

Little Ducks Childcare Wilston

March/April 2017

A note from your Centre Manager

Thank you everyone for the warm welcome I have received over the last couple of months. It has been a pleasure building relationships with the children, educators and yourselves. We have such a beautiful centre with an amazingly diverse group of children, educators and families here, all working collaboratively towards a strong culture of striving for excellence.

We have had a busy few months here at Wilston Little Ducks. Our children have all settled in their new classrooms and are building strong connections with their new educators. Now that routines have begun to be set and settle down educators are focusing on ensuring all children have goals in place for the month and are working towards supporting each child's identity, connection with their world and wellbeing. Our planned experiences are also designed to support each child to become an involved learner and a communicator. These outcomes are from the Early Years Learning Framework and make up the curriculum we use with our children from nursery to kindy. Our Preschool children are working closely with our Early Childhood Teachers to achieve successes in the significant learnings from the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline. All the while engaging in fun, interactive play based experiences. Parent input is an instrumental part of this curriculum and we greatly appreciate those parents who have contributed stories either verbally or by email or photographs that have provided the starting point of exciting new learning opportunities. If you would like share experiences your child has had at home or developmental areas you would like your child to focus on please don't hesitate to speak with the educators or email through your photos or stories for me to share with the educators. When there is a strong connection between family and kindy children have the best possible opportunity to grow and learn.

Thank you to our families who attended the Resilience discussion with Dr Harmony. Dr harmony shared many techniques with the families in attendance to help support resilient children who will grow into happy, confident adults who cope well in stressful situations. We were also very happy to host families from our neighbouring Little Ducks centres at Bardon, Annerley and Fortitude Valley on the night.

Rebecca

Building Resilience

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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!
...March and April...

March

Thursday 2nd—Holi Show Roushini will be teaching us about a Hindu spring festival which is also known as the festival of colours or the festival of sharing love.

Friday 3rd – Schools clean-up day We will hold a 'Little Ducks Clean Up Day' In the lead up to 'Clean up Australia Day' on Sunday 5th of March. Talk to your educator to find out how you can help!

Friday17th - St Patrick's Day Dress in green and come along to learn some fun facts about our Irish friends and families.

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 in-clusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Dress in orange to support this wonderful day



April

Monday 3rd - Henny Penny Chicken Hatching
Bringing the joy of watching eggs hatching, and chicks emerging from their shells, right in front of our eyes! This week will be the chicks last week with us – don't forget to adopt a one or two

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 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
April 16th - Easter Monday PUBLIC HOLIDAY

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

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.

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.

T –shirts and hats available for sale Don't forget we have little ducks hats and t-shirts available in yellow, blue and purple at the front desk.

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
* Late collection of children
* Educators and staff sickness

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- *Samuel*
- *Theodore*
- *Madeline*
- *Thomas*
- *Madeline*
- *Tom*
- *Lincoln*
- *Joshua*
- *Archer*
- *Finlay*
- *Hugo*
- *Toma*
- *Freya*
- *Henry*
- *Amaia*
- *Lachlan*
- *Oscar*
- *Camilla*

Zuchinni Carrot and Honey Muffins

Ingredients



1 carrot, grated
1 Zuchinni grated
1 green onion, finely chopped
1/2 cup grated tasty cheese
2 cups self-raising flour
3 eggs
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
1 cup plain yoghurt
1/4 cup honey
2 tablespoons chopped fresh coriander leaves

Method:

Step 1

Preheat oven to 190°C/170°C fan-forced. Grease a 12-hole (1/3-cup-capacity) muffin pan.

Step 2

Place zucchini and 3/4 of the carrot in a large bowl. Add onion, cheese and flour. Stir to combine.

Step 3

Whisk eggs, oil, yoghurt and 2 tablespoons honey together. Add to zucchini mixture. Season with salt and pepper. Add coriander. Mix to combine. Divide evenly among holes of prepared pan. Top with re-maining carrot and drizzle with remaining honey.

Step 4

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden and just firm to touch. Stand in pan for 5 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Serve warm or cold

Nursery Natter!

We can't believe it's March already, these past few months have flown by and what a wonderful few months they have been!

