

Little Ducks Childcare Wilston

November/December

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to our Final edition of our Newsletter for 2016! What a wonderful and memorable year it has been. As a team we recently reflected on the highlights of 2016 and I'd like to take this opportunity to share some with you.

Our highlights included, making new friends and getting to know new families, children and educators. Growing together as a team and building strong room teams by welcoming new educators. Growing professionally by attending inspiring professional development including training on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island perspectives, curriculum, and behaviour management systems. Many educators shared that they celebrated further studies or relished their first year as a graduate doing what they love. We also celebrated so many incursions and fun days together. Stand outs were the Ocean Life visit where we got to interact with ocean creatures and pirate day that turned into pirate week as learning opportunities and fun unfolded day after day related to pirates. Educators particularly noted that they enjoyed watching our smallest friends to grow and learn.



We will sadly say goodbye to our graduating preschool children at the end of the year. This is a time for celebration but will also be emotional as many of our preschool children have been here with us from the time they were very young. We wish all our departing families the very best of luck on their future learning journeys and look forward to updates about how they are going. We are always happy for a visit from previous families and their children. This is also the time of year when we start preparing children for their transition into a new class with new educators. Although we will all miss what is familiar and may be nervous about new beginnings this is an opportunity for growth, challenge and new adventures.

I would like to thank everyone for their hospitality over the past month as I have tried to fill Ata's very large shoes. It was wonderful meeting you all and your children and I wish you all the very best of luck into next year.

Bec

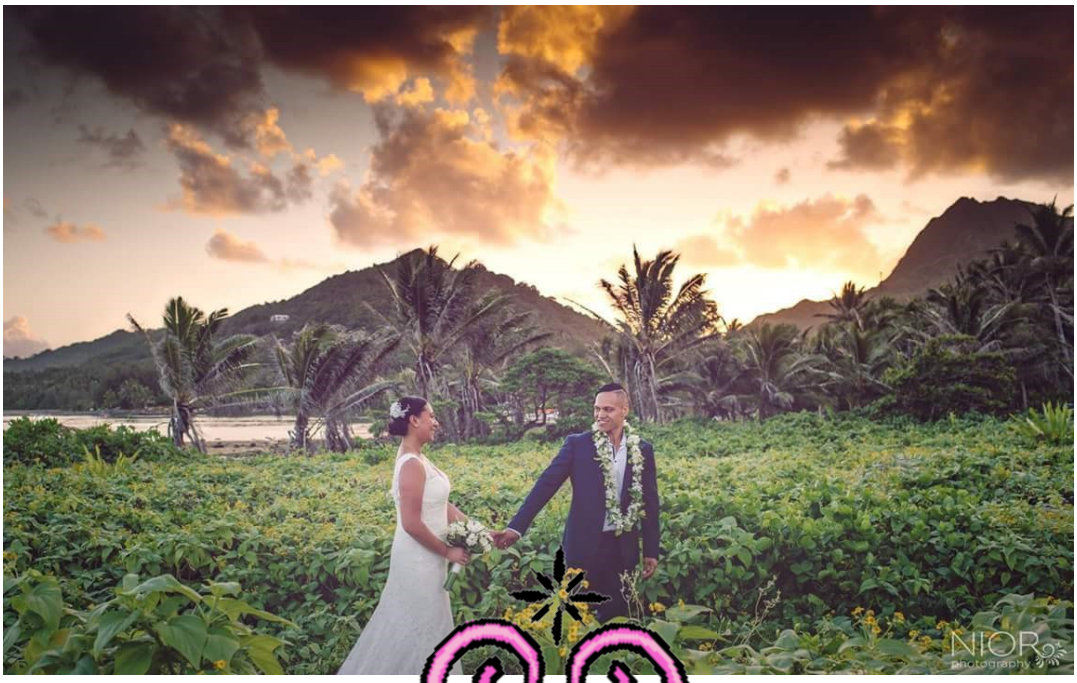
RATED EXCEEDING NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

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Congratulations Miss Ata on becoming Mrs Ata!!!





Upcoming Events!
...November and December...

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.





Friday 18th – **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!

Thursday 1st – **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

Centre Closed Until January 3rd 2017

A message from our Suitability officer:



Christmas is knocking at our door already, and I still can't believe how quickly this year has flown by. For our new families, my name is Miss Teagan and I am the Sustainability Officer here at Little Ducks Wilston.

