

Little Ducks Childcare Wilston

January/February

A note from your Centre Manager

For those who are new to the centre. I have recently taken over as Centre Manager at Wilston at the beginning of this year. Last year I worked as Assistant Manager and Educational Leader at Bardon Little Ducks and am very excited to have been promoted within such a wonderful and supportive company.

My previous childcare experience ranges from babies to Preschoolers over the past 10 years. Since completing my Bachelor of Education at QUT in 2009 I have been employed as the Early Childhood Teacher running the kindergarten program in Preschool rooms at 2 other centres. I also spent time as the Director and Teacher in a sessional community kindergarten affiliated with Lady Gowrie. I love the Early Childhood Industry and am excited to have an impact at this centre and build a strong community together. I spend my weekends with my partner Peter and his 3 beautiful daughters Elaynah (10), Georgia (9) and Olivia (7). We enjoy eating out at restaurants, going for adventures including camping, fishing, dirt bike riding, as well as reading and watching movies together.

Our new team are in their new classrooms and most children have transitioned to their new rooms by now.
We welcome Miss Tahnee to the team as the second Lead Educator alongside Miss Mel and Miss Sawsan in the Kindy room. At the end of January we will welcome Miss Joanne to the toddler room as the second Lead Educator working alongside Miss Nabia and Miss Kerri. Miss Joanne is currently enjoying time overseas visiting with her daughters and will return at the end of January. We also welcome Miss Juanita (one of our casual educators) into a permanent position as Centre Float. Many of you will be very excited to welcome back Miss Vicki in February after returning from Maternity Leave. We are very lucky to have 2 bachelor trained teachers working in the Preschool room this year. Miss Vicki will work 3 days a week whilst her son Vincent is in the Nursery here at Wilston also.

Thankyou for the warm welcome and great start to 2017 and I look forward to building strong relationships with your all throughout my time here at Wilston Little Ducks.

Rebecca

RATED EXCEEDING NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

169 Newmarket Road
Wilston QLD 4051
Phone (07) 3356 8100
Fax (07) 3356 8400

Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

wilston@littleducks.com.au

Upcoming Events!
...January and February...

January

Sunday 1st - **New Year's Day Monday 2nd** – New Year's Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Tuesday 3rd -**First day at Little Ducks for 2016** Welcome back everyone!

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

Thursday 26th - **Australia Day** PUBLIC HOLIDAY

February

Monday 6th – **Waitangi Day** Celebrating New Zealand's National Day.

Wednesday 8th – **Croc and Dragon Show** at 10am Join us as we learn about Gunnar the saltwater croc and his assistant Brian "furry" McLean.

Monday 12th –**Chinese New Year Chinese New Year's Day** is the first day of the Chinese lunar calendar. 2017 is The Year of the Rooster!

Friday 12th – **Brazil's Carnival** Celebrate by dressing up in your most dazzling, sparkly Carnival Costume for a day of fun and dancing!

Tuesday 14th - **Valentine's Day** Throughout the week leading up to Valentine's Day we will be talking about and celebrating the people that we love.

Monday 20th – **Love your pet day** Leading up to this day we will be talking about our favourite pets. Got a friendly pet at home? Feel free to bring along pictures to share!

Tuesday 28th – **Shrove Tuesday** Shrove Tuesday (known in some countries as Pancake Tuesday or Pancake day) is a day in February or March preceding Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), and in Australia we celebrate by consuming pancakes! Join us for a special Pancake morning tea!

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 need a security swipe or fobs to get into the Centre please see Bec 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 January and February are:

* Child protection policy and procedure
* Critical incident policy
* Emergency evacuation policy
* Emergency lockdown/ evacuation alert procedure
* Staffing and supervision policy
* Feeding policy—infants
* Maintenance policy
* Maintenance and care of equipment and physical environment policy
* Natural disaster/sever storm policy
* Occupational health and safety policy
* Smoking, alcohol and drugs policy

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- *Dylan*
- *Sienna*
- *Lucia*
- *Felix*
- *Elsie*
- *Willow*
- *Hugo*
- *Finn*
- *Henry*
- *James*
- *Jack*
- *Archer*
- *Archie*
- *Leo*
- *Torben*
- *Eloise*
- *Lachlan*
- *Dylan*

Lamb meatball and yoghurt pita pockets

Ingredients



400g lamb mince
1 brown onion, grated
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground cumin
2 tablespoons dried breadcrumbs
2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves
200g Farmers Union Greek Style Yogurt
4 wholemeal pita pockets, halved crossways
180g mixed salad leaves

Method:

Step 1

Preheat oven to 200C/180C fan-forced. Line a baking tray with baking paper.

