

Little Ducks Childcare Bardon May/June 2017

A note from your Centre Manager

Well here we are at then end of our second year!! How time has flown!! We celebrated our 2nd birthday with a Disco party, awards ceremony and lots of fun. It was nice to celebrate our 8 educators that have been with us for the majority of the two years as well as the 36 children that are still with us since the beginning—impressive numbers considering we have had two years of children graduate to school. It was also a chance to look back on what we have accomplished in the past two years!

- We have completed our first Assessment and Rating visit—achieving Meeting in 5 areas and Exceeding in Quality Area 2—Children's Health and Safety and Area 7 Leadership and Service management.
- Making connections within our community by being part of the Local Early Childhood Network Group, upgrading our cots and donating the old cots to charity organizations and families suggested by our families, making connections with our local schools by supporting their newsletters, musicals and being part of their fundraising events and celebrations including Ithaca Creek State Schools Heritage listing celebrations, hosted a market day and numerous parent information evenings.
- Our biggest achievement over the past two years must be the introduction and development of a Physical Development Program. While talking with other Early Learning Services and Schools we realised how children's Physical Development prior to school impacted on their ability to learn. The program was developed within the guidelines of the "Let's Get Moving Program" produced by The Department of National Parks Sports and Racing. The children love the physical sessions and their progress has been remarkable.



I could talk about lots of other projects we have completed and have been part of our Quality Improvement Plan but I think the most important achievement is the sense of community and the relationships we are building with each other, our children and families and the contribution we are making to the future of our amazing children.

"Educational excellence through the power of play based learning"

Michele

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Upcoming Events!

....May....

Monday May 1st—Labour Day—Public Holiday, Centre closed

Friday May 12th—Mothers Day Afternoon Tea—Our little chefs are cooking a lovely afternoon tea and inviting our mums to join us for some fun this afternoon.



Sunday May 14th—Mothers Day

Monday 15th—International Day of Families– Leading up to this day we will be talking about what makes our families special.

Friday 26th—National Sorry Day

Saturday 27th—Ramadan begins—This is a period of prayer, fasting, charity giving and self accountability for Muslims in Australia



...June...

Monday June 5th—World Environment Day—On this day we will learn about why it is so important to be inspired to care for and nurture our environment.

Tuesday June 6th—Queensland Day—A day to celebrate our great state and focus on the states history and development, the people of Queensland and their achievements.



Tuesday June 20th - End of term Parent Meet and Greet/Parent Information Session—Dr Harmony “Let’s build children’s resilience together”.

Sunday 25th—Matariki—Maori New Year

Reminders

- Don't forget to sign for your children's absences which 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.
- With winter not far away it is time to update your children's spare clothes ensuring some warm clothes are included for those unexpected cold days and summer clothes for those unexpected warm days—It is Queensland after all :)
- Winter also sometimes brings increased illness. To insure this is limited and contained please make sure you keep sick and contagious children at home. See our Time Out display in our foyer for exclusion periods. The most common are vomiting and Diarrhoea (exclude for 24 hours), influenza and like illness (exclude until well), temperature over 38 degrees (exclude for 24 hours)

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 May and June are:

- Accident/Incident/illness policy—minor
- Accident/Incident Illness policy—severe
- Asthma and Diabetes policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Policy for the use of gloves
- Handwashing Policy
- Infection Control Policy
- Infectious Illness Procedure
- Infections Illness Policy
- Nappy changing policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Orientation Policy families
- Orientation policy educators
- Annual Leave Policy
- Fee policy
- Open door policy
- Record keeping policy
- Sids Policy
- Students and volunteers policy
- First action plan policy
- Holiday Discount Policy
- Environment Strategy

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

May —Linus, Max, Faith, Louella, Lara, Harvey, Jack W, Oliver W, Jack Gordan, Lachlan, Hadley, Santiago, Ella, Sam Neve.

June—James, Rowena, Amelia, Georgia, Jack G, Hudson, Samuel, Cecelia, George.



