# Little Ducks Childcare Bardon Mar/Apr

## A note from your Centre Manager



*I love this time of year, the intense heat of summer is going, the days are still long but getting more comfortable.*

*We have been busy over the past few months developing our physical development program. The program has been based around information in the Queensland Governments, National Sport and Wildlife Departments "Let's get Moving guidelines". It has now been formalized into 6 modules covering, various skills. These modules are rotated over a 6 month period.. We are expanding this program ta second day and later in the year will swap the days so all children have been able to access the program. See Melina's Move and Grove news for more information.*

*We have also been busy in the last few weeks reviewing our Centre Philosophy. Our educators have spent some time discussing and reviewing what we think we do well, what we can improve on and what is most important to us. We now what some input from you, our families! Be on the look out for a display in the foyer where we would like you to vote on what we think is most important to you at Little Ducks Bardon. We value your input so look forward to what you have to tell us. We will then also take the vote to the children using this information to rewrite our Centre Philosophy.*

*Also we have reflected on our programming—documentation of our children's learning. Through this process we have realized that a stronger focus on children's individual learning is important, this has meant that our focus has moved from our day story to a focus on each individual child and their development, what interests them and their individual learning journey. The result is most rooms are no longer displaying a "day story" this information is already displayed on the program document (or the white boards in the case of the Kindy and Preschool rooms). Displayed stories are now a more detailed version of a particular part of the children's learning, a project they may be involved in as a group or a special event . Be sure to check your child's learning journals regularly for observations and documentation on your child's individual learning.*
*Michele*

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# Upcoming Events!

## ....March...

Friday 3rd – **Holi show**! - Roushini (a cultural collaborator & professional artist) will be teaching us about a Hindu spring festival which is also known as the festival of colours or the festival of sharing love.




Friday17th - **St Patrick's Day Celebrations!**




Tuesday 21st - **Harmony Day** -This is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Dress in orange to support this wonderful day.

## ...April...

Friday 7th - **World Health Day**—Celebrate your healthy mind, body and spirit and learn all about how to keep ourselves healthy.

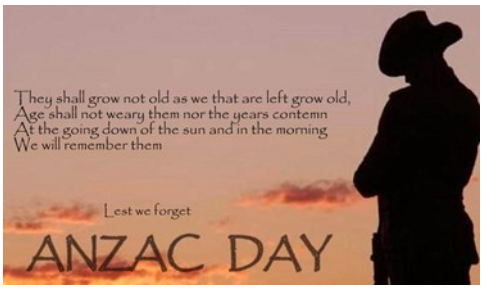
Thursday 14th - **Easter Bonnet Parade**—The children will be making their very own special Easter bonnets throughout the week. Come along to watch our Easter bonnet Parade @ 3.30pm.




April 14th - **Good Friday**- PUBLIC HOLIDAY—centre closed

April 17th - **Easter Monday**—PUBLIC HOLIDAY-centre closed

Tuesday 25th - **ANZAC Day**—PUBLIC HOLIDAY-centre closed—Leading up to this day, we will pay our respect to the diggers.



# Reminders

- With a few public holidays coming up in April it is a timely reminder that all child absences are required to be signed for on the sign in/out sheets in the children's rooms. This is to give us permission to claim and CCB or CCR entitlements on your behalf. These sheets can be audited and no signature may mean your entitlements are questioned.

- These sheets are also part of our security and accounting processes and are matched to a second role held in the office and to our accounting software. It is therefore important that you remember to sign in and out each day.

# 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 March and April are:**

- * Anaphylaxis
- * Collection and delivery of children
- * Custody and access to children
- * Food safety supervisor
- * Fatigue
- * Grievance procedure—Educators and staff
- * Grievance Procedure—Families
- * Grievance Procedure—Children
- * Immunisation—Families
- * Immunisation—Educators and staff

# Centre Birthdays!

## *HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:*

March—Sophie, C, Hugo P, Sienna, Otis, Hugh R, Mya and William

April—Frankie, Hugo R, Sonny, Harrison K, Isabelle, Linus, Charlotte P, Henry, Angus, Frankie and Sofia.