Last newsletter I was pleased to announce the wonderful donation we received from Bunnings Stafford. These plants have been slowly and steadily growing in both our yards. The children have taken a huge part in caring for these plants taking turns to regularly water them, weeding the garden beds and taste testing to ensure productivity. As we have cared for the gardens the children have begun to gain a greater understanding of the part our worm farm plays in the care of the garden. As they take the time to feed and water our worms and then collect the 'tasty' worm tea to feed to the garden. This is a great way for the children to explore the relationships between land, people, plant, and animals and develop and awareness of human impact on these relationships.



On our continued sustainability journey, we have invited a landscaper from Bunnings Stafford to teach us how to better care for our vegetable garden. We hope to learn a great deal from the experience, like where is the best spot for our vegetables in the yards, how can we better care for our environment and what other vegetables would be a good addition to our growing garden. We hope to nurture a deeper appreciation and care for our natural and constructed environment.

We have also been in contact with a local construction company looking to reuse things like piping offcuts, pallets, wire spools etc., and upcycle these items into car tracks, walled gardens, and fairy garden seating. Experiences like these foster the children problem solving skills and help them understand how to reduce their ecological footprint in our use of natural and processed materials.

We hope that you have a fantastic end of year and look forward to continuing our sustainability journey with your families as individuals and as a community.



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.
- **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 access-** If you are still needing a security swipe or fobs 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 NOVEMBER and DECEMBER are:

- DEATH OF A CHILD POLICY
- INCLUSION POLICY
- RECORD KEEPING POLICY
- REST TIME POLICY

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTH–



- *Isobel P*
- *Alexander Y*
- *Olive S*
- *Georgia B*
- *Olivia H*
- *Archie R*
- *Aria R*
- *Maeve B*
- *Charlotte R*
- *George T*
- *Elliot P*
- *Violet A*
- *Jacob N*
- *Ella D*
- *Alice B*
- *Jamie G*

3 Ingredient Christmas Pudding

Ingredients:

1kg dried fruit with glace cherries

3 cups (750ml) chocolate milk

2 cups (300g) self-raising flour



Method:

1. Place dried fruit in a bowl and pour over chocolate milk. Cover with cling film and place in the refrigerator overnight.

2. Preheat oven to 180C (160C fan-forced). Line a 20cm round cake tin with baking paper and set aside. Sift self-raising flour over the soaked fruit and stir the mixture until combined.

3. Pour mixture into lined tin and place in the oven for 2 1/2 hours.

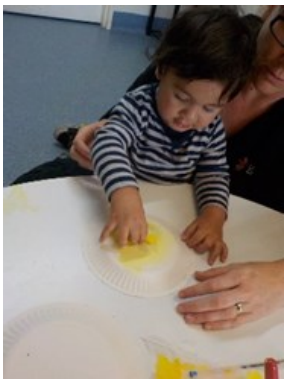
4. Check the oven each hour to make sure that the top isn't burning. If you think it will burn then make a cartouche (ring of baking paper) and place on top of the cake. Continue to cook until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

Nursery Natter!

This year has FLOWN by! We have learnt so much in such a short amount of time!



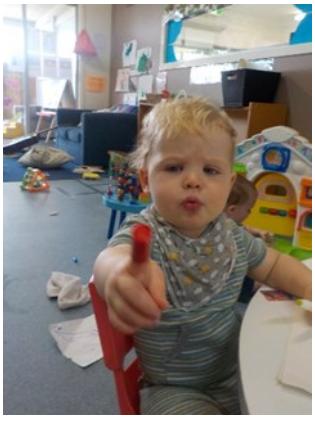
We have explored life under the see-through art, building our understandings of the natural environment and increasing our connection with the world. We had a blast with Australian stories on book week. We can now identify cows, chickens, sheep and pigs. Reading stories is a great way to build early literacy skills and develop our vocabulary. We have learnt lots of new songs and dances, as many of us have learnt so many new words! Our vocabulary has more than doubled since our last newsletter! It is a privilege to watch children becoming early users of communication and developing their vocabularies and oral language skills.



We have been exploring our identities through language, art styles, music and stories. We have learnt each others names and most of us can say 'Nat' and 'Jo' now! Learning each others names is a great way to build connections with each other and establish belonging in our class group.



As October draws to a close we are beginning to look at shapes again from a language and space perspective. We have been getting to know what it is to move in a circle or create a square with our bodies in space and pens on paper as well as our vocabulary. Some of us can already say 'Circle'. These early numeracy and literacy foundations will path the way to become users of literacy and numeracy in our toddler years and through into preschool.