Recipe of the month ...



Caterpillar Chicken Tortilla Wraps

Chicken tender wraps made with spinach tortillas spread with peanut butter and filled with chicken tenders and crunchy vegetables for a simple wrap presented in a fun way

Decorate with pretzels, tomatoes and olives for the fun caterpillar appearance!



Mini Bean Burrito Cups

Ingredients

Non-Stick Cooking Spray

1 can (16 oz) Refried Beans

3 tablespoons taco seasoning mix, divided

500g ground round beef (85% lean)

1 can (10 oz each) Mild Diced Tomatoes

6 tablespoons water 4 Flour tortillas

1 cup shredded cheese 3 cups of shredded lettuce

Directions

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 12 medium non-stick muffin cups with cooking spray; set aside. Combine refried beans and 1 tablespoon seasoning mix in small bowl; set aside. Cook beef in large skillet over medium-high heat 3 to 5 minutes or until crumbled and no longer pink, stirring occasionally. Drain. Add remaining 2 tablespoons seasoning mix, drained tomatoes and water; mix well. Simmer 2 to 3 minutes. Meanwhile, cut each tortilla into three rounds using a 4-1/2-inch cookie cutter. Cover rounds with damp paper towel; microwave 30 seconds or until warm and pliable. Carefully place rounds into muffin cups. Spoon refried bean mixture evenly into tortilla-lined muffin cups. Top evenly with meat mixture. Bake 10 to 15 minutes or until tortillas are crisp. Sprinkle with cheese. Serve with lettuce.

Maths and Literacy Matters!

Early childhood educators (and parents) are sometimes more confident with 'literacy' than they are with 'numeracy' and yet both are essential foundations for living and learning.

Mathematics plays an important part in our everyday lives. We use maths when we read a bus timetable, find our favourite TV program, weigh out ingredients for cooking, check our money at the supermarket, or set the table for dinner .

Educators can talk with families about numeracy and put up charts with fun ideas for numeracy at home:

- Counting as children dress in the mornings and pack their lunch
- Locating items of clothing using positional language—over, under, beside, on top of ...
- Measuring—the days of the week, the time on the clock, the number of sleeps until a birthday ... the distance to Nanna's, or the shops ...
- Talking about weight, volume and capacity when cooking, comparing food packaging and clothes sizes
- Sorting, ordering and classifying as goods are put away when they come home from the supermarket Finding numerals in the environment and talking about their purposes; counting out table settings and sharing out portions.

(Jenni Connor Early Childhood Consultant and EYLF PLP Writer)

Nursery Natter!

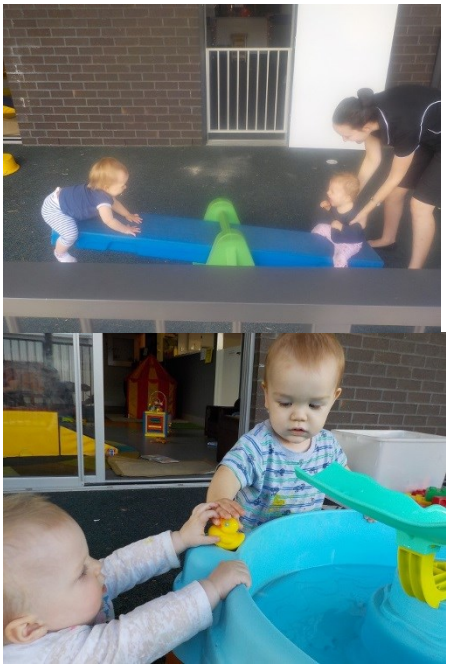
Lead Educator— Letitia Olsen

Assistant Educator—Tatiana Hogan

What a fantastic month we have had in the Nursery! Firstly, I would like to say welcome to our new friends Oliver and Jack and their parents. Tatiana and myself have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you and we look forward to continuing to watch you learn and grow in the Nursery.