# Recipe of the month ...

## Chicken Broccoli and Pesto pasta

Ingredients:

- Bunch broccoli (chopped)
- 6 1⁄2 Cup cold water
- 2 Cup penne (uncooked)
--300 Gram cooked deli roast chicken (shredded)
- 40 Gram  shaved parmesan
- 1 Tablespoon  garlic infused olive oil (optional)
- 2 Tablespoon  pine nuts
- 250 Gram cherry tomatoes (halved)
- 150 Gram pesto

1 Place broccoli and 2 cups of water and cook until tender. Once cooked leave to stand for 2 minutes, then drain and set aside.
2 Cook the Penne in water until al dente, then drain.
3 Combine the cooked pasta and all other remaining ingredients with the cooked broccoli and mix well to combine.

Each serve of this recipe provides:
2.5 serves of vegetables
0.25 serves of milk/yoghurt/cheese
1 serve of lean meat/alternative
2 serves of grain foods

Great leftovers for lunch boxes!
Try wholemeal pasta for extra goodness!

www.nutritionaustralia.org

# Literacy Matters!

### Literacy and numeracy from birth

While our focus on literacy and numeracy will often be stronger in the preschool years it is important to remember that literacy and numeracy learning begin from birth. Although it may not look much like the literacy and numeracy work we engage in with older children, these interactions provide the foundation for children's later learning. The use of language in all its forms is vital for literacy development.

Singing, talking and reading with babies and toddlers, as well as older children, is crucial. The more children hear language used, and the more opportunities they have to use it themselves, the more they learn about how it works. When the time comes for written literacy this understanding of oral or spoken language is invaluable. For infants and babies, nursery rhymes, songs, picture books and to-and-fro conversations are all good examples of 'literacy experiences'. Cumulatively, such experiences add up to something significant. When they become part of everyday, and when we realise the potential as learning experiences they form a crucial basis for later learning.

# Nursery Natter!

**Lead Educator— Letitia Olsen**

**Assistant Educator—Kasia Grabarczuk**

Hi, my name is Letitia Olsen and I'd like to officially introduce myself as the Lead Educator of the nursery. I am very excited to be working alongside Kasia to support your child in their learning journey.

My child care career started in 2012 in my home town of Toowoomba. I was offered a full time position at a child care centre in Toowoomba after studying my certificate III in children's services during school. Soon after completing my certificate III I decided to study further and work towards gaining my Diploma in children's services. Halfway through studying my Diploma I was offered a Lead Educator position in a Toddler room at the same centre in Toowoomba. I later moved to Mackay with my older sister to seek new experiences both personally and professionally. I was very lucky to gain a Lead Educator position in a Nursery in Mackay. While undertaking this role, I found my passion for educating nursery aged children and decided that I would love to continue in this age group working in Brisbane.

Being a child care educator is more than a job to me, it is a very special and rewarding role where I can support children in my care to grow and learn. The nursery is where children first learn to trust the world around them; therefore we aim to provide children with the upmost care. Everything I do as an educator has a reason and purpose. I provide children with opportunities to practice skills and achieve milestones through supporting them in every way possible. Activities and experiences offered to your child are based on their interests and your family input. I am constantly looking for opportunities to extend and support your child further in their learning.

I am most looking forward to building a trusting and strong relationship with you as parents and your children in order to support your child to grow and learn while in our care. We are planning to spend some time getting to know each other building a sense of belonging by observing the children's personalities, interests and strengths and building on these strengths through fun and playful experiences that encourages the children's sense of wellbeing. These experiences will be documented on our program and recorded in the children's individual learning journals which we love to share with parents and children to consolidate the children's learning and create a partnership between children, families and educators to grow our beautiful young people.





# Toddler Tales!

**Lead Educator—Tamasin Batten**

**Assistant Educator—Michelle Obst**

Hello from the Toddler room. We have welcomed our new friends Sonny and George to the Toddler room in the past month and look forward to seeing them learn and grow. We have welcomed summer and have had a great deal of hot weather to start the year with lots of water play activities to cool us down. We love water play and have lots of fun not realising we are learning so much from this play - curiosity, Investigation, exploration and participation are all part of the fun and help us to become confident and involved learners.

