

Little Ducks Childcare Birkdale

November/December 2016 Newsletter

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to the November/December edition of the Little Ducks Birkdale newsletter!
Only 8 more weeks till Christmas, can you believe it, the year sure has flown by!
I would like to start off thanking all the families who donated non-perishable items to provide for the needy. The Brisbane Motorcycle Street Feed group were overwhelmed with our contributions and very grateful, these items have gone towards a great cause.
The Toddler Room have some changes upcoming with Miss Alisha moving to Darwin on a new adventure. Miss Debbie will be joining Miss Amanda in the Toddler Room for the remainder of the year and is looking forward to this change. Miss Debbie holds her Diploma in Children Services and has been working at the service for over a year, she is also very familiar with all the children as her past position as a centre float relieving staff from all rooms makes her face very familiar to all the children.
We have recently finalised all the children's rooms for 2017 and these will be displayed shortly in the foyer for all families to view. This display will also include which Educator's your children will have in each of their rooms for the year of 2017. If you are looking to book any extra days for the remainder of the year or add any days to your bookings next year please see me ASAP so I can secure these for you.
During December we will be holding the Preschool Graduation on Monday the 5th from 6pm to take the time reminisce the graduates last year at Little Ducks and wish all the children the best with their new learning journey at School. On Wednesday the 7th of December from 4:00pm-5:00pm we will be holding the Children's Christmas Party at the centre. There will be a sausage sizzle and special guest appearance from Santa! We would love for all families to come along and celebrate the year with us.



From Monday 26 December 2016 to Friday 30 December we will be closed over the Christmas Break. The children will also commence care in their new rooms with their new Educator's from this return date in January.
My office hours are 8:00-4:30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and Cassie's office hours are 8:00-4:30pm Wednesday. We are available to be contacted by phone or email, or feel free to come and have chat during these times.
I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Natasha

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Recipe of the Month!

Chicken & Rice Paper Rolls and Mango & Berry Muffins

Ingredients

12 large rice paper rounds
1 green oak lettuce
1/2 large barbecued chicken
1 red capsicum
1 lebanese cucumber, thinly sliced
1/2 cup beansprouts, trimmed
Sweet and Sour Sauce to serve

Method

Half-fill a shallow dish with warm water. Dip 1 rice paper round in water and let stand for 30 seconds. Place lettuce along edge of rice paper. Top with chicken, cucumber and beansprouts. Roll up, folding up edges to enclose filling. Cover roll with damp towel and repeat with remaining rice paper rounds. Makes 12 rolls. Serve with Sauce.



Ingredients

1 1/2 cups self-raising flour
1/3 cup caster sugar
1 1/3 cups buttermilk
1/4 cup olive oil
1 egg
200g frozen mixed berries
1 small mango, peeled and sliced

Method

Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Combine flour and sugar in a bowl. Whisk buttermilk, oil and egg together in a jug. Stir buttermilk mixture into flour mixture until combined. Fold in berries. Spoon into prepared muffin holes. Top with mango. Bake for 25 minutes and stand in pan for 5 minutes. Place on a wire rack to cool.



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Centre Events!

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

...November...



Tuesday 1st - **Melbourne Cup Day**
The day that stops the nation!

7th - 13th - **National Recycling Week**
We will focus on the environmental benefits of recycling



Friday 11th - **Remembrance Day**
We will be making poppy's in remembrance of the diggers that gave their lives for our country and paying our respects on this day.

Wednesday 16th - **Teddy Bears Picnic**
Let's all bring along our favourite teddy and have a teddy bears picnic.



Wednesday 23rd - **Dr. Joe Science Show**
Show starts at 10:30am - This year for our science show the theme is Super Space! Explore with universe! Learn what you need to live in outer space, dress up like an astronaut, discover the history of the solar system, and explore the night sky in the starhouse!

...December...

Monday 5th - **Preschool Graduation**
Celebrating our children that are transitioning to school next year.