We have spent the last two months building strong relationships with each of the children in the room and they have all settled in and adjusted fantastically to their new environment with not much fuss at all and have quickly formed some bonds with each other which has been great to see.



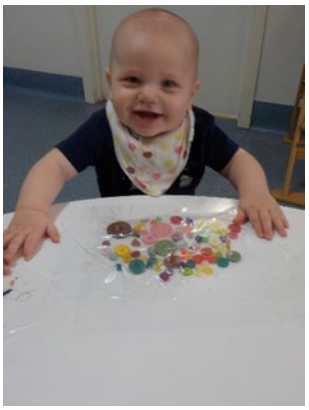


We have been working closely with the children exploring several different things including music and instruments which they have all loved, some more than others as they've made music, danced and sung their way around the room. We have also been exploring our sense of touch you may have noticed the bags of paint that Miss Rezalyn had stuck to the ground, the children spent many parts of their days pressing their, hands, feet, toes and fingers into the paint to explore the texture. We also created some texture gloves, using disposable gloves, water, coloured match sticks, pom poms, cellophane and yoghurt caps. The children loved squeezing the gloves and finding the different items that were in them.





As it is getting slightly cooler we have enjoyed spending more and more time outside during the day, the children have been busy as they explore and play out in the small yard investigating the sand pit and the different equipment we have out there.



House keeping :

Please remember to bring your child a range of spare clothes as they can soil them as well as we still have a lot of water play out in the yard and they do get very wet.

Make sure all items are labelled just in case anything gets misplaced.

A big thank you for intrusting us with your children, it has been an absolute joy getting to know them all and see their personalities really come out and wish you all the best.

Emma and Kerri-anne.

Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator: **Nabia Songco**
Lead Educator: **Tiago Oliveria**
Educator: **Debbie Mynn**



As February comes to an end, we are so happy to see the children settled into their new routine and building new relationship with other children. It has been a month full of learning, discoveries great achievements and fun for the children, and we are so excited about guiding and supporting them through this learning process in the months yet to come.

For the last two months, we focused on getting to know the children and their families. We explore their interests in order to help them feel comfortable in their new environment and promote learning experiences. This interest lead us to explore the different animals in the book Dear Zoo and further extend this through unpacking the Australian Animals through songs, books, pretend play and arts and craft.



We also value the parent's role in the development of the curriculum and through this we engaged the children in the development of their hand and eye coordination so that they can better manipulate the spoon and fork during meal time. For weeks, we continue to provide different activities that promote their sensory motor skills such as spooning activities, threading pasta and working on our hand muscles through manipulating the playdough and providing wide range of tools and materials for the children to work on.

Through music and group time activities children had the opportunity to learn other children's name as we sing the song bee, bee, bumble bee and klappe, klappe kage (Danish for clap, clap cake). These songs help the children build relationships and develop the sense of belonging in their environment as they engaged in and contribute to the shared experience. We also have noticed that children are beginning to take more responsibility by helping their friends and Educators with daily tasks like tidying up the room and putting toys away.

Toddler Tales!

This month children also explored their sensorimotor skills through painting, drawing, touching different textures. During outdoor activities children, have demonstrated to be comfortable to explore the environment and take part in a range of activities like obstacle courses, ball rolling and ball kicking, which helps them to strengthen muscles, coordination, take risks and develop language and social skills.

Our meal times involved a lot of talks about healthy food and table manners. Children could be heard saying words like “more”, “all done”, “thank you”, and “ta, ta”.

This month we also saw the development of our weekend wall and home corner. With the addition of the family’s beautiful photos, the children were beginning to develop a sense of belonging and connectedness. We will continue to help your children to develop a strong sense of identity by offering them comfort and support their routines and transitions. We will continue to help children to build knowledge and support them through the learning process engaging them in activities that promote learning and help them to explore their creativity and imagination.



From your Toddler Educators!

Nabia, Tiago and Debbie

Junior Kindy Jumble!

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

What a fun filled couple of months we have had in the Junior Kindy Room. We would like to welcome the new families that are starting with us. It is a pleasure to have you in the Junior Kindy room and we look forward to a wonderful year.



