Little Ducks Childcare Bardon
January / February 2017

A note from your Centre Manager



Hello families!

Welcome to 2017! I love New Year, a time when the possibilities of the year stretch out before you and you can dream and plan for what you want the year to be. Having completed Assessment and Rating in 2016 we are really excited to move into 2017 with the confidence to grow and develop the centre.

Our educators at Little Ducks Bardon are our strength, we are lucky to have some very experienced educators. This year both our Preschool and Kindy rooms are being led by Bachelor trained teachers alongside Diploma trained educators , bringing some great knowledge and experience to the children and families. Our Preschool runs the Government Approved Kindergarten Program and for 2017 is a full class of Kindergarten aged children. The age group below (we call our Kindy room) this year enrolled only children who will attend school in 2019. WE think this will give these children an opportunity to build strong confident relationships and skills helping them to be confident and school ready.

Our other news for 2017 is the addition of some extra shade cover in the outdoor playground. The Centre is built with more than the amount of shade cover required but we recognised that extra shade would mean more opportunities for the children to access the outdoors and make the playground more comfortable and welcoming . While arrangements for permanent shade may take some time as alternatives are researched and approvals completed we have purchased two large commercial grade umbrellas which will soon be installed in the playground to provide flexible shade cover in our hot Queensland summer!

Looking forward to a great 2017,

Michele.

"Educational excellence through the power of play based learning"

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Upcoming Events!

...January...

Tuesday 3rd– **First day at little ducks for 2017**
Welcome back everyone!

Wednesday 27th -**Celebrating Australia Day**
Come along in your best Aussie outfit of green and gold and bring your favourite Aussie dish to share !

Thursday 26th– **Australia Day—Public Holiday**
Centre closed)

...February...

Monday 6th— **Waitangi Day** - Celebrating new Zealand's national day.

Monday 6th—**Chinese New Year**

Thursday 9th—**Crocodiles and Dragon show**—Children and Adults will love this reptile show starring "Gunarr" the saltwater crocodile and his assistant Brian "Furry" McLean.

Friday 10th—**Brazils Carnivale**

Tuesday 14th—**Valentines Day**

Monday 20th—**Love your pet day**—Leading up to this day we will be talking about our favourite pets

Tuesday 28th—**Shrove Tuesday**—known is some countries as Pancake Tuesday or Pancake Day. This is a day in preceding Ash Wednesday (the first Day of Lent) and in Australia we celebrate by consuming pancakes.

Reminders

- **1st Anniversary Market Stalls —** We are inviting local businesses, small businesses and community organisations to set up market stalls at our anniversary open day. If you or someone you know has a small business that would like to set up a stall please email bardon@littleducks.com.au

Policy Reviews

We value your input and feed-back 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 January & February are:

- Nutrition Policy
- Biting Management Policy and Procedure
- Harmful Plants Policy and Procedure
- Continuity of Care Policy
- Communication Policy—Educators and Families

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

January

Sebastian Cox , Mia Rybak,Leith Tempest, saxon West, Jack Lockart, Oscar fleming,

February

Archie Carniel, Josephine Miller, Alex Johnson, Hugo Spezza, Emily Soobratty, Eloise Millis



Recipe of the month ...

Cheesy Vegemite pull a parts

Ingredients

- 2 cups self-raising flour
- 30g butter, chilled, chopped
- 3/4 cup reduced-fat milk
- 1 tablespoon Vegemite
- 3/4 cup grated reduced-fat tasty cheese

Reduced-fat milk, to glaze

Method

Preheat oven to 220°C/200°C fan-forced. Line a baking tray with baking paper. Sift flour into a bowl. Using fingertips, rub butter into flour until mixture resembles bread-crumbs. Make a well in the centre. Add milk.

Using a flat-bladed knife, stir until mixture forms a soft dough, adding more milk if necessary.

Turn out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead gently until smooth (don't over-knead).

Roll out to a 30cm x 20cm rectangle. Spread Vegemite over dough, leaving a 1cm strip along 1 long side.

Sprinkle cheese over Vegemite. Roll up firmly.

Transfer to prepared tray, seam-side down.

Using scissors, cut into top of dough at 3cm inter vals without cutting all the way through.
Pull slices to the left and right. Brush with milk.
Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden. Serve.

Literacy Matters!

Real World Literacy Opportunities

Building the foundations of writing and reading starts from the moment children are born. Environmental print plays an important role in helping children make connections about the purpose of print and role writing and reading plays.

Reading

- Collect business cards from all the places you and your child visit and make a business card book
- Place letter magnets on the fridge at child height
- Make a book with the fronts of all your child's favourite packaged food boxes.