Saturday 3rd - **International Day of People with Disabilities**
We will be promoting an understanding of people with disability and encourage support for their dignity, rights and well-being.

Wednesday 7th - **Children's Christmas Party**
Come along for some Christmas fun from 4pm onwards.



Saturday 25th - **Christmas Day**
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Sunday 26th - Boxing Day
PUBLIC HOLIDAY



Birthdays!

A very happy birthday to ...

November

Kristine
Ollie
Isobelle
Mckenzie
Cameron
Dylan
Dominyk
Jack
Zara
Aleeia
Miss Andrea
Miss Marian

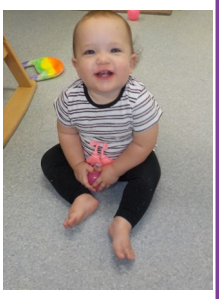


December

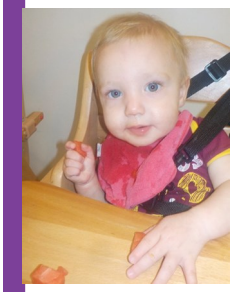
Summer
Connor
Tatum
Tyson
Lana

Nursery Natter!

Hello again to the families of the Nursery Children!



Well hasn't the year flown by, we are nearly at the end of October. We have been very busy and seen lots of milestones in the last few months. Welcome to Skyla, Connor and Cameron who have joined the Nursery since the last newsletter .They are all settling in to their new environment at Little Ducks. Warner and Taylor have developed their gross motor skills and are crawling everywhere exploring their environment. Dylan is just began pulling himself up on everything wanting to get a better view of the world.



How exciting is our outdoor environment looking, all the staff in the small yard have been working hard with the help of the children and making the environment more visually appealing to the children and families, with added plants pots decorative lizards and butterflies. Natural and manmade materials also. We have had plants donated from Indigiscapes to add to the verandas in the large yard also, so watch this space as over the next few months it will change with more work being carried out.





We have recently decided to add an indoor garden for the children to explore bringing a little of the outside in. The children have spent time exploring the sensory and visual experience it gives as well as creating flowers and pots to decorate this area with art and craft materials.

If any parents would like to donate any plants or pots to our yard we are more than happy to accept just talk to Tash or Cassie to ensure the plants are safe for our little people.



We are creating a community wall in the nursery to connect our families to the centre so we are requesting a photo or email some to the centre of our parent's caregiver's jobs or a couple of sentences and photo attached of what makes you special, this could be something such as every Sunday our family has dinner down the beach and a photo. Or maybe you speak another language at home, you could just add a photo of grandparents that live in another country. There is no right or wrong it just a simple blurb few words to describe your child's family life in the community. With the weather getting hotter could we please ensure all children have **NAMED** sun safe clothing such as t-shirts, no singlets and hats for outside play, also naming water bottle's as we are constantly encouraging the children to drink plenty of water in the summer months. We hope the families have enjoyed looking over their child's portfolio's, it will make a nice keepsake for your children at the end of the year and your feedback is greatly appreciated. Over the next coming months we have a few special days such as Teddy Bears Picnic 16th November your children can all bring along their favourite teddy to join them for a picnic lunch. If you have any questions we are always willing to help, feel free to talk to myself or Miss Julie.

Till Next time Miss Andrea and Miss Julie

Toddler Tales!

Hello families and welcome to our Spring and Summer edition!
Our toddlers have been a busy little bunch engaging in many learning experiences, experimenting with sensory materials such as our “hands on” cooking experience making play dough and our favorite messy play experience goop - a fun material to play with, at one moment its solid and the next its a liquid, its unbelievably fun to play with and our toddlers love the strange sensation of its texture and observing the changes.