Towards the end of the year we will be preparing for our move to the toddler room, some of us have started transitioning to mats for sleep time, most of us are sitting in chairs at the table, we have mostly moved to one sleep per day! We are learning self help skills and social skills such as handing out water bottles, calling each other by name, sharing our toys, working together to build with blocks, getting our own water, putting on our own sunscreen and much more! In such a small amount of time we have become confident walkers, climbers, artists, learners and friends. We can now feed ourselves, communicate and make decisions for our own wellbeing.

If you have the time, come and say hello to Cherie, Nabia and Jasmine who are our current toddler educators. They will be able to show you around the toddler room and explain the routines and processes used in the toddler room that may be new for some families. We are very proud of you all and both Miss Nat and Miss Jo will miss you dearly, however, we are greatly looking forward to seeing how you grow and watching the little people that you become.

All the best Nat and Johanna

Toddler Tales!

Kia Ora and welcome to the next edition of Toddler Tales

Firstly we welcome Cherie to the toddler room as the new lead educator, she is excited to be working alongside Nabia and Jasmine and getting to know the children and their families.

Over the month of October the education team in the toddler room have been focusing on ways to encourage social interactions in our room. We have been concentrating on the Early Years Learning Framework learning outcome 3: Wellbeing – Where children become strong in social and emotional wellbeing. We have been encouraging children co-operate and work collaboratively with others, develop co-operation skills and negotiate roles in play episodes, share and taking turns. Children assert their capabilities and independence while demonstrating increasing awareness of the needs and rights of others are some of the key learning outcomes.

This focus has stemmed from the children's interest in the wooden shop window with our wooden tills. The educators have been observing the children role-playing as the shop attendant or the customer. We noticed the children would pretend to offer money in exchange for items such as ice cream. Using their imagination the children created their own idea of the role that going shopping in their community plays in their lives.

The market has become a place where the children bring in their prior knowledge from home of shopping with mum or dad and recreate in the toddler room. The educators have recognized this interest and responded by building on the market concept. Creating more space for the role-play by adding shelving for stock, using recycled boxes (thank you to all the parent who supplied us with these recycled resources) and containers for items, signs for early literacy, shopping lists to read and match with food, money to develop mathematic concepts and bring to life the market experience for the children.

Children are natural storytellers and when offered a platform for this skill they are empowered to share their concepts, ideas and imagination with others. The Market supports the development of imagination through dramatic play, which helps link home life into the center.

The market role-play has morphed into a dramatic re-enactment of a much-loved story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. It began with reading the story during our morning group times then we introduced a cd recording of the story, so the children could listen to the words and use their whole body and their imagination to experience the bear hunt. The children created long wavy grass out of green streamers they also painted paper with brown "oozy mud" paint and used various other props to bring the story to life. This has been a great experience for the children having a shared interest as a group and develops those early literacy skills. We have been talking with our toddler parents and the bear hunt seems to be a huge hit at home and have asked parents to share with us what are some other favorite stories our toddler children love to read at home, So we can incorporate them into our day!

We celebrated World Food Day on October 14th, which is a day of action against hunger. The educators set up a play-dough experience to spark conversation with the children about food we like to eat. The children bought in a piece of fruit that day so we could create a delicious fruit salad and enjoy a shared afternoon tea with all of the children in the preschool yard. The toddlers were very excited about adventuring into the preschool room. This was a great opportunity for the toddler children to feel a sense of belonging within the Little Ducks community.

Toddler Tales!

With the warmer weather approaching we have been focusing on being sun smart. The children are becoming more aware of the importance of wearing our hats outside, helping the educators apply sunscreen to their skin, seeking out shaded area's to play in and remembering to drink lots of water from their water bottles so we stay healthy this summer. Encouraging the children to be aware of their one health and wellbeing allows them to become competent and confident learners.

We have been exploring and caring for our garden remembering to water the plants everyday so that they have plenty water to grow big and strong like us. The children were eager to harvest some of our existing herbs and plants in our garden and explore the smell and taste, some tasted much better than others. We planted some new plants in our garden this week – thyme, cos lettuce, lemon basil and parsley. While helping plant these news items in our garden we discovered a black beetle amongst the soil. We used a container to collect the beetle so we could all have a closer look, we noticed the beetle was black, we counted it's 6 legs and listened closely to the sound it was making. Ms Nabia found a little caterpillar on a leaf so we got the magnifying glasses to have a closer look at the little caterpillar moving on the leaf. We often spend our day observing the butterflies flying around our garden as we posed and investigation question – What else is living in our garden?

We hope you enjoyed reading… Cherie, Nabia and Jasmine









Junior Kindy Jumble!