We are always very busy in the Nursery as we support the children with their interests and developmental milestones. Over the past weeks we have been focusing on animals. The interest of animals began when we placed ducks on the wall for our birthday chart and the children realised pointing with excitement. We supported this interest by placing plastic animals in the room for the children to explore. This made the interest of animals grow further! We have decided to focus on animals until this interest changes by creating a 'Old McDonalds Farm'. Last week we looked at ducks by singing songs about ducks, reading books about ducks, painting ducks and enjoying sensory water play with ducks. The children thoroughly enjoyed these experiences and most learnt to say "duck and quack". We have also added pigs to our farm and are looking at dogs. It is wonderful to see the increase in the children's vocabulary or at least their look of recognition and excitement when we play with the animals and they are able to recognise and show they have increased their knowledge and their start their journey to the confident and involved learners they will be.

Music has proven to be a very big interest and love for most of the Nursery children. To support this interest we are ensuring we provide some music time with songs and dancing each day for the children to engage and involve themselves in. The children have responded to this positively as they join in bobbing up and down and clapping to the music. This time is not only fun for the children but is the beginning of communication skills as they interact with each other bobbing up and down to the music and watch and copy the teachers interactions.



As we move into the coming months we will continue to increase our language and communication skills. These lessons we are learning are all recorded in the children's learning journals. Tatiana and myself would like to remind you that you are welcome to look at your children's learning portfolio at any time. Each month there will be a new learning story moment for you to read on your child.

Thanks for reading, we will catch up with you again next time!

Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator—Tamasin Batten

Lead Educator—Elisa Higgs

The Toddler class have had a busy March and April with Special Events, transitioning to the Junior Kindy Class, welcoming new children to the Toddler class and following their own interests. They have found a new sense of belonging as they have connected to the whole centre and each other through these events.

The Toddlers joined the older classes for Easter and the Little Duck's Birthday Party. They also hosted an egg hunt and sing-along for the families for Easter with the Nursery class. These community events helped the children to understand the world in which they live.

Finally, as the children have been enjoying following their interests while their learning is scaffolded by the EYLF outcomes. They have formed a strong sense of belonging through getting out and putting away their own belongings such as drink bottles and sheets and helping their classmates to find their hats. They have connected to and contributed to their world through watering the plants outside, exploring water properties. They have participated in social groups through a variety of dance types including dancing with ribbons, scarves and maracas. They have also been developing a strong sense of wellbeing as they have practiced using the obstacle course designed by Melina and developing their fine motor skills through a variety of posting activities. The children have also been learning about healthy food choices as they learnt about the names and properties of whole fruits and how to juice oranges, peel mandarins and peel and chop bananas. They have become more confident and involved learners through a variety of problem solving activities including the Babushka dolls, locks and latches and rings on a vertical dowel. They have also enjoyed practicing effective communication through singing familiar songs, repeating new songs, talking about the names of familiar and new items and learning descriptive words in small groups and individually. Who would have thought all our the fun we have been having has actually covered learning in all our the learning areas of the Early Learning Years Framework!







As we continue into the coming months the class will continue to build a strong sense of identity as they read the class family photo album. We are also planning to prepare a lovely afternoon tea for their Mothers for Mothers Day. The children will continue to learn how to connect to each other through taking turns and various special items and souvenirs from family holidays and to help the new children to settle in by sharing our love of dance and music with music from around the world. We are really looking forward to the learning planned for the next few months.

Junior Kindy Jumble!

Lead Educator—Jaimee Thompson

Lead Educator—Peter Kelly

Assistant Educator—Jess Johnston

We are well and truly into the swing of this year in Junior Kindy. We would like to welcome our new families and new friends whom have moved up from the Toddler room. After an interest in our bones and looking at x-rays, we discussed what food we can grow in the garden to keep us healthy. The children responded to the story 'The Hungry Caterpillar', and using this we named which of the foods we could grow ourselves, and we were very excited to see the caterpillar turn into a butterfly. We decided to explore our natural environment, using our senses to look for insects and dig in the dirt. The children were also curious and enthusiastic participants as we planted our own seeds in egg cartons, and watched peas sprout in zip lock bags.