Now that Spring is here, we have been enjoying plenty of fun outdoors activities. We have our gardening project that we have been working on since the last newsletter looking beautiful out in our small yard. Our toddler children adore taking turns to water our plants every few days and are watching the changes as they grow and bloom learning about the lifecycle. Our gardening project is extending and we are gearing up for Summer with many planned activities out in our play ground. Our toddlers will enjoy exploring nature as we collect sticks and leaves to create masterpieces and hopefully some more potting of plants and gardening as the children loved engaging in this.



You may have noticed our wonderful “under the sea” project we have been working on! Our toddler children have enjoyed learning all about sea creatures and where they live, most of our toddlers can point to and name most of the sea creatures in our books! The children are showing so much interest in sea creatures that we will be continuing through with this learning throughout the warmer months as we can plan several different waterplay experiences.



During these warmer months please ensure your child has a spare set of clothes in their bag for when we engage with water play and all have a clearly labelled hat as we are sun smart centre. Not long until we will start planning Christmas and end of year experiences, including many arts and crafts and sensory awareness learning opportunities. In the last three months we have said goodbye to some of our friends as they continue their journey and move on to Junior Kindy. We have also welcomed some new friends that have come up from Nursery, Layla and Maxwell. We are very excited to share the journey through our toddler room with you and your family - welcome!



I’m sure you are aware of Miss Alisha leaving us as she is embarking on a new adventure with her husband in Darwin. We have the lovely Miss Debbie replacing Alisha whom I'm sure you all know, our toddlers have already formed a trusting relationship and bond with Miss Debbie as she has been in our room on a daily basis as our float while our educators have their lunch break. I’m sure this will be a smooth transition for all involved.
Thanks for reading Miss Amanda and Miss Alisha

Junior Kindy Jabber!

Hi families!
Can you believe it's nearly the end of the year already?! Firstly, we would like to give a warm welcome to the Toddlers that have transitioned up to Junior Kindy – Sam, Maddie, Eryn and Dane. Another special welcome to our new friend, Parker who has just recently started. The children are showing strong senses of identity as they gain feelings of security and belonging through play and interactions with one another, forming new friendships along the way! Speaking of identity, in September, we covered this theme of 'self-awareness and identity'. Following on from looking at photos of ourselves that we took – which many of the children thought it would be funny to pull faces in! The children drew pictures of themselves as we discuss the different features that everyone has. From here, we asked everyone to bring in their family photos and during group times and experiences, we all talked about who is in our family and our individual backgrounds. The children then drew their interpretations of their family. With the help of your input, we also covered each child's cultural backgrounds! We looked at all the different flags of everyone's culture and even looked at some cultural foods and dances on YouTube as well as introducing many multicultural stories during group time, further discussing similarities and differences and listening to a variety of music which related to several different countries.





We recently began our bug theme project as the children showed a large interest in exploring natural insects and creatures in our outdoor environment, which we are currently still focusing on. The project commenced after we all saw a snail on the fence of the Toddlers yard. The children were very fascinated by this snail as they explored the look of its shell and body and a lot of the children described the creature as "very slimy". Stella then found a small ant's nest outside and she thought the ants were just "so cute!". We have created a section of the room dedicated to our bug display which includes many art displays, project planning and photo's if you have the chance to have a look. Moving forward, over the next month we will be covering a new theme of "Transport" following on from Dane, Sam, Parker and Ollie's interests in trains and buses! Keep a look out for this new project and the variety of experiences that will be providing following through from this interest of the children's. We will also taking the opportunity to support Remembrance Day in November making poppy's with the children and explaining the importance of this day at an age level understanding through story-telling experiences. We are also looking forward to our upcoming Dr Joe Science Show in late November as the theme is Super Space! This will give the children the opportunity to be introduced to learning further about the our solar system and the universe. Thanks for reading our newsletter edition, until next time Miss Bree and Miss Tara.



Kindy Kapers!