To kick start Junior Kindy 2017, the children have become comfortable in their learning environments. It has been rewarding to see the children's personalities blossoming in the room. At group time transitions the children are learning to say their names and each other's names. We have been working on using our words to communicate. This has been a successful learning outcome and we are very pleased with how well the children are improving.
Throughout our learning, we have had a huge focus on our self-help skills. The children are learning how to dress themselves for a successful toilet transition, feeding themselves at meal times, putting their shoes on, making their beds and cleaning up during pack up time. This has helped the children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing.



Heading outside in the beautiful weather that we have had, the children have enjoyed having morning tea picnics and group time experiences in the nice cool shade. The children have enjoyed spontaneously creating balancing beams out of blocks, stepping stones, and small pieces of recycled cardboard. Through this physical activity, the children have learnt turn taking, Hand eye coordination, balance and body awareness.



In the room parent feedback on their child has been a huge success as it has allowed us to plan activities to suit their child's needs and interest. As a team, we continue to build on ideas that can allow the children to move on from their interest, explore and grow. We had some fantastic feedback from a parent about wanting to help their child with scissor skills. To help the children with scissor skills we have set up some fun activities that invite the children to build strength in their smaller muscle movements. We have seen improvements as we continually practice these skills to help us with manipulating small objects. It has also been a huge success in holding our pencils with a firm pincer grip. As we are not yet confident in using scissors, this is something that we will continue to work on throughout the year.
Leading up to the 26th of January, we learnt about the Australian culture. The children were introduced to the celebration of Australia day and why it is important that we pay respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. As we continue to learn about cultural diversity, On the 6th of February the children had the opportunity to help celebrate the importance in the Waitangi Culture. To do this we made kites using paper and collage resources. We also spoke about the weather, and why it is important to fly our kites in the windy weather.



Following up on our calendar of events, we had the opportunity to watch the Crocodile and Dragon reptile show starring Gunarr the saltwater crocodile and his assistant Brian Mclean. Featuring all the star cast of reptiles from tiny turtles to a whole host of lizards, frogs, Crocodile, snakes and dragon reptiles. This was such a fun show to watch and we are looking forward to more events in the centre. We then continued our learning further of these creatures. The children were intrigued and we decided to discover our outside area to see if we had these reptiles in our environment.

We are excited for all the further learning opportunities to be discovered throughout the rest of the year and can't wait to show you our learning Journey.

Kindy Catch Up

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

Bon jour" (Hello in French)
Welcome to our first official Kindy Catch up for the year. We would like to start off by welcoming our new friends Isabella, Anoushka and Shark to the Kindy studio, as well as all the new and existing children we have the pleasure of working with in 2017.

We have had a busy first few months here in the Kindy room, getting to know each of your children observing their interest and watching their confidence and personalities develop as they become more comfortable and supported in their new surroundings. We have established some great relationships with the children and look forward to learning, developing to our full protentional and having fun along the way this year.

As we get to know the children more and learn about their current interest, we have been lucky enough to provide some wonderful and engaging learning experience from information retained from parent input. The Kindy children were involved in the cooking process of making rice paper rolls and yummy fruit salad from some of the children's interest so far. We encourage all families to get involved in their child's early childhood education and It can be something small such as what they did on the weekend, favourite book, current interest, photo's etc. We have provided a journal and parent information book were all families are welcomed to flip through, get to know more about our service and what we can offer your child, this would also be a great time to fill a parent input form and include some of your child's interest.

A big focus as Educators in our environment so far has been, encouraging the children with "self-help" This has been implemented into our daily routine as we encourage all children to put away their belongings after rest time, applying our own sunscreen and shoes before going outside and making healthy food choices at meal times. We understand that all children develop at their own pace and will be assisting children with ongoing Learning and support. This would also be a great time to promote these skills in their home environment to provide a consistently in developing these important skills.

We have also noticed the Kindy children displaying a keen interest in using our fine motor skills as they become more confident and involved learners. This has seen our program focus on promoting these skills further and planning fun play based learning activities with cutting experiences, playdough explorations, drawing with a range of pencils, pens, crayons to promote proper hand control and pincer grip. We have already observed and documented some wonderful and emerging skills from the children that will continue to develop and grow throughout the year. Our documentation is available for each family to read and provide feedback in our parent communicate area. Each month we will continually update and add our observations and documenting containing your child's learning in their portfolio. Please feel free to sit down and share together with your child anytime!

