

Little Ducks Childcare Bardon
September / October 2016

A note from your Centre Manager



Hello families!

Exciting news for this newsletter. We have received our Assessment and Rating notice! We have been rated as Meeting in All Quality Areas and Exceeding in Quality Area 7—Leadership and Service Management. We are now invited to provide feedback before a final assessment is awarded. This is great news especially given we are just entering our 17th month. We are very proud of the wonderful community that is developing at Little Ducks Bardon. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful educators for their hard work in preparation for the assessment visit and also to our General Manager who has supported us through the last few months.

Moving on from Assessment and Rating we have jumped into lots of wonderful learning opportunities. You will read in the each of the rooms news pages about our wonderful Olympics experiences and our Book Week celebrations. These have been great opportunities for our families and team to work together to provide rich learning opportunities.

With great excitement we await the drawing of our Ray White Paddington Children's Bike. It has been great to connect with Ray White who supplied us with a gorgeous Ray White yellow children's bike, inviting families to go into the drawer to win the bike which has attracted so much attention! Thanks so much to Hannah Dodds of Ray White Paddington for this opportunity. We have also been very excited to work with Ithaca Creek State School as they prepare for their very first musical production—Jungle Book.



A big focus for Little Ducks at the moment is our 2017 Kindergarten Program offers. More information about the program can be found further on in the email but we are excited to realise that we will for the first time have an almost full Kindergarten program in 2017! Over the past years 17 months we have been able to offer care to children in the Preschool room who were not accessing our Kindergarten Program (children were instead being educated as part of an Early Start To Kindy Program which was running alongside the Kindy Program and using the Early Years Learning Framework). It is great that so many families are happy to continue their child's education in the convenience of the Long Day Care setting!



"Educational excellence through the power of play based learning"

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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

...September...

Thursday 1st **Superhero Dress Up Day**
Come Dressed in your superhero costume with a gold coin to support those with Muscular Dystrophy

Friday 2nd **Father's Day**
Come and celebrate with a sausage sizzle starting at 4:30pm

Monday 4th **Australian National Flag Day**
Celebrate with the red, white and blue flag that makes us all proud Australians.

Wednesday 7th **National Early Childhood Educator Day**
Celebrating the important role early childhood educators play in educating and caring for tomorrows leaders.

Monday 19th **International "Talk Like a Pirate" Day**
Come along ready to talk like a pirate—let's dress up too.

Wednesday 21st **International Day of Peace**
A day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peach, both within and among all nations and people.



...October...

Saturday 1st **China's National Day**
Leading up to this day we will learn about China and what makes this country special.

Monday 3rd **Queen's Birthday Public Holiday**
Enjoy your day off.

Sunday 16th **World Food Day**
A day of action against hunger. Bring along a non-perishable item of food for us to donate to the needy.

16th -22nd - **National Nutrition Week**
Let's learn to eat right and eat for our health.

25th-27th – **Centre photos**
Photos with Kylie Jane photography

22nd -30th – **Children's Week**
Children's Week celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood. It is also a time for children to demonstrate their talents, skills and abilities.

Monday 31st - **Halloween**
Dress up with us and enjoy this traditionally Celtic celebration!

Reminders

- **Don't forget to return your Kindy Program acceptances!**
- **Please avoid parking in our disabled parking space, especially if there are other choices. We have a parent who requires the space on Wednesday and Thursday :)**

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 September and October are:

- BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT - POSITIVE GUIDANCE POLICY
- BITING MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE
- CHEMICAL STORAGE & DANGEROUS PRODUCTS POLICY
- CLEANING & HYGIENE POLICY
- CONTINUITY OF CARE
- DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, BULLYING AND OCCUPATIONAL VIOLENCE POLICY
- NOSE WIPING PROCEDURE
- PROGRAMMING POLICY
- HARMFUL PLANTS POLICY & PROCEDURE
- TEMPERATURE POLICY

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



September— *Adele, Edmond, Ellia, Xavier, Harriet, Evelyn, Tom S, Lucinda, Emerson, Sophia, Billy, Lola, Alexandra, Charlotte, Victoria.*

October— *Ava, Olivia, Josef, Mia, Max, Lily, Anika, Luella, Sarah, Ruby, Josephine, Alfie, Ethan.*

Recipe of the month ...