Writing

- Have a designated note book for your child to write their own shopping lists to take to the supermarket
- Help them write their name on birthday and Christmas cards
- Let them read their scribble writing stories to you and scribe their words.

Nursery Natter!

Lead Educator—Cass Elliott

Assistant Educator—Dani Norris

Welcome to the Nursery my name is Cass I am the lead educator in the nursery I have 6 years' experience in childcare I hold my Certificate III and I am currently studying my diploma. I have previously worked in Sydney and Darwin making my experience and knowledge very diverse. As an educator I am very nurturing and open wanting to build strong relationships with my families to make their child's first experiences at day-care as enjoyable as possible. This year in the nursery we will be working on building relationships when children feel safe and secure they become more independent and confident in their learning and play as they explore their environments they develop a range of skills and processes such problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating.

I believe education is a lifelong process and the building blocks of learning are developed in the early stages of life. I feel that early childhood educators have one of the most important jobs that exist because they are preparing children for the world of learning. The early years of learning can be very busy leading to learning all the time. Whilst teaching I work towards supporting all developmental domains including physical, social. Emotional, cognitive and communication. I strive to guide children into the next stages of development while providing a safe, positive, fun and nurturing environment.

Your child's time in the nursery will be spent being nurtured in way that supports their physical and emotional wellbeing. Children will be made to feel safe, secure and supported. The programming in the nursery is built off children's individual milestones and abilities this allows educators to build on their strengths as the ages and milestones in the nursery can vary. Parents are encouraged to join in on our programming process to allow us to follow on from children's interests from their time outside of the service. All of our programming and planning is displayed in the classroom this allows families to see what their child has been involved in throughout the day .



Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator—Tamasin Batten

Assistant Educator—Michelle Obst

Hello everyone. Welcome to 2017 in the Toddler room. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to you and provide you with some information about the Toddler room. We look forward to getting to know you and your child throughout the next few weeks.

My name is Tammie and I'll be the Lead Educator in the Toddler room this year. I started in 2016 in the Toddler room as the Lead Educator and have continued in this role this year. I have been working in childcare for 24 years and hold a Diploma in Children's Services. I have four grown up children of my own and recently became a first-time grandma which is very exciting. This will be a fun year as we build relationships and friendships with the children and families.

My name is Michelle and I will be an educator in the toddler room. I have been working at Little Ducks since March last year in Junior kindy. I currently hold my Certificate 3 in Children's services and hope to further my studies in the near future. I have always enjoyed working with younger children and am passionate about providing care for your child and assist with their development.

We will spend the first few months getting to know each other, settling in to the toddler room as we begin to establish relationships and a sense of belonging. To help with this we will focus on the children's interests and favourite experiences and activities. We will also be focusing on self-help skills such as washing our hands, putting away our belongings and helping to make our beds. Learning these skills will be ongoing as all children progress at a different pace.

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.



Junior Kindy Jumble!

Lead Educator—Jaimee Thompson

Assistant Educator—Jess Johnston

Hi everyone! Welcome to 2017 in the Junior Kindy room. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your Junior Kindy children throughout the next few weeks!

Hi, my name is Jaimee and I'll be the Lead Educator in Junior Kindy this year. I started 2016 in Junior Kindy as one of the Educators before moving to the position of Lead. I have been working in Childcare for nearly 20 years and have my Certificate III in Children's Services, and am studying my diploma. I also have two young daughters of my own aged 7 and 4. This will be an exciting and fun year as we build relationships and friendships with all the children and their families. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

My name is Jess and I will be an Educator in the Junior Kindy room. I started here at Little Ducks in the Nursery, before moving to the Junior Kindy room this past year. Previous to this I was a nanny looking after children aged between 1-4. I currently hold my Certificate III in Children's Services and hope to further my studies in the near future. I am very excited to get to know all the children and form a strong relationship with them and their families.

We will spend these first few months focusing on getting to know each other, settling into the Junior Kindy room, as we begin to establish trusting relationships and a sense of belonging. We often find these first few months when the weather is warm, is a great time to start toilet training. If you feel your child is ready, please let us know, as we'd love to help them achieve this. We will have parent information folder available on our lockers containing all your need to know information, such as what to bring, room routine, vaccine information, as well as ideas for healthy lunchboxes. We also love to hear from you, any special events, trips or what happened on the weekend, your input will help in the planning of our weekly program.



Kindy Catch Up!

