Little Ducks Childcare Bardon Nov/Dec 16

A note from your Centre Manager



Hello families!

Can you believe last week we celebrated our 18 month anniversary ? I can't decide whether the time has flown or if it feels like we have been part of the community for many years! Enrolments have grown at a rapid pace - 2017 is looking very full!

The children and educators have spent some time recently learning about Cambodia in particular the children of Koh Rundual a community we have connected with and with the help of elders real estate and Sue and Daryl Lewis (chance to dance) . Koh Rundual is a small community in Cambodia. Sue and Daryl Lewis are lovely Australians—friends of mine from South Australia, who are semi retired and spend 6 months of each year in Cambodia supporting the communities orphanage and school. This community of 320 people including 150 children. Most live in homes made of palm leaves with time roofs and bamboo floors, there is no electricity or running water in the community. As we get to know this community more we decided we wanted to do something to help them. Together with Elders Real Estate we have offered to purchase the children's school books for the children for the coming school year. This experience really highlights how lucky we are to be bringing up and educating children in Australia and particularly in our community! Our children not only live in very comfortable Homes, have access to fresh healthy food and clean water they also are able to access quality learning environments from a very early age and due to this can look forward to many opportunities.

Children's week (22nd October) prompted us to that recognize all children are entitled to live a happy life and to have access to education to increase their capacities. I am proud, that at Little Ducks Bardon we are able to contribute to our children receiving these things but also now a community of children in such a poor country .





"Educational excellence through the power of play based learning"

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Kindergarten Approved Program
Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

...November...

Tuesday 1st—Melbourne Cup Day

7th-13th—National Recycling Week

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.

Friday 17th—Dr Joe Science Show -
Show starts at 10.30am—This year for our science show the theme is SUPER SPACE! Explore the 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 star house!

...December...

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.

Tuesday 6th—Preschool Graduation—Celebrating our children that are transitioning to school in 2017.

Friday 16th— Family Christmas celebration—Carols by Candlelight. Come along to enjoy some carolling and mingle with the other families. Starts at 5.30pm.

Sunday 25th—Christmas Day

Monday 26th—boxing day

27th—30th—Centre closed

Reminders

- **Enrolments have been finalised for 2017 please contact Michele if you are wanting to make any changes.**
- **With the warmer weather please remember to include drink bottles, hats and sunscreen.**
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Policy Reviews

We value your input and feedback so please refer to the Policy Review Folder in the foyer for more information or to provide any comments or suggestions. The policies/procedures in review during May and June are:

- 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:



November— *Isla J, Chloe, Elijah, Ella, Bronte, William, Charlotte, Ewan, Tom S, Greta.*

December—*Henry, Hannah, Isla C , Tom, R, Isabella G, Eli Cameron, Theo*

Recipe of the month ...

Ingredients—a special treat for Christmas.

- 200g Mars Bars, chopped
- 2 tbsp of pouring (thin) cream
- 2 tsp cocoa powder, sifted
- 3 cups Rice Bubbles
- Canola spray
- 100g white chocolate
- 24 red Smarties or M & M 's



Method

- Spray a little canola spray into 2 x 12 cup mini-muffin trays.
- Melt the Mars Bars, cream and cocoa in a glass bowl over simmering water. The bowl should not touch water.
- Stir the mixture until smooth.
- Put the Rice Bubbles in a separate large bowl, pour in the chocolate mixture and stir until well mixed.
- Spoon the mixture into the muffins tray and press down gently.
- Refrigerate for 2 hours and turn out onto a tray to decorate.
- Melt the white chocolate in the microwave checking and stirring it at 30 second intervals. Pour it into a piping bag while warm and snip the tip off.
- Turn the crackles upside down and pipe the chocolate on each one on. Finish with a red chocolate button top of

Smooth transition to school.

Towards the end of the year Miss Carly will be writing a transition statement for each of the children in her Kindy Program. The transition learning statement summarizes your child's strengths, identifies their interests and indicates how they can be supported to continue on their learning journey. We strongly encourage that you pass this statement onto your child's new teacher as it will be used as a tool to support a smooth transition to school.