Step 2

Combine mince, onion, cinnamon, cumin, breadcrumbs and parsley in a large bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Using 1 level tablespoon at a time, shape mixture into balls. Place on prepared tray.

Step 3

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until cooked through. Cool completely.

Step 4

Store meatballs in an airtight container in the fridge until needed.

Step 5

To transport pita pockets: Split pita pockets in half. Fill with meatballs, lettuce and yoghurt. Wrap in plastic wrap. Place in an insulated lunch bag with an ice brick.

Nursery Natter!

Lead Educator: **Natalie Mengel**
Lead Educator: **Emma Willemsie**

Welcome to all our wonderful new nursery families to our first newsletter for the year, we look forward to working closely with you over the next few months to make the transition from home to care as easy, comfortable and happy as possible, over this year we are looking forward to working together to set new goals for each of your children and sharing in the mile stones and skills your children will be gaining.

An introduction to your educators

Emma:
Hello my name is Emma, and I am one of the two lead educators in the Nursery room this year. I have been working in the child care industry for the past six years, this will be my first year in a nursery room and am really looking forward to the challenge of working in the younger age group and developing new skills. I am currently studying my diploma, and I look forward to creating a personal bond with all the children and families throughout the year and sharing in all their development with you.

Nat:
Hello Families! It's finally here! I am so excited to be getting to know you all a little better and learning what interests and strengths you children have. We are just about finished the first step for most of you and I look forward to the many more we will be taking together!
I have completed my Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care and have been working with under twos for three years, one year being here at Little Ducks! The foundation years of education are where my passions lie, children at this age absolutely amaze me in everything they learn and do.

As we move down this path together, I would like to leave you with an open invitation to our room, anytime you wish to drop by and see how things are going, discuss your child's care and education or simply bring some family down for a play, we are here. Emma and I will work very closely with you as we understand and very much respect the admirable job you do to raise them and wish only to be a part of extending that through our teaching and care.
Just a reminder to sign in bottles upon arrival, I know the first few weeks are a bit stressful and things get forgotten, but Emma and I will do our best to remind you J
Please feel free to ask any and all questions we are here to support each other!

Nat and Emma







Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator: **Nabia Songco**
Lead Educator: **Joanne Emerson**
Educator: **Kerri-Anne Hogan**

Happy New Year and Welcome Toddlers and Families to 2017! WE hope that you had an amazing Christmas and New Year. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to Little Ducks and we hope that you are ready for an exciting fun filled year.

My name is Nabia and I will be leading the room with Joanne who have years of experience in childcare. Also, with us is Kerri who has 11 years of experience and has spent an enormous time with the children from the nursery last year, so, the transition of the children will be easier.

To begin the year, the children have taken an interest in our home corner, where we have been pretending to cook just like our mum and dad at home. We also enjoy the social interactions during our pretend tea parties. The children were also busy challenging their sensory motor skills through ball drop manipulation and button sorting while making friends and practicing their sharing and turn taking skills. The children were also beginning to explore their communication skills saying “ta or thank you” and “please”, which we will continue to use in our daily activities.

Over the next few months we will focus on getting to know you and your children and helping the children settle in their new learning environment and routine. We will explore further the interest of the children and use this interest to settle the children into the room and new routine.

We know that it is quiet challenging for new families and children to settle in to a new environment and we are here to help you. We will focus on building respectful and trusting relationship with the children and their families through exploring the children’s interest and collaborating with families. Please remember that it is very important to label all your children’s belongings such as bag, bed sheets, clothing, footwear, bottle/drink bottle, hat, lunch box, food containers and etc.

We all look forward to starting this journey with you and your child and please do not hesitate to ask us if you have any questions at any time.



Nabia, Joanne and Kerri







Junior Kindy Jumble!

Lead Educator: **Mandy Hall**
Educator: **Jasmine Reed**



Welcome to the class of Junior Kindy Lead by Miss Mandy and Miss Jasmine. Miss Jasmine is currently furthering her childcare studies and I (Mandy) have completed the diploma in children's services. As a team, we hope to achieve a high standard of teaching to offer the children the learning they need here at Little Ducks.



It's understandable that this time of the year can be an emotional time, Jasmine and I are both here to offer you the support needed. We hope to create an environment that will help the children settle into the room smoothly and with ease. I have experience as a Junior Kindy Group leader and Jasmine has had the opportunity to teach in the Toddler room, which will help the children transition into the room comfortably.

Over the next 2 months we will be taking this time to interact and build relationships with the children. We hope to create a safe learning environment in the room that will enable the children to share positive interactions. We plan to help your children develop a strong sense of identity by comforting them and supporting their routines and transitions. We will be initiating interactions with them and guide them as they explore the room and engage with us and the other children.