Using our interest in the land, we explored the Aboriginal culture to help the children develop a respect for diversity. Using sand, we practised drawing some of the symbols Aboriginals use. These included symbols for water, boomerang, man and woman. We also used art to make meaning and develop an understanding of interdependence between land, people and plants as we created our own paint using chalk and mud. We also used sticks and leaves to paint with. The children responded positively to Dreamtime Stories, naming the Australian animals they recognised.

Continuing our interest in the animals, we used this to show a new way of keeping our bodies healthy during health week. We did animal yoga, using poses such stretch up like a giraffe, lie flat like a crocodile and arch your back like cat. As learnt about the importance of looking after ourselves, we read the book 'What I Like About Me' as the children learn to feel recognised and respected for who they are, and also become aware of similarities and differences between people. We discovered there were lots of different coloured hair and eyes, but we all shared beautiful big smiles. Together the centre celebrated being healthy doing some exercises and dancing together, and everyone bringing in a piece of fruit. Through this the children are becoming aware of healthy lifestyles and good nutrition. They also concentrated on fine motor skills as they helped to cut up bananas.



We were very excited as we busily prepared for Easter. Each morning we joined with the other rooms to practice our special songs for our concert. Showing an interest in being part of a group, Junior Kindy enthusiastically joined in with actions, and after the concert celebrated their efforts with our families.

As we talked about our emotions, the children are showing an increased understanding of these, being able to recognise them using the emotion stones, and discussing that it is ok to feel happy, sad and even angry at times. Junior Kindy have been working on self-help skills, and with persistence they are getting better and better at independently doing tasks such as taking off own shoes, putting sheets away and placing dirty dishes in the tub. They look so proud when they achieve these tasks, and we will continue to encourage these skills as the year progresses.



Kindy Catch Up!

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

We have some very exciting news this newsletter form our Kindy Room—Miss Alex is having a baby!! The children were very excited to learn about Miss Alex baby as many of the children in our Kindy class have just become or will soon become big brothers and sisters! We have loved to see the children build their sense of belonging as they learn about relationships and family groups.

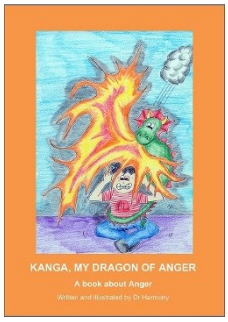
Becoming a big brother or sister can be an emotional time for young children and it is great that they can talk to each other, compare notes and feel more comfortable with the changes in their world.

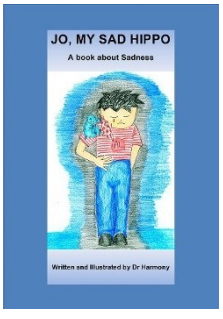
Miss Amanda has recently completed some training with Dr Harmony—"Let's build resilient children together" . This training was around ways to guide children's behaviour which is often linked to their emotions and how they cope with these big feelings. Dr Harmony has produced some books that help the children to understand and we have been reading these books with the children. If the children can understand and put words to their feelings they don't feel as overwhelming and they are them able to cope more easily with the situations they face each day making them more resilient.

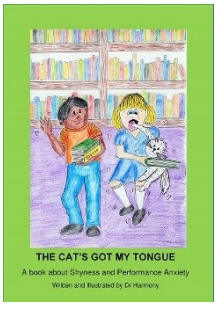
Dr Harmony is also visiting Little Ducks in June for a parent information evening, it would be great to see lots of us their so we can together help our children to be resilient.

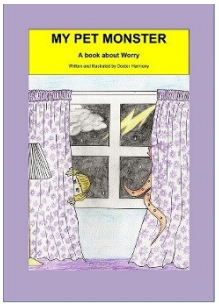
We have also built a fairy garden in our Kindy outdoor space. This space has become a haven for quiet play when the children want to get away from the business of the classroom, they have really enjoyed playing with the small pieces, enjoying the quiet space and the opportunity to role play with the small furniture etc. in the garden.