Baby Sushi

Ingredients

1 cup (200g) sushi rice
1 1/2 (375ml) cups water
3 tbsp rice wine vinegar
1 tsp sugar
6 sheets nori (don't mention it's seaweed!)
bamboo mat
carrot sticks
cucumber sticks
cooked beef or chicken
avocado slices
soy sauce serve



Method

1. Place rice and water in a saucepan, cover and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to a simmer for 10 minutes.
2. Turn off heat and leave for 10 minutes, covered.
3. Spread rice into a container and allow to cool, then sprinkle with combined vinegar and sugar. Stir thoroughly.
4. Use scissors to cut a sheet of nori in half. Place nori shiny-side-down on the bamboo mat. Place some of the rice on the sheet, press down with wet fingers to a depth of 0.5cm, leaving a 1cm gap at one end. Arrange fillings in a line on top of the rice.
5. Start rolling up from the end with fillings. Lift the bamboo mat and roll tightly. Wet the strip at the end and push gently to seal the edges. Slice into six or eight pieces using a sharp, wet knife.
6. Place on a serving platter, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30-60 minutes to allow the nori
7. Serve with soy sauce.

Early Start Literacy

Our Early Childhood Teacher Carly and Educational Leader Bec recently went to a networking meeting with other Early Childhood Educators from Kindergarten's and Prep classrooms in the local area. They were fortunate enough to meet Ann Suthers from DETE who shared some valuable information about what Prep teachers are expecting from children on entry to Prep in regards to their literacy knowledge.

Ann shared that concepts of print are a big part of becoming an effective user of literacy. By the end of Prep children are expected to understand the basics about how reading and writing work. This includes knowing which way to hold the book, recognising the title of the book, understanding that the picture can help tell the story and being able to show where to start reading. She pointed out that environmental print is a big part of learning to read. Pointing out simple street signs and helping children recognise that writing has a purpose plays an important role in the reading/ writing process later.

Tips for home:

1. Read fairy tales to your children
2. Talk to your children about the title, author and cover page.
3. Point to the first word in the row you are reading.
4. Sing nursery rhymes with your children.
5. Play with words, make up rhymes and explore making different sounds.
6. Read street signs, stop signs and highway signs whilst you are driving.

Nursery Natter!

Lead Educator—Dani Norris

Assistant Educator—Cassandra Elliott

Good bye Winter and Hello to Spring…

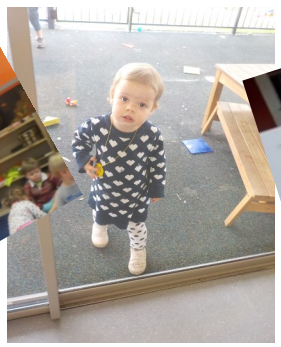
We have Welcomed a few new children to the Nursery Harrison, Ava, Hannah, Adele and Olivia. We are really excited to have you all join our lovely group of children. Miss Cass and I have lots of fun and stimulating experiences planned for the next few months.

We have had an eventful few months full of learning and fun. To start we had Naidoc Week what a wonderful way to reflect and celebrate our Indigenous culture. Each morning with the children and the educators acknowledge the traditional owners of the land in Bardon. We say " Thank you for our land and Thank you for your strength". The children were able to watch a You Tube clip of Aboriginal Dancing and Traditional singing, we then the children jumped up and participated as a group together, we were able to dance with the children, helping us to explore the diversity of culture , heritage background and tradition and that diversity presents opportunities for choice and new understandings. The children have participated in Book Week (Australian Theme). We spent time reading some wonderful Australian stories to the children ie: Man from Snowy river and Wombat stew. We had started to learn "Waltzing Matilda" through these experiences the children are becoming confident and involved learners.

The Rio Olympics (in Bardon) has been a wonderful experience, we had taught the children the National Anthem and we were able to sing this at the Olympic ceremony, we made and painted our medals, the nursery children were able to enjoy the "equestrian course" that we had designed for them. The children rode a pony (children's hobby horse) over jumps and an obstacle course. developing their balancing and spatial awareness.

Miss Cass and Miss Dani are now focusing on encouraging the children, to become independent, understand and master self-help skills and support them with their developmental milestones. Learning Outcome 3 Children have a strong sense of wellbeing. Wellbeing incorporates both physical and psychological aspects and is central to belonging, being and becoming. Without a strong sense of wellbeing it is difficult to have a sense of belonging, to trust others and feel confident in being, and to optimistically engage with experiences that contribute to becoming. (The Early Years Framework).







Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator— Tamasin Batten
Assistant Educator— Tatiana Hogan

Welcome to the toddlers room news. We welcomed our new friend Siena and look forward to seeing her learn and grow. This month has been a busy one as we have been involved in many curricular activities.
During July Little Ducks had a whole centre week of Olympics activities. The children were in colour teams which were multi aged. We enjoyed ball tossing and equestrian races amongst our group with everyone celebrating at the closing ceremony with a lap of honour and gold medal. From this the children are learning to experience pride and confidence in all their achievements.