Hints for a successful school transition*;

- Try to drop off your child at school before the bell goes in the morning. Also pick your child up on time. If you're late it could make your child feel very anxious.
- Try to make after-school time a bit special, with a snack and time for the two of you to chat.
- Be patient if your child wants to share every detail of their day with you, or keep everything to themselves. You could try saying something like, 'Tell me one good thing about your day', rather than asking lots of questions.
- Try to be flexible with snacks and meals. Your child will probably be very hungry after school. If you give your child a small, healthy snack straight after school, it'll help to keep her going until dinner.
- Don't expect too much academic progress too soon. If your child is happy and seems to be enjoying school, that's a real achievement. The rest will come later.
- Start now preparing your child for school by teaching to be independent , learning how to open their lunch box, school bag, do their shoes and clothes independently
- Remember that it's normal for children to play with lots of different children, and even to play on their own sometimes. It takes a while before they settle into a group of friends. If your child doesn't seem to be settling well, or reports teasing or bullying, speak to your child's classroom teacher.

* http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/starting_school.html

Nursery Natter!

Lead Educator—Dani Norris

Assistant Educator—Cassandra Elliott

In the babies room we like to spend our mornings outside, it is a calming way to start our morning. Whilst outside we encourage the children to take the time to appreciate their surroundings As we look around and appreciate our learning environment we encourage the children to listen to the sounds of Little Ducks. The children are now able to identify the sounds of large trucks, cars, wildlife and air transportation. With many of the children learning to say “truck”, “car” and trying their hardest to say “magpie”. Increasing the children's vocabulary, we ensure we use the correct terminology, this is why we refer to a magpie in his correct name rather then saying “birdie”. To extend the children’s interest in the magpies, we used ICT to show the children several magpie pictures, before encouraging them to paint their own interpretation of a magpie. These works of art are displayed on our wall, with the children proudly taking the time to point out their work to their parents.

For Nutrition Week we planned several intentional teaching moments, including learning the song “go bananas”, we painted a bowl of fruit and
at meal times we looked at our friends lunch boxes and discussed healthy choices.

Following the feedback from Assessment and Rating we have changed the way we document in the Nursery. Each child now has an individualised goal tree, through this form of documentation we been able to collaborate closely with families to ensure our program is meaningful for each individual child.

For children’s week we have been focussing on children’s identity. The children in the nursery are getting to know who they are and the people around them. This allows children to be more relaxed and comfortable here at Little Ducks, ensuring they build safe and secure relationship with their educators and peers. We are encouraging the children to greet their friends and educators with “good morning” or “hello”.





Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator— Tamasin Batten
Assistant Educator— Tatiana Hogan

Welcome to the toddler's room news. We have enjoyed a busy couple of months where we have been involved in many activities. We have welcomed spring and its warmer weather, birds and water play.

During September, we celebrated Father's Day by making our dads a card using collage materials. We also had a community barbecue where dad's and family came to the centre enjoy a sausage. We baked cookies with the children to share with their dads which brings a sense of celebration and connectedness for our families and children.

The toddlers have been focusing on identity as we have used photos of ourselves and dress up costumes to see if we look different. We like to look at ourselves in the mirror and we can identify some of our body parts which builds a confident self-identity. Being responsive to parent input, the toddlers have been strengthening their fine motor skills by practicing cutting with scissors into playdough. To extend our fine motor development the children have been exposed to several different activities, including using tongs, spoons and tweezers to manipulate objects which will help the toddlers with their strength and control.

Last week we celebrated nutrition week where we discussed what is an everyday or a sometimes food. The children selected pictures of different foods from shopping catalogues to collage. During meal times we discussed the contents of our lunchboxes, encouraging the children to point to foods which they identified as everyday or sometimes foods.

For the past two weeks, we have been focusing on pets which has come from parent input about the children's interests. The toddlers are confident at identifying different animals such as dogs, cats, fish and birds. We have collaged a dog, made rainbow fish, painted animals and read many stories on pets.
The toddlers are also celebrating children's week by choosing their favourite experience each day, this is helping develop their sense of agency. Through these activities we have observed the children ask to revisit experiences which they have enjoyed in the past, building on their confident self identity.



We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas and preparing your children for the next step in their educational journey.
Thankyou Miss Tammie and Miss Tatiana

Junior Kindy Jumble!

