move their bodies they use their curiosity and enthusiasm to express themselves through the music.

During the upcoming months we will be helping the children to strengthen their fine motor, hand and muscles skills and coordination with the use of play dough, buttons, zips, drawing, craft activities and building blocks. Once the children are confident in doing these activities we will begin teaching them how to use scissors. We will also focus in the development of the children's communication skills through daily interactions, reading picture books and other literacy enriched activities.

We would also like to hear from you about some of the short term learning goals you have for your children and the things that you practice with them at home. We would love any input and feedback with this as we would love to work with the children to help develop these skills further in the classroom.

Thank you for reading our Toddler Tales…Nabia and Jasmine.

Junior Kindy Jumble!

Half way through the year already and wow what a fantastic time we have been having. We would like to welcome some new friends to the Junior Kindy room Sienna, Samuel, and Olivia.



What a great couple of months we have had. To start off The children have been learning a great deal about the country in which we live, making a map to help them learn about the individual states. The children love pointing out that we live in Queensland the green state and discussing that Miss Mandy is from FNQ and Miss Teagan is from South Australia the pink state. Through this learning experience the children make connections with their world, as they broaden their understanding of the where they live. The children can point out that they live in "Bwisbane" as they like to call it.



As we continued our discovery of Australia we learnt about Australia's first people, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. We learnt how to sing head, shoulders, knees, and toes in the Turrbal dialect, as well as learning about the different art styles like rock painting, painting with our hands, sand art, and the meaning of the colours used in indigenous art work. This cultural experience has helped the children develop a sense of belonging and understand the rights and responsibilities within our community, as they build on their own social experiences to explore other ways of being.



From exploring culture, we then moved on over to the exploration of Djembe Drums. This month we had a special guest Nick from Drum Beats Australia join us. The children were all very excited to experience the joy of creating music using the Djembe drums and playing along to the music. The children enjoyed this so much. To extend on from this we then created our own instruments using recycled material. We used the sound of music to communicate messages to each other. The use of music and movement in the room supports the children to become more effective communicators as they learn to use the creative arts express ideas and make meaning. From this, our wonderful parents had brought in books. Our favourite was 'The Jungle Drums'. We then extended the children's learning by talking about and identifying the different animals that live in the jungle of Africa.

Junior Kindy Jumble!



As we continue to explore communicating through the rhythm of the music, the children have also improved on their gross and fine motor skills. We are impressed by how well the children are developing more and more every day. We have focussed on developing these skills looking at using them more during our artwork by drawing under the table allowing us the opportunity to draw upside down and even using our feet to draw. Wow! This was such a great experience for the children.

As we have continued the children have become fascinated by their bodies and began to talk about their different body parts singing the song head, shoulders, knees, and toes on a daily basis. To investigate this further we have been looking at what our faces look like. Setting up learning opportunities for the children to create images of their own faces while looking in the mirror and learning about where on our faces all the parts belong. The children develop strong and confident self-identities as they discover their differences and similarities and learn recognise and respect them. As we continue to learn about our identities the children have been learning about their own names looking at the alphabet chart in our morning group time. The children love to point to the first letter of their names. To build on from this we look at different ways we can write our names using, dot letters, chalkboard and magnetic letters. Encouraging the children to understand the meaning behind each letter how each letter is shaped differently and how they come together to form words.



Moving forward to recent activities, the children have enjoyed being hairdressers in the barber shop this is an extension on from our home corner area. The children explored using combs, hair ties, clips and hairdryers and have styled their own hair and the hair of their peers. The children becoming confident and involved learners as they transfer their knowledge, as well as learning to take care of themselves and others.

The children have also showed interest in the construction area. In next coming month we will be offering a variety of building tools for the children to explore both their fine and gross motor skills. Hammer and nail activities to improve the children's hand eye coordination., pincer grasp and concentration skills. We will also be using natural recycled building blocks offers the children a more natural way to explore their imaginative play. Using the big blocks to increase their gross motor skills through using their whole bodies to build standing up on their tip toes and reaching up as tall as they can with their arms additionally looking at mathematics as we explore heights and how tall we can make our towers.

We have had a great couple of months improving on knowledge and skills and we can't wait to continue to help the children to further their knowledge by inviting them to participate in these great activities.