We have also celebrated Book Week by holding a dress up in your favourite book character day where we saw fairies, lions, princesses and even pirates. The toddlers have been focusing on reading books together as a group during book week. The toddlers could see the writing and pictures within the book and with gentle reminders we discussed how we need careful fingers when touching the books. We focused on showing the print and the pictures. We used our finger to indicate that we go from left to right. We were teaching the children concepts of print and we call this pre reading skills. The toddlers are becoming effective communicators.

The toddlers have also been focusing on Identity and Differences. We have explored this by dressing up in different costumes as a way of children seeing that even though their clothes are different they are still the same child underneath. We looked in the mirrors asking “Is that you in the mirror? “and we know that the toddlers are developing a strong identity as they explore different identities in dramatic play and feel recognised and respected for who they are.
We also explored differences in things. Looking at nature collage by identifying colours and shapes of leaves and flowers and textures. The toddlers used various musical instruments to play music slow then fast. Shaking maracas loud then soft and this encourages the toddlers to refine their fine motor skills to create control. We also looked at differences in sizes. Measuring cups and spoons were used to try different sizes, e.g. using a small spoon into a large cup. This demonstrates persistence by the children as they experiment what fits best.

We would love to hear of any parent input that you have and appreciate any comments or ideas that you would like to give us.

Thankyou Tammie and Tatiana.





Junior Kindy Jumble!

Lead Educator : Jaimee Thompson

Assistant Educator: Jess Johnson and Michelle Obst

What a wonderful and busy couple of months we've had in Junior Kindy. It has been an absolute joy watching the children develop in so many areas including their language, gross motor and toilet training. We had the pleasure of some fun and informative shows, including Brett Campbell who had the children up and dancing. The children had so much fun interacting through music, listening to different instruments and clapping along. Our next show was a visit from the tooth fairy. She discussed with us, with the help of Leo the Lion, the importance of keeping our teeth healthy. Together we played a game calling out which foods were good or bad for our teeth, and learnt how to care for our teeth. This has helped us to take responsibility for our own health and wellbeing.

Continuing our learning about looking after our bodies, we began our practice for our very own Olympic games. Using the obstacle course to help develop our gross motor skills we talked about the importance of exercise to build our muscles and keep our bodies healthy. As the Olympics approached we had so much fun interacting in our teams, where the children were able to have a sense of belonging and express their opinions, along with children from the other room, including siblings. Each child was able to contribute as we created our very own team flags which we were able to march proudly with at our opening ceremony. The day of the Olympics was so exciting and busy as we moved from room to room trying different sports and cheering on all our friends. The closing ceremony was a chance to celebrate all the wonderful efforts and everyone received a medal they had helped make.

Book week was another highlight as we celebrated by creating our own story Toby the Crocodile'. The children were able to use their imagination and creativity as everyone was invited to contribute to the story. It was also great fun to see the Educators get in the spirit with some wonderful costumes. It is always wonderful to see children get so much enjoyment out of books and reading. The children are learning to engage with and gain meaning from a range of texts, particularly a shared enjoyment of language.



Kindy Catch Up!

Kindy Lead Educator— Alex Gayed

Kindy Lead Educator—Melina McCormick

Kindy Assistant Educator— Georgia Redfern

The Kindy Room has been busy over the last few months with lots of exciting changes happening within our room.
Our Kindy children love dramatic and imaginative play. We are constantly inspired by their imagination and we like to encourage their creative play by creating new and fun environments for them to explore and extend on. Our dramatic play area had two exciting evolutions. In July our dramatic play area turned in to a space station, extending on from a few of our children's interest. During this time the Kindy children explored the solar system and all things space related! We built a big rocket ship that we could fit in and a space station for us to control the rocket ship. We then turned our dramatic play area in to a forest after our Kindy children expressed an interest in bugs and mini beasts. To follow on with this interest, we spent some time exploring our favourite insects. We also welcomed some class pets in to our room, two stick insects who we called "Elsa and Bob" and a caterpillar who was in a cocoon! Our class pets have allowed our Kindy children to develop their responsibility in caring for a living thing. We have had to remember to keep Elsa and Bob's home full of fresh gum leaves and to keep it damp we spray it with water every few days. The Kindy children really enjoyed seeing the caterpillar emerge in to a butterfly! Through this we learnt about the life cycle of a butterfly. Once our butterfly emerged from its cocoon, we took it outside so it could find a new home. The Kindy children were very careful in choosing a new tree for our butterfly to live in.



Our Kindy children all have a big passion for cooking. We were inspired by their passion and decided to turn our home corner in to a sushi restaurant! The Kindy children had the opportunity to make real sushi. We will be continuing on with their love of cooking by changing our restaurant every few weeks, by children's request.