Lead Educator : Jaimee Thompson

Assistant Educator: Jess Johnson and Michelle Obst

As the end of the year fast approaches we have been readying the Junior Kindy children for their move to Kindy. We are encouraging their self help skills, such as making and packing away their beds and providing small bins on the tables during meal times, this is developing the child's sense of independence and self regulation. Through these simple changes we are helping the children develop a sense of agency, and using effective routines to help make predicted transitions smooth.

From parent input we learnt that many of our children have been or are going on holidays, we used these experiences to explore where we might like to go, and how we would travel to our holiday. The most popular and exciting way to travel seemed to be by plane, so we made our own plane, and then placed our photos at the windows to see everyone as we took off for an adventure. Through this experience the children developed their sense of agency as they contributed to how they wished their plane to look, developing their fine motor muscles the children then painted their plane using both brush strokes and paint rollers.

On these adventures we discovered many different environments. Our first was the beach, and after discussing what we might see at the beach, we were able to make our own beach scene, where the children were given the tools to make a beach how they imagined it to be. This included blue sheets for the sea, and buckets and shovels for sandcastles. We also created some crabs to scuttle across the sand. We then created our snow scene, where using collage we made some penguins to waddle across the snow, which we draped white sheets and towels to make snow. To add to this experience we made our own snow using shaving cream and bi carb soda. After placing it in the freezer, we loved describing how it felt.

Through these experiences the children developed dispositions for learning such as curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm. We talked about the importance of looking after these environments, including throwing rubbish in the bin, and not on the ground or in the ocean. We are learning to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.

One of the environments we learnt about was the bushland which lead to an interest in Aboriginal culture. Through this we explored the Aboriginal dreamtime stories, including ‘The Rainbow Snake’, where we then created our own rainbow snake using bright paints and folding the paper over to make a beautiful pattern. We listened to Aboriginal music and we danced across the paper with paint on our feet leaving behind our dancing footprints in the Aboriginal colours of black, yellow and red. The children are exploring the diversity of culture, background and tradition. Through this experience the children developed their understating of being respectful of different cultures.

From this we will be exploring the cultures within our room and community. This will help the children become aware of connections, similarities and differences in people.







Kindy Catch Up!

Kindy Lead Educator— Alex Gayed

Kindy Lead Educator—Melina McCormick

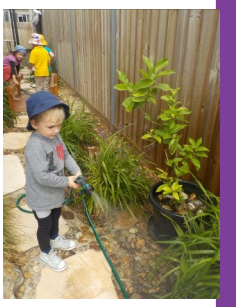
Kindy Assistant Educator— Georgia Redfern



The last few months in the Kindy Room have gone very quickly, with us continuing with some experiences and creating some new experiences! We have also welcomed a few new friends in to our room, including Jack G, Aiden, Evie, Harry B and Frankie. The Kindy children have all welcomed their new friends and have helped them to settle in to their new environment.

With the seasons changing and the weather warming up, we were inspired to start spending more time outdoors! We thought this was a great opportunity to change the plants in our garden! The Kindy children and educators researched what seeds we could plant in spring. We decided to plant corn, cucumber, beans, capsicum, sunflowers and marigolds. The Kindy children loved digging in the garden and exploring in the dirt. Our Kindy children were so eager for our seeds to start sprouting that we decided to plant some seeds in plastic cups to keep indoors so that we could observe the seeds growing. The Kindy children were very excited to watch their plants slowly sprouting. Our gardening project has been a great way for the Kindy children to develop their appreciation for natural environments, whilst also displaying their responsibility skills by having to care for their growing plants!

A few of our Kindy children have also recently visited the Queensland Museum to see it's dinosaur exhibition. After hearing the Kindy children's excitement over their experiences and observing their enjoyment for dinosaurs, we decided to extend on this interest. The Kindy children initially displayed an interest in toy dinosaurs, inspiring us to create a prehistoric dinosaur sensory environment! After many discussions of how and where dinosaurs lived, the Kindy children collaborated their ideas to create an environment for our toy dinosaurs. The Kindy children explored both indoors and outdoors for resources to use in our dinosaur environment collecting some sticks, dirt, rocks, sand, a strip of fake grass as well as some water and wooden cut offs. We love to see the Kindy children working as a team to build something they're passionate for. Our dinosaur interest extended to other experiences including hatching our own dinosaur eggs and going on a fossil hunt! We learnt many new words, building our vocabulary, including 'archaeologist' and many long dinosaur names! The Kindy children had a lot of fun going on their fossil hunt. In preparation of our hunt, we explored a book on fossils and how they are made and then we created our own fossils out of salt dough! We learnt that fossils can be created from shells, plants and to our excitement, animal poo! The Kindy children completed their fossil dig in our mud pit, using brushes and digging tools. We all had such a fantastic time searching for the fossils and sharing this exciting experience with each other!