Hi Families, big welcome to the Junior Kindy children who have recently moved up into the Kindy room! They have settled in very well and loving their new room.
We have been focusing on bugs and insects of recent as this interest of the children's commenced in September when Hayden found a grub in the sand pit. The children were so fascinated to learn more about this grub! The children wanted to know where grubs live, what they eat and had many of questions of their lifecycle. We extended on this interest of the children's watching a life cycle show on bugs on the smart board in the pre-school room to find out more information.





From then on, we started to learn about different insects. The children were so fascinated with this topic! The children drew their own interpretations of insects on pieces of paper using a variety of pencils and pens. Spiders was one of the more popular insects as the children showed much enthusiasm creating their own by using paper towel rolls and pipe cleaners as well as applying googly eyes. While learning about spiders, we read stories about how spiders make webs and what they eat. We also talked about dangerous spiders and safe spiders and sang several songs including "Incy Wincy Spider".



We shortly moved onto Butterfly's as the children selected a combination of coloured paint to place on their paper and create Butterfly paintings. We learnt about the life cycle of a butterfly by reading "The Hungry Caterpillar" as well as watching the smart board learning more detailed information about this insect and the different types of Butterfly's.
The next interest was Bee's, Grass Hoppers and Lady bugs! The children's hand made cardboard Bee's are hanging from our room as well as cellophane Grass Hoppers. Our Ladybug foot print paintings are also displayed throughout the room as well as our collage ants that were put together with cuttings of paper. We made our own ant farm by collecting ants from the playground. Miss Tahlia added dirt and sand into a large mason jar. The children helped Miss Tahlia collect ants and feed them crumbs. We learnt "The Ants Go Marching" song through music and movement experiences during group times and observed and discussed the growth of a science experiment of a synthetic ant in water, which they children loved watching it grow as it expanded throughout the weeks.



In the upcoming weeks, we hope to still be learning about bugs and insects as the children have been still showing a huge interest in this area and are still eager to learn and discover new experiences to do with this interest. As it is getting hot and summer is around the corner, please bring hats that are named for your children as we are a sun smart centre. Also bring in a labelled drink bottle for your child as we are teaching the children about looking after their belongings and gaining skills of independence to prepare for the transition into the Preschool Room.
Thanks for reading, Miss Emma, Miss Shannon and Miss Tahlia

Preschool Press!

Happy Spring to all Families!
What a busy few months we have had in the Preschool Room and it's hard to believe we are approaching the end of Term Four. The children have all been very happy and engaged in the program and we also welcomed some new families from the Kindy Room! During the last few months we have watched the children continue to extend their skills in all areas of their development. The children had been experimenting with measurement such as length, weight, mass and volume. They had been discovering different measuring tools like measuring tape, rulers, and a kitchen scale and also using non-standard units e.g. wooden cubes. The children have used reflective thinking, numerous strategies and problem solving skills to complete their constructions, even measuring how tall they are. The Preschool Room has welcomed spring with a variety of experiences. The children have engaged in painting, pasting, collages, drawing, and construction. They have recently discovered insects, worms and other living creatures. The newest treasure in our room is a bird nest. The children love exploring and finding out what materials the bird used to build her nest. To continue the children's new interest in birds and nests, we are extending this topic further by providing many hands-on activities in the coming days/weeks. The children have been practising writing their names and forming the letters with enthusiasm for a while. Following up on their joy and efforts we have been offering different "writing tools". Everyone's favourite activities were typing on a laptop or simply just using puffy paint in squeeze bottles to trace over their names on cards. How much fun the preschool children had when they were fishing for letters in a trough full of water, waving their special magnetic wands around until the magnetic letters caught on gaining on their literacy knowledge. We have been focusing on several skills to prepare the children for school next year such as name and letter recognition, name writing, shape recognition, and numeracy. One of our goals is to promote finger, hand, arm and upper body strength in different ways. This month Miss Holly has started a new project, "Let's Get Physical". The children have been participating in weekly Boot Camp's, Aerobics, Yoga and other physical experiences to support their gross motor development.
At this time of glorious sunny spring days, we have been spending a lot of time outdoors. We would like to ask the families, please remember that all children must wear clothing that covers their shoulders i.e. no singlet's or dresses with straps. Please remember to pack your child's sunhat for outside play and drink bottle. Before long we will be thinking about Christmas and starting our special Christmas activities. This is a very exciting time for us with many of our children heading off to school next year and we are looking forward to holding their graduation in December. Thanks for reading!
Miss Csilla and Miss Holly











The Schoolies Scoop!