Preschool Pride!

Early Childhood Teacher—Kindergarten Program—Carly Dooley

Pre School Assistant—Cintia Nunez

Welcome to the September October addition of the Preschool Pride. We have had a very busy and exciting couple of months, after welcoming several new children into the preschool room we spent time working with the whole class on our identity, celebrating our similarities and differences and helping to make all of our children develop a sense of belonging towards our classroom. We painted self-portraits, and took this time to work one-on-one with each of the children getting to know them on a deeper level, we played several 'getting to know you games' and encouraged the children to engage with peers outside of their formed friendship groups (QKLG Identity).

After a child observed the strong winds this winter, we discussed the changes in weather before creating our own kites using a range of art and craft supplies. The children then rugged up and entered the playground, flying their kites they displayed visually pride within their work by smiling, laughing and engaging with their peers (QKLG Identity). To further this experience, we then created a wall display, using the camera we took photos of the children flying their kites, they then used rollers and stamps to paint a sky background onto a piece of card before cutting and gluing their photo on top. Through this experience the children developed their fine motor muscles as they cut, glued and painted their art work (QKLG Active Learning).

Following the children's interest, we turned our 'home corner' into an airport. During this experience we increased our vocabulary (QKLG Communicating) learning about stop overs, the difference between domestic and international airports, arrivals, boarding passes, luggage, delays and departures. We used construction materials to build 'hangars' and 'run ways' and used collage materials to create icy pole stick planes. The children worked collaboratively to cut and paint a large airplane, showing their team work and problem solving abilities the children negotiated before choosing to paint their airplane in a camouflage pattern. Throughout this experience we also investigated other modes of transportation, we visited the car park and took time to draw the cars and motorbikes, we discussed hot air balloons, blimps, monster cars and tanks.





We have celebrated many whole centre activities, including an educational visit from the Tooth Fairy, pyjama day, a music and movement session with Brett Campbell and a cultural talk from an Indigenous Elder.



Moving forward we are looking forward to our Preschool information evening where we will be discussing next year's plans and goals with our families. We have started our focus into spring, where we aim to educate the children about the elements required in order for plants to grow, and the importance of insects to our environment. This week we have started to replant our courtyard garden, educating the children on how to take responsibility for plant life.

Kindergarten Program
Curriculum Evening
& Information Night

Tuesday 6th September 5.30pm

Preschool Room

Other News!!

Assessment and Rating Results

Our much anticipated assessment and rating results are here. We have achieved meeting in Quality Areas 1-6 and Exceeding in Quality Area 7 (Leadership and Service Management). A huge thank you to all families, children and our wonderful educators for their efforts throughout Assessment and Rating as well as always.

We are proud to be part of a such a fantastic learning community!

We Are Famous!!!

We made the local paper! Our kindergarten children were photographed and appeared in the Quest Westside News on 24th August. Make sure you check out page 9.



BARDON

Alfie Percy, 3, Charlotte Efferey, 4, Mitchell-Rnd, 4, Hugo Aisbett, 4, and Emerson Parkins, 3, celebrate the Olympics at Little Ducks Childcare at Bardon. PICTURE: CLEC BOARDON

Rio fever for youngsters

RIO wasn't the only place where gold medals were won last week.

Little Ducks Childcare at Bardon got into the spirit of the Olympics by organising their own competition, complete with medal ceremonies and opening and closing ceremonies.

The children learned about the Games in their class groups, and experimented with artistic creations of the Olympic rings.

"We will be fostering a strong sense of community and connectedness ... by coming together with children from other classrooms to create flags and participate in an opening ceremony," assistant manager Rebecca Bosher said last week. She said the Games were incorporated into the play-based experience of all children, from their nursery to kindergarten class.

Each class also prepared their own sports event to showcase.

"It's a great opportunity to practice our gross motor skills and engage in physical challenges," Ms Bosher said.

Office Space Available

We have several brand new office spaces available above our centre. These offices have been designed to be available for services that our families may wish to take advantage of whilst enrolled at our service.

If you know anyone who would like to become a part of the Little Ducks Community and rent one of these offices please pass along our details and have them contact us for further information.

We would be particularly interest in hearing from any local health nurses who could provide information to families from this office.

A huge thank you to Elders Paddington for supporting our Borrowing Library. Another instalment of books is about to arrive at Little Ducks Bardon, courtesy of the wonderful people at Elders Paddington. These books stock a library in our foyer for our Children to borrow and return. We love how this practise really is an opportunity to instil a love of reading for our children as well as providing opportunities for quality interactions between parents and children.



Elders Real Estate

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Thank you Elders Paddington for supporting our community so generously.