We have been discussing Nutrition Week and eating all the different types of fruit and vegetables from the healthy eating rainbow. Tuesday we ate green and purple coloured foods such as apple, peas, capsicum, blueberries, beetroot. Some of these foods were a new experience for a lot of our children.
We had our photo taken with an empty plate which was then printed out. Using our fine motor skills the children used scissors with their dominant to cut out pictures of their favourite foods from magazines. The children then glued their cut out foods on their empty plate picture.
The children also experienced the challenge of opening up a coconut and seeing what was inside! Some of the children said they had never seen a whole coconut before and were intrigued. We were able to have a feel of the shell and hear the coconut water shake inside before it was cracked open. Every child got the opportunity to sample the coconut and some of us really enjoyed it that we asked for more!

Preschool Pride!

Early Childhood Teacher—Kindergarten Program—Carly Dooley

Pre School Assistant—Cintia Nunez

Welcome to the November and December issue of the Preschool Press. We have been very busy in the preschool room these past months. We started with a whole class discussion about the important people in our lives, and what we could do to show them how much we care. The children shared how we could "make them breakfast", "do a drawing for them", "be kind", "give lots of hugs and kisses" and "listen when they tell us something" (QKLG Communicating, develop skills for taking turns to talk and listen and engage in conversations). From this discussion we planned how we would celebrate Father's Day, we baked cookies, made a photo frame with icy pole sticks, and answered a Father's Day quiz, before hosting a sausage sizzle afternoon tea and inviting our special people into our classroom to experience an afternoon full of preschool activities.

As we welcomed Spring the Pre-schoolers have enjoyed lots of gardening. The children replanted our courtyard and elected to include a herb garden. We then planted a selection of beans which we cared for until we were able to cook, eat and enjoy them in a Mexican style dish.
Being responsive to the children's ideas and interests (EYLF Principles and Practices) in transportation our home corner was transformed into a boating dock, complete with a large inflatable boat. During our investigation (QKLG Active Learning, using ICT for research purposes) we discovered that there are many types of boats including fishing boats, cruise liners, speed boats, pirate ships and many more. The children sketched their own boats before creating them out of recycled milk bottles and art and craft supplies. In a large water trough, we followed the story line from "Who Sank the Boat" by Pamela Allen, the children placed plastic toy animals into their boat to see whose boat could hold the most amount of animals. During this experience we discussed how it is possible for boats to float after a child questioned "how come I sink in the water but big boats don't?".

Following the transportation theme, we have recently changed the home corner to a mechanics, we have spent the last week learning about licence plates, designing our dream car and holding a 'car wash' in our big yard where we cleaned all of the toy bikes, cars and trucks.

After a visit from a member of the wider Little Ducks community whom is both hearing and vision impaired the Pre-schoolers became very curious of the 5 senses. We tested our senses by blindfolding each other and exploring the playground, we tried to identify familiar scents in glass jars, we used out taste buds to explore savoury, sweet and sour flavours, and used our hearing to identify the sounds of the Little Ducks environment.

Moving forward, we are filled with mixed emotions as we start to prepare for our graduation ceremony and farewell our pre-schoolers as they move onto primary school. We have started our Christmas preparation and are looking forward to celebrating this festive season with our children and their families.



A huge thank you to Elders Paddington
for supporting our Borrowing Library.
Each month another instalment of books arrive at
Little Ducks Bardon, courtesy of these wonderful people. This month the children, Educators and Elders Real Estate have decided that we would like to help the orphans of the community of Koh Rundual in Cambodia by purchasing the coming years school books. We have made a wonderful connection to this community through friends— Sue and Daryl Lewis. The children are very excited to help these children, they have been learning about the differences between our community and theirs and very generously decided to give our books to someone less fortunate this month!



Elders Real Estate

paddington.eldersrealestate.com.au

Thank you Elders Paddington for supporting our community so generously.