Thanks for reading...Teagan and Mandy.

Kindy Catch Up

Hello to all of our kindy families, can you believe how quickly we are flying through this year? The children have been very busy over the last few months and have had many different and exciting interests in the room. Which I'm sure you've all been hearing about at home.



We had a very keen interest in all things to do with doctors in May thanks to Harry who had brought in a book about Elmo going to the Doctor. This quickly spiked an interest and Emma set up a Doctor role play area straight away for the children where they could act out being Doctors and Nurses by wearing the different outfits and use a toy Doctors kit, the children also took turns in being patients and we had lots of discussions about the different tools that doctors use what they are called and what they are used for. We also investigated different bones the children participated in making their own play dough bones with inspiration from different pictures of bones, as well as a skeleton from Pre-School. Miss Sawsan sat with the children all through this activity and spoke with them about all of the different bones in our body. We were also lucky enough to have Hugo M bring an X-ray of his chest, this sparked a huge interest in the X-ray's and we were lucky enough to borrow some more X-ray's from Pre-School as well as their light box. Each day the children gathered around the light box looking at X-rays of hands, feet, chests and even a brain which they showed the most interest in as they were able to tell the difference between the different facial features. To extend on the children's interest in the X-ray's Miss Emma had the children make their very own X-ray's using black paper and paint in the children's hands white, we hung these up in our doctor zone where the children spent a lot of time comparing them to the other X-Ray's. During our yarning circle times we also had lots of discussions on ways to stay healthy to make sure that we didn't get sick and don't spread germs. The children came up with lots of different ways to stay healthy including: washing hands after going to the toilet and before eating, covering our mouths when we cough and sneeze, and not sharing food or drink bottles.



We soon moved onto celebrating Reconciliation Week, where the children learnt about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultures. We did this by each week discussing the different flags and what the meanings were between the different colours and symbols, from there the children worked together to create an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag on the windows using their handprints. As the children were creating these flags Miss Emma continued to talk to them about the symbols and patterns and the meanings behind them. The children loved this experience! We also investigated different forms of Aboriginal art works, we looked at different pictures including some cave wall art where the Aboriginal people painted their hand prints their as a way of showing the future generations that this is where they had been, and this is the land that they owned. We recreated this on our sliding doors where Miss Emma painted a cave wall and as she painted around the children's hands she discussed with them further telling them about how this is their space, just like at home this is their room, this is where they belong. Miss Sawsan also printed pictures of some traditional Aboriginal dot paintings which the children showed a large interest in as they looked closely at the different patterns as well as the different pictures that were made such as Emus, crocodiles and kangaroos.

Kindy Catch Up!



The children created their own dot paintings where we kept the colour paint we were using as close to Ochre dirt that ranged in different colours that the Aboriginal people used to paint with. As the children were creating these painting Miss Sawsan spoke to them about what they were creating as they used sticks instead of paint brushes to create their art. Another activity that did, which the children seemed to love was a traditional Torres Strait Islander game called 'Kai ball' the children sat or stood in a circle and used just the palm of their hands to hit the ball between each other, we did this as a big group activity and the children tried their best to keep the ball moving as they hit it to each other.



From here we have had a complete change in direction with the children's interest in the room, to Robots. The children worked with Miss Sawsan to create their own little Robots that they could wear around the room out of cardboard boxes, Miss Emma then printed off some photos of all kinds or Robots and resources some boxes which the children spent a few days painting all different colours to create our very own Robot in our room. Once we had our big team effort of putting him together Miss Emma had the children name off different names that they would like to call the robot and we put them in a container along with the suggestions from parents and staff. Miss Emma then had one of the children pull a name out of the container and they pulled out the name 'Mater' which Archie R had chosen. We have also had lots of new activities added to the shelf such as gears and connectors where the children can choose to make all different mechanical type things during activity time, including cars, rockets and other small robots.

Housekeeping:

As it is very cold outside, please remember to bring your child in with closed in shoes and socks on, jumpers and hats. I understand that it is cold outside but children must be wearing hats whenever they are outside.

Rest time, please bring a small blanket for your children to sleep under as at times it does get a bit cool in the room.