During February we have been focusing on identity as the Toddlers learn body parts and engage in role play activities such as dressing up in costumes, hats and bags and looking at their physical identity while looking in the mirror and taking in the reactions of the other children and the educators. The children love to see how a hat changes their appearance and have been exploring and engaging with their peers which builds confidence and leads to the skills to be able to express feelings and ideas.

We have also looked at the beach and sea creatures which was the result of parent feedback when we asked what the children do on the weekend. We read many stories about the beach and investigated what animals live in the sea and then created art pieces related to the ocean and sea life which develop the children's creativity and imagination and in particular language skills as the children hear new words that which eventually will become their vocabulary.

Our Toddlers are becoming very independent and we are using this willingness to "do it myself" to develop their self-help skills. This is an ongoing process as they learn to wash and dry their own hands (with help and supervision), recognise and collect their own drink bottle and other belongings. Some children are beginning to show an interest in toilet training. These skills will enable the Toddlers to develop a strong sense of wellbeing as they grow.

We hope you are enjoying your child's learning journey to the Toddler Room and please don't hesitate to speak to either myself or Michelle if you have any questions or queries .

We love your parent input which helps us to form a partnership between the home and the centre, building a sense of community and helping the children to feel settled and part of that community.





# Junior Kindy Jumble!

## Lead Educator—Jaimee Thompson

## Lead Educator—Peter Kelly

## Assistant Educator—Jess Johnston

It has been wonderful to see all the Junior Kindy children settle so well into the bigger room. They have been very busy exploring their new learning environment while making new friendships, and bonds with their educators, including Mr Peter whom we have welcomed to our room. As a way of getting to know our children and families, we asked parents for their input on the family's cultural backgrounds. We have such a wonderful multicultural community here. As we learnt to sing 'Twinkle Twinkle' in Italian, had a go at doing some Irish dancing, played Japanese instruments and pretended to make our own sushi, the children were exploring the diversity of culture, heritage, background and traditions.

We had much excitement as the Crocodile, Lizard and Dragon show came to visit. As the children listened and touched the different animals, including a blue tongue lizard, frog, snake and even a crocodile, the children are developing an understanding and respect for the natural environment and the need to care for it. After our visit, there was much interest in the animals we had seen. Using dramatic play, we used the crocodile tails to dress up and swish around. We also read 'Going on a Croc Hunt', which children responded to by calling out what was going to happen, and even acting it out.

After discovering the different textures the reptiles had, we began exploring our senses some more. Creating a texture wall, the children used their sense of touch to feel materials both natural and processed materials, including pine cones, hessian, bubble wrap and satin. Using our outdoor environment, the children used their sense of sight to paint an interpretation of what they could see. Paintings included the trees and sky, and some even used this concept to paint people and things they recalled seeing earlier. There was lots of fun as we got messy using shaving cream, experimenting with cause and effect, and trial and error, as we added colour and watching the colours mix together.

Continuing our colour exploration, we incorporated construction and gross motor skills into our learning using intentional teaching. Using the big waffle blocks and stepping stones we used our muscles, worked on balance and stood on tip toes, as we built tall towers and jumped off stepping blocks while naming the colours of them. Using different coloured playdough, children extended their learning while matching the coloured animals to the playdough, they discovered an interest in dinosaurs and what they do. Using colour mixing to create volcanos, we discussed there were lots of them in the time dinosaurs were around. In response to the children's interest we look forward to exploring dinosaurs and the world they lived in.





# Kindy Catch Up!

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

What a busy beginning to the year we have had and it has been so lovely to have you all in the Kindy Room.

It has been a fantastic start to the year and has been great for us to watch the children grow in confidence and in develop their independence. Our 2 main focuses for the year so far have been the garden and ourselves, through learning about teeth.

The children have absolutely loved being a part of the garden and working on it from the beginning. They have dug it up and turned the soil, helped plant the new plants, water them and much more. Being in the mud and getting dirty is something many of them seem very keen to do. You will notice some of our garden work around the room as well as outside in the flower bed, so check it out!