Wow can you believe November is already upon us, what a fabulous year it has been. Over the last year we have gotten to know your families, building strong relationships with your children and yourselves. It will be sad to see them take the giant leap up into the Kindy room but we know they are all ready and excited for the move and the adventure ahead. Over the past two months we have learnt some amazing things about the pre-historic world in which dinosaurs live before starting our discovery of the world of science, and at the same continuing our learning of our natural environment.

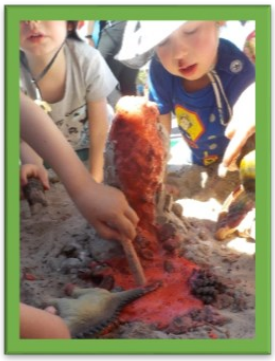
In the children's discovery of the remarkable world of Dinosaurs they have used their imagination exploring the world created for them in the room. Imagining themselves as the different dinosaurs playing alongside each other, creating a world of danger and venture in their minds. They have learnt about fossils, discovering how they are made, creating their own fossils and then becoming archaeologists and going on a dino dig in our sandpit. Learning the different dinosaur's names and making their own dinosaurs, naming them and learning and comparing about their differences in size, colour, eating habits, and habitat.

As the children went on this journey of discovery they connected to the world around them, using play to investigate and explore the prehistoric era and the living and non-living things that are a part of it. As the children learnt more about the prehistoric era they discovered the world as it was then, filled with a multitude of volcanoes. Extending on from the dinosaur environment, the children showed interest in volcanos. To create our real-life dinosaur's environment, we then explored science by creating our own Junior kindy volcano that erupted. This was such a fun experience for the children to learn, discover and investigate.

The children were fascinated by the chemical reaction in the volcano, wanting to explore it further this lead us on to our discovery of the world of science. The children used their investigation and hypothesising asking many questions like "what is that stuff coming out of the Volcano?" or "why is it so fizzy?". The children were amazed as they were introduced to the chemical reactions. We even got our kindy and preschool friends involved in this. The kindy and preschool friends could teach us in Junior kindy what a chemical reaction is and how a chemical reaction is formed.

Science was such a fun topic for our children as they learnt how a chemical reaction can be formed, how the stars in the sky form different shapes that guided our ships, how insects move around in their environment, and how the pressure of the air makes the disk hover over the floor. It was rewarding to see the children engage and becoming involved throughout these different topics of learning.







Junior Kindy Jumble!

Some of our favourite activities that we did to explore science was creating a volcanic eruption, fizzy fizzy paintings, blowing up a balloon without the use of our mouths, watching a rocket explode, making elephant toothpaste, hypothesising what floats and sinks and how a CD can hover along the floor. The children were introduced to a whole different world when learning about the different fields of science like chemistry, astronomy, biology, botany, aeronautics, and entomology. We can see the children becoming confident and involved students as they express wonder and interest in their own learning and of the world around them applying a variety of thinking strategies to each new activity, making connections between their different experiences and engage in learning relationships.

This brings us to our garden, that Bunnings Stafford so kindly donated to our team. The children were eager to see all the different plants that had been contributed to our centre, using their sense they smelt, felt, and tasted them. Throughout the following week, we planted them around our centre and have been watching them grow, comparing them to their counterparts and measuring their progress. The children have learnt that we can use our worm farm to help our plants grow, as well as how to protect them from the likes of birds, possums and humans. As they care for their plants each day they learn about their social responsibilities for our natural environment, and how we can respect it and care for it for the benefit of generations to come. Developing and understanding of we impact the environment and the interdependence of living things.

This is goodbye for the year but not forever we can't wait to begin our new journey and continue to watch and be amazed at the brilliant minds that are blossoming in front of our eyes.

Thankyou Teagan
and Mandy











Kindy Catch Up

Kindy catch up!

Oh my, can you believe how fast this year has flown by? It doesn't seem that long ago that we were welcoming you all into the Kindy room and now it is almost time for most of your children to move up into the pre-school room. Over the past two months we have been helping them prepare for this big step up.

Pre-school prep

Over the past few months we have been working closely with all the children to further develop their pencil grip, scissor skills as well as continue to build their knowledge on numeracy and literacy, which they have blown myself and Miss Sawsan away with their how much they know. We worked closely with the children to build their knowledge with not only the first letters of their names but all of them, as well as doing activities where they connect different letters of the alphabet to their friends and families. We have been practising our scissor skills and looking at different shapes at the same time, Miss Sawsan set up many cutting activities where the children were cutting out shapes and having conversations with them about what the different shapes were called. Numeracy has also been a big interest in our room and we have been using it throughout the day whenever we can especially during transition time when we would ask the children to stand in a line before going outside and they would call out what number they are in the line before going off to play.