As we become comfortable into our routine and transitions, we hope to allow the children to have the opportunity to use the toilet facilities. This will allow for children to start being more independent and aware of their surroundings.

If you have any contribution to your child's development that you would like us to work on throughout the year, please let me or Miss Jasmine know so that we can provide your child with the learning that they need.

Please remember that it is important to label all of your child's belongings including food containers, bottles, drink bottles, clothing etc.



We hope that you all settle into the Junior Kindy room comfortably and wish for a fantastic year full of fun and learning.

Looking forward to getting to know you.

Mandy and Jasmine

Kindy Catch Up

Lead Educator: **Melissa Simpson**
Lead Educator: **Tahnee Hatfield**
Educator: **Sawsan Al-Takarly**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all families retuning from holidays and new families just beginning their journey here with us at Little ducks Wilston. Happy New Year to all our Kindy families. We do hope your Christmas and extended holiday was spent making many happy memories with your loved ones. We are pleased to welcome all new and existing families into our Kindy room and really looking forward to getting to know all about each of the children and share in their early childhood education.

Within our studio all children, parents, guardians and families will be greeted warmly and friendships are encouraged to grow. We will provide two age appropriate programs where the children learn through play based experiences at an individual pace.

We will provide programs with experiences, materials and mediums that are concrete, real and meaningful to help each child to develop socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively and allow outlets for imagination and creativity to grow.

We look forward to providing evidence of your child's learning journey through programming, images, and learning stories all available to view at any time in your child's personal portfolio. Making it possible for families to witness firsthand how important the first five years of learning and developing really is. It is very special to families and it brings a warm feeling to us as educators to be able to share with you your child's learning journey as they actively learn and grow.

Introducing ourselves as your Kindy educators for 2017 is:

Miss Melissa: For the past 4 and half years I have had the pleasure of working together with the Little Ducks team here at Wilston, gaining valuable experience with Nursery, Junior Kindy and most recently with the Preschool children, where I have formed some lasting partnerships with families. I am currently undertaking study to further my knowledge and skills in Diploma of Early Childhood Education and aspire to complete this with in the year. I'm also a full-time Mummy to three beautiful children, who keep me young outside of work. Being a Mum has also given me the key skills to be a more understanding, nurturing and caring educator. My belief is children learn and develop to their full potential in an environment that is built on catering to each child's individual needs and incorporating parts of children's cultural backgrounds and beliefs to give a more homely and secure environment. I believe my job extends beyond my description as a Child care professional by conveying a sense of nurture and protection within their surroundings. I'm extremely excited to see where our learning journey takes us and look forward to working with each of the children and building some great partnerships with families. Until next time, please don't hesitate to approach me to have a chat or discuss any concerns you might have to help your child get the most out of learning journey here at Little Ducks.

Kindy Catch Up!

Miss Tahnee: I am new to our centre and excited to build partnerships with your family and the local community. I have been working within the sector for the last 7.5 years. I have completed my certificate III in children's services and Diploma of early childhood education and care. I believe in providing love, guidance, support, engagement and nurturing the wellbeing of young children. I am a believer that a child's early life should be for fun, laughter, exploring and learning. I also believe that we as educators play a valuable role in your child's growth and development and I am committed to providing a high quality of care for all children within care treating all children as individuals. All children in my care are treated with respect and dignity. My pedagogy is guided by the Early years learning framework and practices within the national quality standards. I believe children learn through play based experiences therefore programs according alongside the children's interests, culture and beliefs. I have a little boy aged 7 and another little bundle of joy due in May. I am hoping to create some wonderful lasting memories with the beautiful Kindy children of 2017.

Miss Sawsan:

My name is Sawsan(Susan) Al-Takarly and I am your assistant educator for 2017. This is my sixth year working in childcare at Little Ducks (two years in Junior Kindy and three in the Kindy room) and tenth in the education sector in general. My background is in chemical engineering and I also have Graduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching and a Cert III in Children Services. I am married with two adult children and two beautiful grandchildren. My son is a scientist and my daughter is a pharmacist and they both work at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. Education is and has always been a very important aspect of my life. I believe that every child is unique in terms of life experience and cultural heritage that is why educators have the most important jo in shaping children's lives by passing on values and beliefs. My hobbies are reading, swimming and watching movies. I am fluent in three languages: English, French and Arabic. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Looking forward to getting to know you all better
Tahnee, Melissa and Sawsan











Preschool Pride!

Early Childhood Teacher: **Cherie Samson**
Early Childhood Teacher: **Vicki Anderson**
Educator: **Juanita Adams**

Kia Ora and welcome to 2017 – we hope you had a great Christmas and a happy New Year and that you are all ready for a fun filled year in the preschool room.