Teeth coincided with the garden topic, as it started us talking about what we could grow, healthy choices and about what foods are good for us and what foods are not so good for us or are a treat. The children have shown so much enthusiasm for learning about their teeth and sharing their own knowledge, it has been a joy to listen to all of their ideas and have numerous conversations with them. Having Dr Clem, a dentist, come in as well to teach us all about our teeth and how we need to keep them clean was also amazing and when she came back later that day, the children flocked to her, showing just how much they enjoyed the visit.

Over the next couple of months, we will be continuing with garden topic through our Fairy garden, we have already made a lot of progress with it and have placed outside so that the fairies have easy access to it. We can't wait to have our new visitors come! We will be looking at developing our imaginative play in the Fairy garden and will also be developing the children's fine motor and self-help skills as some of you have noted these as goals you would like your child to achieve while in Kindy.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and look forward to sharing more of our news with you.









# Preschool Pride!

## Early Childhood Teacher —Carly Dooley

## Pre School Assistant—Melina McCormack

We have had a wonderful start to the New Year. We are very proud of how well our pre-schoolers have settled into their new environment, become familiar with our routine and have formed meaningful relationships with each of their educators (QKLG Wellbeing). We have been very busy celebrating Australia Day, learning about Australian animals, playing many name recognition games, comparing the height of our friends, we turned the home corner into a pizza shop and had a visit from the dentist.

We have many passionate performers in our room, and through their enjoyment of singing we have learnt many new songs. Through song we are introducing the pre-schoolers to sequences and patterns of language, including letter relationships, rhymes and using your voice to create dramatic effect and early numeracy concepts including counting to and from the number 5 (QKLG Active Learning).

At the start of the month we had a Reptile Show incursion with Brian 'furry' Mclean. In preparation for the show we spent a week educating the pre-schoolers about the different species of reptiles, we discussed and watched videos of reptiles hatching from eggs and looked at how important a reptile's environment is in keeping them feed, safe and happy (QKLG Active Learning and Connectedness). We extended this experience by encouraging the children to increase their fine motor development by cutting eggs and drawing the animals whom hatch from them (QKLG Active Learning).

With many new peers joining the preschool room we have recently started the journey of discussing the importance of friendship. Using the text 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister, through whole group conversations and with the support of their families the preschoolers have been educated on the traits and characteristics of a great friend. We are in the process of creating our own friendship fish with each child having autonomy over decorating a scale with the qualities they hope to bring to a friendship (QKLG Identity).



We plan to further the topic of friendship by discussing our feelings, becoming aware of our different emotions and developing empathy towards others.





# Physical Development

Welcome to Move and Groove. Move and Groove is a physical development program we have written and adopted at Little Ducks Bardon. We have assigned regular times in the childrens day for them to participate in planned physical activities focused on specific development areas. This is a fun time for the children to learn basic movement skills and important health messages, and best of all, its's a great way for your children to spend quality time with their peers to help promote social skills through interactions, improve balance, movement and co-ordination skills. Sensory motor is an area which covers your sense and the movement response. E.g poor eye movement can result in decreased ability to track along a line to read.

Gross motor skills are those that enable us to move efficiently, to negotiate our environment, balance, run, jump, play games with our peers, catch and kick balls. Gross motor skill development goes hand in hand with development of speech and fine motor skills. Good gross motor skills and body awareness are important for good posture movement, participation in games, and general fitness, health and wellbeing.

We encourage each child to participate to the best of their ability. Our move and groove class consist of a warm up, our focus of the week, and a cool down. Over the past month, we have been focusing on the following Locomotor skills – crawling, walking, marching, jumping climbing, running galloping, sliding, hopping, skipping. Our stability skills, stretching, balancing, rolling, twisting. We also have incorporated yoga, and developing our core stability. With good core strength, this can help your child sit well at a desk, and provide a stable for gross and fine motor tasks. We look forward to seeing the children's growth and development over the coming months.







This program is linked to the requirements of our curriculum, helping the children learn the skills associated with:

- Identity, (increasing independence) .
- Connectedness (building positive relationships with others)
- Wellbeing ( exploring ways to promote physical wellbeing, building a sense of autonomy)
- Communicating( skills for listening and taking turns.)
- Active learning ( increasing confidence and involvement in learning.

To plan the program with have consulted the National Parks Sport and Wildlife Department's "Lets Get Moving" paper.

# 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.