Already we have celebrated some wonderful centre events, firstly with Australian Day that seen the children engage in some creative arts, Painting Native Australian wattle bush. During this experience, we looked closely at the beauty of the flower and involving the children in the process of collecting the flowers from our natural environment. We took a walk down memory lane and educated the children on the true meaning of why we celebrate Australia Day and expressed our sense of understanding through discussions amongst each other. We pulled out the Aussie flag and tried our very best to sing our National Anthem, it was super cute to watch the children bust out into movement and dance as they interpreted Advance Australian Fair.

Just a few weeks ago, we had a special visitor from the Crocodile and reptile show. What an experience that was, with the children getting up close and personal with a real salt water crocodile and some wonderful lizards and

Kindy Catch Up!

turtles. Our friendly visitor educated all the children at Little Ducks on the importance of caring for and respecting our environment and all things living around us. This led us to further look to our own environment and investigate our worm farm. The Kindy children demonstrated the skills they had learnt and used gentle hands when holding and feeding the worms. Miss Sawsan and the kindy children even shared their indoor environment with our worms and used magnifying glasses to get a better look at our slimy friends. Many time over the past few months has seen trips to the worm farm to promote satiability and recycle our left-over scrapes for the worms to eat.





Wow, we sure have been busy so far with many other great opportunities of learning happening with all the children engaging in friendship values e.g. Choosing a friend to wash hands, partnered paintings, paired challenges. We have also been learning our routine of the day and taking part in planned outdoor experiences and working hard with the children on developing early literacy and numeracy skills, as we look at letters of the alphabet, engaging in counting and number recognition and exploring colours and shapes in our environment. All of which we will continue to implement and support with educational and planned play based learning opportunities throughout the coming months.

Finally, we would like to thank Miss Tahnee for all her help and support with the Kindy children so far this year. We are sure to miss her and are sad to see her go as she takes up the role of Educator float within our service. This hasn't been an easy decision for Miss Tahnee as she takes into consideration her health and wellbeing as she awaits the arrive of her baby in the coming months. Miss Tahnee Is loved by many of the children and already formed some lasting relationships with children and their families. As Miss Tahnee steps down, Miss Juanita has eagerly joined our team and is excited to work with and share her knowledge with the Kindy children. You can't miss her, she is the bubbly, fun loving educator that the children have already grown to love.



If you have any queries or would like to discuss anything about your child, please don't hesitate to approach myself (Mel), Miss Sawsan or Miss Juanita either verbally, over the phone or through our centre email.

Until next time, take care and we look forward to sharing with you all our learning journey.

Preschool Pride!

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

Bonjour (Hello in French) and welcome to another edition of the preschool pride newsletter.

Firstly, I would like to say welcome back to Miss Vicki we are very excited to have her back with us in the preschool room. I'm sure she has been enjoying getting to know all the children their families over the past couple of weeks. As you will know Miss Juanita is sadly leaving the preschool room, however she hasn't gone far, she is the new lead in the Kindy room working alongside Miss Mel and Miss Sawsan. We wish her all the best in this new role and we would like to welcome Miss Gea who will be helping in the preschool room on Thursdays and Fridays, so please make her feel welcome. Thank you to those who have completed and brought back their child/ren's 'all about me' book, they are looking great on our bookshelf and the children are enjoying sharing their family life and interests with the rest of the class. If you have not yet taken your child's 'all about me' blank book home yet, they are in clear file pockets on top the of the cubbies in the parent area. We ask that you could take these home and add photos or drawings as it is a great way for us to learn more about the children's home life and interests and it gives the children a sense of belonging and strong identity within in the preschool room.

Miss Vicki and I have implemented and new structure for our 'show and tell/share' segment. We will be encouraging the children to explore their homes and local neighborhood for items that begin with a specific letter and bring in for discussion during our mat meetings. We well be introducing the letter for the following week on our Friday weekly reports so please read these and encourage your child to take a photo or bring something in that will spark some great learning discussions (please no toys).