Firstly I would like to introduce myself, my name is Miss Cherie, I am from New Zealand and have recently moved to sunny Brisbane. I began teaching at Little Ducks Wilston last year in the Toddler room and am excited to be teaching in the pre-school room. I enjoy working alongside children observing their curiosity and creativity unfold as they learn about the world around them. I aspire to create meaningful learning environment for all children as well as build strong reciprocal relationships with children and their families. in I will be co-teacher in the preschool room with Miss Vicki, who will be returning to Little Ducks mid February teaching with me Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. Kicking off her fifth year in the Preschool room this year, Vicki has big plans for the Preschool children and is excited to return to Little Ducks!

Vicki is a qualified Primary School teacher with a Diploma of Children's Services. She returns to us after leaving in August 2016 to have her beautiful baby boy Vincent. Vincent will be attending Little Ducks on the days Vicki is here in 2017.

Miss Juanita who is one of our outstanding casual educators will be joining me in the Preschool room on Thursdays and Fridays. You will also see her floating around the center throughout the week. We are all very excited to be working together in 2017 to create a fun learning program for our preschool children.





Preschool Pride!

Children have been beginning the year exploring the new preschool room, learning to respect their new environment, their friends and teachers. We will be focusing on building these relationships and connections to the room and each other by asking families the fill out their 'All about me' books at home with their child and bringing it into the preschool room to make a book. This is a great chance for your child to gain a sense of belonging in their room and also an opportunity for parents and children to collaborate on their child's aspirations for the year. This is also a perfect time for all the children to learn about our daily routine, our mat manners and our room values.

We are all excited about building strong relationships with the children and their families and we always welcome parent contributions to our program so please check out our learning journey/parent area for all our exciting learning and please add your exciting stories from your weekends and holidays into your children's portfolio books, they are there for the children and parents to enjoy.

From your Pre-school teachers
Cherie, Vicki and Juanita







Separation Anxiety

How to have a calm and collected day at Little Ducks.

Separation anxiety in children is when children fear being parted from their parents or carers. It's common and normal among babies and toddlers. A few preschoolers and school-age children develop a more serious form of the condition, called separation

What is separation anxiety in children?

Separation anxiety is the common and normal fear that children have of being away from their parents or carers.

Separation anxiety can start at around 9 months and reach its peak in babies aged 14-18 months. It usually goes away gradually throughout early childhood.

Stranger anxiety is similar to separation anxiety. It's when children get upset around people they don't know. It can happen from 7-10 months and usually starts to go away after the child's first birthday.

These anxieties are **a normal part of development** and are nothing to be concerned about. Children are starting to move around more at this stage, so these anxieties make sense from a survival point of view. That is, if children could crawl or walk away from their carers but weren't afraid of separation or strangers, they'd get lost more easily.

Helping children with separation anxiety

If your child is suffering from separation anxiety, there are lots of things you can do to help her.

In new places

- If you're leaving your child in a new setting – child care centre, preschool, friend's house, babysitter – spend time at the new place with your child before the separation. Your child will be less distressed if he's left in a safe, familiar place with familiar people he trusts.
- Let your child take something she loves from home, like a teddy bear, pillow or blanket. These objects will help your child feel safer, and you can gradually phase them out as she feels more settled in the new place.
- Tell your child's child care centre, preschool or school about his separation anxiety, and let them know about anything you're doing to help your child. This way, other people in your child's environment can give him consistent support.
- Gently encourage your child to separate from you by giving her practice. It's important to give her positive experiences of separations and reunions. Avoiding separations from your child can make the problem worse.

Separation Anxiety

How to have a calm and collected day at Little Ducks.

When you're leaving your child

- Tell your child when you're leaving and when you'll be back. This is helpful even with babies. Sneaking out without saying goodbye can make things worse. Your child might feel confused or upset when he realises you're not around and might be harder to settle the next time you leave him.
- Settle your child in an enjoyable activity before you leave.
- Say goodbye to your child briefly – don't drag it out.
- Keep a relaxed and happy look on your face when you're leaving. If you seem worried or sad, your child might think the place isn't safe and can get upset too.

At home

- No matter how frustrated you feel, avoid criticising or being negative about your child's difficulty with separation. For example, avoid saying things like 'She's such a mummy's girl' or 'Don't be such a baby'.
- Read books or make up stories with your child about separation fears – for example, 'Once upon a time, there was a little bunny who didn't want to leave his mummy in the hutch. He was afraid of what he might find outside …'. This might help your child feel he's not alone in being afraid of separating from his parents.
- Make a conscious effort to foster your child's self-esteem by complimenting her and giving her lots of positive attention.

Courtesy of Raising Children
http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/separation_anxiety.html