Hello,
My name is Miss Debbie and for the last few months, I have been caring for and running the Schoolies program.
We recently created a Treasure Hunt for the children as the children have been showing a large interest in Pirates. Ebony had created a map which the other children followed to find the treasure throughout the large yard. This engendered talking further about pirates, creating a pirate project that continued with the children using the fort as a pirate ship, and making cardboard telescopes.
We have also been focusing on gaining on our physical skills as the children have been participating in games of cricket in which they displayed their gross motor skills, batting, bowling and throwing the ball in this physical activity. Long Jump has also been of large interest as the children extend on their muscle co-ordination.
With the children showing the most interest in Cricket we taught the children how to play French cricket and further extended on this experience providing games of soccer as several children were interested in exploring the new pvc balls.
The Schoolies have also been taking on the responsibility of maintaining the veggie patch as they demonstrated to the younger children how to water and care for the plants and have been very enthused watching the plants daily growth and the vegetables that are now beginning to form. The Dinosaur Garden has triggered skills of imagination as the children created cognitive games of “Find The Dinosaur” hiding these throughout the yard and taking turns to find and discover each of them. Several children have been recently learning about multiculturalism at school, as an extension of this we explored a variety of cultural flags through exploration of relevant book’s and the children attempted to name each flag and discussed their cultural background with myself and with other’s showing a stronger sense of belonging. We have been extending on the children’s interest in drawing providing a variety of difference experiences to support this fine motor interest from chalk drawing outdoors on the cement to pencil drawings, crayon drawings with a variety of thin and thick crayons as well as different textured felt pens and pencils. As a extension from parent input we received in regards to children going on camping trips recently we worked together to build a pretend campfire outdoors as the children collected a variety of twigs, sticks and leaves to create this and the children initiated role play rubbing sticks together to create the pretend fire. This experience provided the children with the opportunity to gain on their imaginative skills and work together as a team. We also further extended on this experience making a cubby house from blankets as our pretend tent and went on a “Bear Hunt” singing along and implementing the actions throughout the outdoor environment. In November we will be holding a Teddy Bears Picnic on the 16th please remember to remind your child to bring there favorite Teddy along for a picnic in the afternoon. We are also planning a variety of Christmas Craft experiences come closer to December.





Until next time Miss Debbie

Did you know?

Friendly reminders

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.

Child Portfolios

You may have noticed on the top of your children's lockers and shelves some manila folders with your children's names on them. These are your child's portfolios with information on their skills, interests, art work and photos. These are a journey of your child's time here at Little Ducks and you are welcome to look at these whenever you feel the need to see what your child has been getting up to. We send these home every three months for parents to read and return and every six months for you to treasure.

Cashless Centre!

We want to remind parents that we are a cashless Centre and this is to minimise the risk of parents money being stolen or going missing. If you are making additional payments this can be done via EFTPOS

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 November / December are:

* Additional Needs Policy
* Communication Policy - Educators and Families
* Code of Ethics
* Death of A Child Policy
* First Aid Policy
* Food Handling Policy
* Inclusion Policy
* Medication Policy
* Medication Short and Long Term Administration
* Nutrition Policy
* Rest Time Policy
*

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

Children's Christmas Party



Wednesday 7th December
Little Ducks Birkdale
4:00pm

Sausage Sizzle
&
Special Guest Appearance!