Over the past couple of months the children have been busy exploring the new environment that the preschool has to offer. It's great to see the children settle into the room so well, they have been very welcoming to the children who are new to Little Ducks and those that are transitioning up from the Kindy room. Each morning we have our first meeting time where the children are encouraged to remember and follow our mat manners rules as well as our classroom treaty. During this mat time we ask the children to choose a language they would like to greet each other in, majority of the children choose 'Bonjour' (French greeting) it is great to see them all interested in greeting me in this language, I would like to expand their French language greeting by including some more French such as Bonjour, ca va (hello, how are you?). To encourage the children to gain confidence in our group settings we have been asking a friend each day to lead our morning song, this allows them to practice speaking in front of a group and developing important leadership skills.

Over the month of January and February the children have been interested in the animals and "The Waterhole" book by Graeme base, which lead us to creating our own waterhole area for the children to explore the animals and their habitats. We set an area up with natural resources such as wood, stones, plants and recycled paper. The children used this area to build different structures for their animals to live in. The children used their imagination and creativity to create different homes for the different animals and used "The Waterhole" book as a resource. We also created a clear file book for the children to explore images of different 'animals and habits'.

The children's interest in building structures in the wooden block area lead us to explore the different aspects of building. The children created their own blue prints and were encouraged to use rulers, protractors, triangle rulers and pencils/thin crayons. We set up examples of what a blue print would look like then encouraged the children to

Preschool Pride!



be as creative as they liked, we had rockets, castles and family homes drawn by the children. This lead us to using water colour paints and pencils to paint different types of buildings such as, castles, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Colosseum, Taj Mahal and a Wharanui (traditional maori house). The children were using their knowledge to look at an image of a building identifying the different features then recreating these images onto paper. These pictures were then transferred to the block area with clipboards including pen and paper where we encouraged the children to draw a building structure and then use the wooden blocks to create what they drew. This interest has continued through out the month with a few children choosing to play in the block area and create a tall leaning towers balancing the blocks on top of each other or building cities with a variety of large and small blocks. We will continue to support the children who have been involved in this construction by using road tape and blocks with pictures of houses on them to create a mini town.

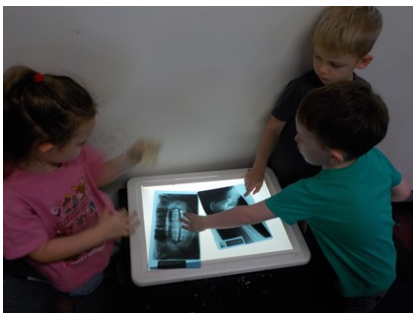


We have also started on our preschool garden doing research using magazines and the Internet to help us in the process of preparing our garden and choosing what vegetables we should plant. The discussion on vegetables lead us to create some recipes from pictures in our food and garden magazines, which lead us to make Fridays our cooking days. This stared a couple of weeks ago when the children helped make homemade juice blocks. Juanita put fresh orange juice into a squeeze bottle and the children each had a turn to fill up an empty ice try with juice and put an ice block stick into it, place it in the freezer and they had a nice cool afternoon snack. Last Friday each of the children got to create their own mini pizza's – we discussed what we could put on our pizza that included vegetables and fruit such as, mushrooms, capsicum, pineapple and tomatoes. Morgan shared with us that we should have 5 vegetables/fruit, which will lead us to learn about the food pyramid next week. If you have some great recipes we could use for our Friday cooking/baking or if you would like to come in and cook/bake with the children please come see Miss Cherie.





Over the past week we have introduced the doctors dramatic play area to the preschool room. The children have very much enjoyed becoming involved in learning about the important role doctor's nurses and surgeons have in our wider community. The children are using their prior knowledge of visiting the doctor and bringing this knowledge into a new setting. During this play the children are learning social skills such as taking turns, working alongside each other, taking on different personas. They are showing us that they are active learners by problem solving and investigating patients injuries and illness by using the x-rays, skeleton, communication with patients and books. It's great to see the children being so involved in this learning experience. We will continue to have this area set up for the children to continue to explore the doctors' role in our community and answering questions about the bones in our bodies.



Entertainment Book Fundraiser

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Order now: https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/2278o88

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact **Rebecca at Little Ducks Wilston 3356 8100.**