As we move into the next months we are very excited to explore lots of sensory activities. Children's learn and develop new and essential pathways in their brains when they explore with their senses. It is a really important part of their development. When a child is young and still developing, it is important to engage or activate each of the sensory systems so that they can integrate and grow into one cohesive sensory system. We know this will help them to develop a strong sense of wellbeing. Be ready for lots of messy play!!









Preschool Pride!

Early Childhood Teacher (Govt Kindergarten Program) —Carly Dooley

Pre School Assistant—Melina McCormack

Welcome to the May and June edition of the Preschool Pride. We have had a very busy April in the Preschool Room with the celebration of Easter, World Health Day, Little Duck's 2nd birthday, meet and greet night, ANZAC Day, and the beginning of our Mother's Day preparations.

The highlight of the month was our Easter bonnet parade and concert. The Pre-schoolers were actively involved in selecting the songs they wished to perform, each agreeing that songs with "lots of dancing" should be included (QKLG Communicating). In preparation for the parade each pre-schooler developed their sense of agency as they took ownership over the way their bonnet was designed (QKLG Identity). In the lead up to the concert we would tape our daily rehearsals and use the projector to later watch ourselves. Through this process, the Pre-schoolers developed the ability to learn through reflection (QKLG Identity) as they would praise their achievements and make suggestions on areas they believed could be enhanced.

Being responsive (EYLF Principles and Practices) to the Pre-schoolers passion for music we recently altered our routine. Each morning with the help of Kindy, Junior Kindy and Toddlers we tidy the yard and meet for 10 minutes of dancing. Dancing has become the Pre-schoolers favourite time of the day as it allows for the opportunity for siblings to engage togethers, the children voice their song requests all while developing their large movement skills, movement control, coordination and strength (QKLG Wellbeing).





With the assistance of Miss Elisa we have incorporated lots of mathematical concepts this month, with daily group time games, the introduction of addition counting songs and several math related texts (QKLG Active Learning).

Recently the Pre-schoolers have verbally expressed their interest in dinning out in café's and restaurants. The have influenced the way our room is not configurated with one long table where they eat each meal. Calling this table, the 'Preschool Pub' (named by a student) the Pre-schoolers are enjoying eating as a whole group while they increase their verbal language by discussing their day, their food selections and laugh over conversations about Pokémon, Frozen and Midnight feasts (QKLG Communicating).





Moving forward we are very excited to be hosting a Cancer Council biggest morning tea. Through this experience, the Pre-schoolers will be educated on the value of money, we will discuss the health and safety aspects of preparing food, design advertising materials and discuss the roles of chef's, waiters and customers.

Soon we will be welcoming our families to attend parent teacher meetings with Miss Carly and Miss Melina where we will be discussing each child's school readiness.

Physical Development

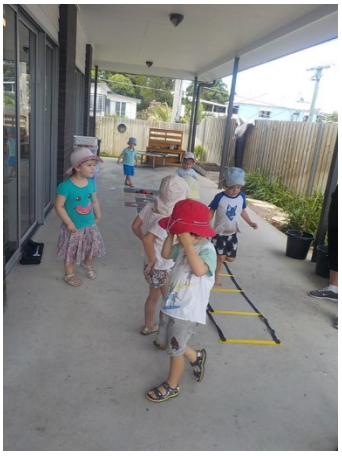
Welcome to Move and Groove. Move and Groove is a physical development program we have written and adopted at Little Ducks Bardon. We have assigned regular times in the children's day for them to participate in planned physical activities focused on specific development areas. This is a fun time for the 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.

2015


Nursery


Toddlers


Junior Kindy


Kindy


Office


Nature Path

2017


Nursery


Toddlers


Junior Kindy


Kindy


Pre School


Nature Path