Naming items, please ensure that you are naming all of your child's items drink bottles, containers and clothing especially jumpers as the children sometimes tend to put their jumpers into an empty locker it gets a hard to figure out who's is who's.

We also have a lost property box on top of the lockers if we find any clothing or hats they will be placed in the box on top of the lockers, we will be putting another box up there for containers as well.

Also the children have been loving bringing in books and sharing them at group time, keep them coming.

Hope you enjoyed reading our newsletter, Miss Emma and Miss Sawsan.

Preschool Pride!

With many of our pre-schoolers having their big school interviews recently, there has been lots of talk about heading off to school next year. We have begun to incorporate a few more activities to encourage the children to become 'school ready' as the second half of the year approaches. Since the beginning of the year we have had a big focus on the children being independent; putting on their own shoes, making their beds, looking after belongings, recognising when they need to go to the toilet etc. and it is so great to see how much the children are improving on these skills. It might seem a small part of daily life, but at this age, independence and having the confidence to do things for themselves is a big achievement! I know it can take a lot more time to get the children to do things independently, but it really is so beneficial to the children's development.



We have recently added a preschool 'sign in' book to the room; allowing the children to have a new and exciting responsibility in the mornings. As we have been working so hard on our literacy skills, this is just another way that we are able to consolidate the skills that the children have already learnt and continue on improving our name writing, and at the same time give the children a sense of responsibility in their environment.

Over the past month or so we have had a big focus on literacy and name recognition. The children initiated this by beginning to write their own names on their pictures and activities rather than the educators doing this for them. We took this interest and ran with it… there is no better time to teach something then when the children are eager and willing to learn! We have done so many literacy based activities over the past few weeks, and the children's progress has been amazing! From letter paint stamping, magnet letters, collaging our name, rainbow writing, wooden letters, whiteboard writing, name memory, cutting magazine letters, name poetry, letter tree, letter order arrangement, name threading and so many more activities, the children have really been excited and enthusiastic to join in these activities, and seeing the sense of achievement and pride on their faces as they experience success is just fantastic to see.



With our letter recognition skills improving so much we have noticed that some children also were needing continuing practice of their fine motor skills, which we have been continuing to work on throughout the year. With finger and hand strength the children are able to hold and manipulate drawing, writing and cutting tools with ease; and the more success they have with these tasks the more they will want to participate in them.

Preschool Pride!



Following with children's interests and parent input, we began a topic of interest on the Rainforest! The children got right into learning about the different layers of trees and plants that grow, the amazing animals that live in the rainforest and how we can help look after these amazing natural places in the world. With our rainforest play area looking spectacular with vines, trees, animals and all sorts of things to explore, we find the children enthralled in play daily in the rainforest. We have used this opportunity to learn about the natural environment and world around us, as well as incorporating counting with our number monkeys.



One of the highlights for the pre-schoolers over the past few months was the amazing Drum Beat show that we got to experience. Nick brought along a selection of all kinds of drums for all of the children to see, listen to and play. Each child got their very own drum, which they could sit on and play along with Nick throughout the whole show! With laughs and beats happening all around us, Nick was super funny and captivated the pre-schoolers attention with his funny sounds, songs and rhythms to follow. We took turns copying our friends' beats and trying to follow the rhythm of the drums. The children got to experiment with many different rhythms and sounds on their drum. What fun!



You may recall in the last newsletter we talked about planting some veggies in our very own veggie patch. We have been excitedly watching them grow and they are almost ready to pick and eat! Have a peek through to our back garden and check out how well our plants are doing!

We have explored so many exciting things, it's hard to include them into one newsletter! Building and construction, singing and dancing, sensory play, lots of creative arts including clay and painting, exploring the lightbox, talking about snakes, Aboriginal art and songs, a visit from Dentists, the Firetruck, a Red Nose Day disco, and so much more... we hope you have had a chance to sit down and read our daily emails with your child and family to hear in depth about our daily adventures!

This will be my last newsletter update this year, as I will be heading off on maternity leave soon to start a new adventure of my own! I will pop in once I'm all settled with my new addition to the family and hope to see you all then. Thank you all for your support and input into our program, I have had a wonderful time learning and discovering with your children. Miss Vicki and Mel

Community Hero's visit Wilston!
Thank you Windsor Fire Department...