Kindy Lead Educator— Alex Gayed
Kindy Lead Educator— Amanda Finch
Kindy Assistant Educator— Cintia Nunez

Welcome to a brand new year in the Kindy Room! We are looking forward a fun and memorable year ahead. Below you will find some information on the educators of the Kindy Room and a glimpse into the first few months of our program and planning.
My name is Alex and I will be your Lead Educator. I am very excited to have you all join myself, Amanda and Cintia in the Kindy Room, for what I am planning will be a fantastic year! This year we have some new faces, as well as some familiar faces. I have had the opportunity to meet all of the Junior Kindy children throughout the last year and I am looking forward to spending the next few weeks getting to know each child individually and the families. I am currently studying my Diploma of Early Childhood. Between my work in Early Childhood, and my previous studies of a Bachelor of Primary Education, I have over 5 years experience in the education industry. My goal in the Kindy Room is to work as a team with Amanda who has completed a Bachelor of Education and a Diploma of Children's Services and who has taught in England and Australia in the Early Childhood Industry and in the school setting. We will be assisted by Cintia. Cintia holds a Certificate 3 in Children's Services and is currently studying her Diploma. Cintia is a mum of 3 and has worked in the Early Childhood industry for 6 years.

During the coming weeks we will slowly transition the children into their new routine, ensuring that each child is provided with support to manage and respond to these changes. We will be paying close attention to each child's interests and skills in order to develop our weekly programme. In the coming months we will be focusing on building each child's self help skills as well as working on group and individual goals. We look forward to a great year ahead!



Preschool Pride!

Early Childhood Teacher (Govt Kindergarten Program) —Carly Dooley

Pre School Assistant—Melina McCormack

Welcome to the first edition of Preschool Pride for 2017! We are extremely excited to be welcoming many new children to the preschool room and many new families to the Little Ducks community. To ensure all children make a smooth transition into our room and become familiar and confident with the routine we will start our year with several 'get to know you activities' including songs, craft experiences and class team building exercises. We will establish classroom expectations and work individually with each child to develop a program that will enhance and extend on their current level of knowledge.

The Preschool program is run in accordance to meet the outcomes of the Queensland Kindergarten and Learning Guidelines. We often refer to the Principles and Practices of the Early Years Learning Framework, and use the National Quality Standards milestones to reflect on where are students are at, both developmentally and socially. Throughout the year we will focus on educating the children in several areas including; self-help skills, we will empower children to develop confidence and work individually on each child's fine and gross motor development. We will incorporate literacy and numeracy into our daily program through rhymes, songs, storytelling and by extending the children's play and interests.

Our routine is specifically designed to allow the children large times of uninterrupted play, both inside our classroom and our outdoor areas. We will plan stimulating and inviting play spaces and encourage each child to spend time interacting in all elements of our program. We welcome and encourage our families to be active in contributing to our program and welcome feedback both verbally or via email.

Meet the educators:

Miss Carly. Education-I completed a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) with distinction from Deakin University and am a registered teacher with the Queensland College of Teachers. This is my fourth year teaching and my second year teaching the kindergarten program at Little Ducks Bardon.

A little about me - I was born in Melbourne and moved to Brisbane in early 2015 after my husband received a promotion at work and we were relocated. Before I began working in the Education System I was a Function and Events manager at a popular wedding reception venue. I enjoy baking, musical theatre and spending my weekends exploring the beautiful city of Brisbane.



Sustainability Corner



Plant a Tree or Herb Garden

A lot of families don't have a lot of space for a full garden, or are overwhelmed by the thought of starting one without much experience. Something most families can do is plant a fruit tree in their yard. While it may not produce fruit the first year, it will eventually. It's a great lesson for kids to see how food is truly grown, and to be able to walk out your door and pick an apple is a fun experience for kids! You can also plant a small herb garden with very little effort. It can even be grown in a pot and kept on a front porch or windowsill. Then when it's time to cook, have your child pick the herbs you need and they can see them go right into their meal!

Go on a Hike or Nature Walk

Teaching your children about the sanctity of the earth can be simple as walking out your front door and exploring your community. Start by sitting down together and making a list of native plants and animals. On your walk, you can look for them and have a fun way to document them. Depending upon your child's age, you can have them check them off a list, take a picture for a digital scrapbook or even draw a picture of the plant or animal when they locate it. When they understand their environment, they are more likely to appreciate and respect it.

Collect Toys and Clothes to Donate

While one of the "3 Rs" is reuse, we live in a throw away society. Teaching your kids that not everything has to be purchased new and thrown away at the slightest sign of wear and tear is a great lesson in sustainability. We like to have our girls choose toys to donate (because we have far too many of them at all times) and hand their clothes down to other little girls in need. We also like to have them pick out second hand items for themselves so that they can appreciate that purchasing something second-hand is more sustainable that purchasing something new.

Other News!!

Little Ducks Bardon – office space available

Our centre also incorporates great office spaces to house child related services (i.e. speech pathologist) for Little Ducks parents and the local community. We currently have some availability for more tenants. If you, or you know someone, which has a business that may fit in well with us please don't hesitate to contact our office for more information on 3251 6060.