Love of books

What started with the children asking to read the same books over and over lead to a very exciting experience for all the children involved when they became obsessed with a book called 'The gingerbread man' Which was also a very impressive moment in the Kindy room as it is quite a long book and we weren't entirely sure with how the children would sit through the book, but soon enough we were being asked to read it almost every day. Which quickly lead to the children asking to bake their very own gingerbread men which we did one Wednesday morning which proved to be a very popular activity and the children continued to talk about other things that we could make. This is where our fruit train song came into action, as the children call out to us what fruit gets turned into a smoothie/juice by a train. So we asked the children who would like to make some of our very own fruit smoothies which the majority of the children absolutely loved (and continued to go back for seconds and thirds). Another one of our books that the children took a very large interest in was The Very Hungry Caterpillar, this is where we began our interest in all things to do with butterflies and learnt all about the lifecycle of a butterfly where the children recreated the cycle through art, making eggs on leaves, cocoons, a caterpillar and of course a very large butterfly that they worked together over a couple of days to collage.

Kindy Catch Up!

Outdoor environment/physical activity

We have been spending more and more of our time in our outdoor environment enjoying lots of physical activities, the children have been mastering obstacle courses that we have set up for them as well as the monkey bars which many of the children can go across by themselves which they are all extremely proud of. The kindy class are continuously exploring their gross motor skills as they run, jump and climb different areas across the playground.

We would like to thank you all for a wonderful year, it has been great being able to watch your children grow and learn throughout their time with us here in the kindy room. We look forward to the last couple of months that we are with them before they move up to the preschool room.

Emma and Sawsan








Preschool Pride!

Hola, families!

What a busy few months we've had! I would like to say a HUGE thankyou to all of our wonderful families who have made Miss Shelley feel welcome into our wonderful Preschool room. We have also been joined by a new friend in our centre, welcome Paloma! We love having you in our class, and can't wait to get to know you better.
We have also been focusing on some maths work with the children, particularly numerals. This is done through enjoyable activities and games, getting the children to see the fun in learning! They are encouraged to write and recognise numerals on a daily basis, and we also practice our counting every day.

The children have guided us into the topic of transport, and what fun we had! This has stemmed from their interest in cars, and has taken us through roads, tunnels and Emergency Vehicles all the way through to planes and travelling.



We spent several weeks incorporating Pirate activities into our routine, which provided some really fun, enjoyable moments with the children! This started from Talk Like a Pirate Day, when the children dressed up and we had a day of Pirate fun. The children had some very interesting questions, such as how do you become a pirate? Why do they use treasure maps? We decided to take these questions and create a new learning topic. We spent the next few weeks making treasure maps, creating Pirates Cove, walking the plank and finding treasure!





A big interest in the Preschool room at the moment is Halloween! With Halloween just round the corner, we have been incorporating activities into our daily routine that relate to this special day. This is such a fun topic to experience with the children with their big imaginations! If you find that your child is excited about any new interests, let us know! We are always on the lookout for fresh, engaging topics that our children will love, and it's so much more special for the children when it comes straight from their interests!

We have been working with the children on their fine motor skills in preparation for writing. We have been offering activities each day to help improve these muscles, such as making orange juice, which focuses on squeezing all the juice from the fruit.

Preschool Pride!



We have also been talking to the children about their big move to Prep next year! There is an air of excitement in the room as children attend interviews, go to open days and meet their teachers. All the children are so excited, and we are taking the opportunity to discuss with the children anything they're unsure about, or nervous about. Soon, we will be partnering with a local Primary school, St Mary of the Cross, to help transition the children into Prep. St Mary's Prep children are going to be answering any questions our Pre-schooler's might have, or any concerns they have about Prep. Also coming up in November, we will be setting a date for all of our friends to come dressed in their Prep uniforms! This will be such an exciting day for us!

Our Graduation ceremony is quickly approaching, and we have been practicing our favourite songs in preparation! We can't wait to sing them all for you! It will be such a special day for all involved, to see our wonderful Preschool children saying goodbye to Little Ducks.

Finally, a HUGE congratulations are in order for the lovely Ata and her new husband David, who had the most beautiful wedding overseas. We can't wait to see the photos!

Miss Shelley, Miss Mel & Preschool



2016

in a snapshot!















