

Little Ducks Childcare
May-June 2017
Newsletter

A note from your Centre Manager

Thank you for the continued support that families have shown me as I settle into my role. I am very excited to be working as part of the team and getting to know all families and children better over the coming months.

We will have some very exciting events coming up over the next two months. The most notable is our Mother's Day Afternoon Tea. We are very excited to be incorporating the Australia's biggest Morning Tea into our celebrations. We will be hosting a yummy Afternoon Tea with an open invitation to all families and Grandparents to come and celebrate the important role Mothers/Grandmothers play in children's lives. The children will be involved in creating yummy treats to enjoy and we will supply an Afternoon Tea for all families. There will be a donation box available if you wish to donate to the Cancer Council's drive to raise money for Cancer research, prevention and support services.

We love to boast about the high level of care that we provide here at Little Ducks and have a special promotion for the month of May. Our current promotion includes 2 weeks free meals and their enrolment fee waved if their bond is paid and their child attends before the end of May, so if you know of a family who is looking for care, send them our way! This is an excellent offer to new families and would love to see our centre grow.



May will see some of our children transition to older rooms to further their development. This is an exciting time for the children, families and staff involved. This will also see some staff move between rooms to ensure the continuity of care.

Jodi Denman

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Kindergarten Approved Program
Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

May 2017

Monday 1st – Labour Day—PUBLIC HOLIDAY
May Day is celebrated in many countries as a traditional springtime festival or as an International day honouring workers.

Friday 12th – Mother's Day Afternoon Tea
We will be celebrating our special Mums with an afternoon tea starting at 3:30pm. This year we will be combining Australia's Biggest Morning Tea into our celebrations.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is a fundraising event to raise money for the Cancer Council.

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

Friday 19th - Walk safely to school day
60mins of daily exercise can help prevent obesity and other health problems. We will tally up how our families commute to the centre and see which is the most popular mode of transport.

Friday 26th - National sorry day
Today we reflect on the sad and painful history of the Stolen Generations and recognise moments of resilience, healing and the power of saying sorry.

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

June 2017

Saturday 3rd - Mabo Day
Commemorates Torres Strait Islander and Indigenous land rights.

Tuesday 6th - Queensland Day
Come in dressed up as your favourite Queenslander (maroon and gold). These celebrations are part of Queensland week which focuses on the state's history and development, the people of Queensland and their achievements.

Sunday 25th - Matariki
Maori New Year! During the lead up to this day, we will learn about the importance of Matariki and how it is celebrated.

Reminders

Immunisation Certificates

Don't forget that we need copies of your child's Immunisation Certificates. The 'blue/red books' are no longer acceptable for our records, we need a copy of the Australian Immunisation Register certificate – the one that is sent to you from Medicare after Immunisation. You can download it from the Medicare website if you've misplaced your copy. Please bring it into us when you're next in.



Policy Reviews

We value your input and feedback so please refer to the Policy Review Folder downstairs in the foyer for more information; along with our Legislation Regulations and our National Quality Framework Standards. We welcome families input into policy documentation and will seek family feedback for review on an annual basis.

The policies/procedures in review during May and June are:

*Accident/incident/illness policy—Minor
*Accident/incident/illness policy—Severe
* Asthma & Diabetes policy
*Duty of care policy * Policy for the use of gloves * Infection control policy * Infection illness policy * Infection illness procedure * Nappy change policy * Confidentiality policy * Orientation policy—families * Orientation policy— Educators and staff * Annual leave policy—Staff * Fee policy * Open door & parent participation policy * Record keeping policy * SIDS policy and guidelines for safe sleeping * Students, volunteers and visitors policy

Centre Birthdays!





A big happy birthday to the children who have recently celebrated their birthdays or will celebrate theirs in the coming months. Hope all your dreams and wishes come true!

May	**June**
Maggie	Zaid
Oliver	Violet
Axel	Cheech
Sasha	Sam
Lucy	
Frida	
Chloe	





Nursery One!



Our new children in Nursery 1 are Jojo, Zara, De-on, Jack, Ayla, and Charles welcome to all their families.
Our transitioning children moving up to Nursery 2 are Eli, Isla, Olivia and Kai. Everyone has been having a great time in Nursery 2 with Miss Amy and Miss Nozomi and they are responding well to the new challenges faced in a new room. We look forward to seeing them strive and achieve as they continue to grow and develop into little toddlers.

Miss Suder and I are excited to move forward in Nursery too. We would love an feedback or input on the program, milestones your child is reaching or interests that's have become a focus so that we can incorporate them in our daily program. The children are developing lovely relationships with both Miss Suder and Miss Nozomi, both Educators have plenty of experience throughout the centre and with all children, especially babies so they are a lovely fit to our Nursery rooms.

Miss Suder will be going on her practicum to complete her Master in Learning and Development (specializing in Early childhood) for all of May, which will be a fantastic opportunity for Suder and impart a lot of fantastic knowledge for her to share with us and use in her career at Little Ducks. Miss Salma will be in the room while Suder is away, Salma has spent a lot of time on the Nursery floor and is familiar with all the children and routines.

Since the last newsletter the children have had individual interest and I take their interest incorporating this interest into the curriculum programme. Their interest has been animals, transport, sand/water, block play and art. We have been doing a lot of group and individual activities to support the program. Miss Suder and I have discussed sensory play and will be making a sensory wall, so children can play individually or in small groups, even the smaller children will enjoy this. We will also use slime; play dough, cone, and branches for texture if u can help with any of these items it will be appreciated.

Centre events: World Health Day, children have been the natural environment dirt/mud; we used gross motor exploring the large obstacle course to improve physical development.

Nursery One!



Easter was a huge success thank you for your family input coming in to celebrate our Easter parade, we had an awesome turnout. I made Easter bonnets and bunny ears, we read bunny books and played with soft bunny toys and toy Easter eggs. Some of the children decided they didn't want to wear their hats, they much preferred putting them on and off. It was great practice for when we wear our hats outside.

At present we now have a individual daily routine for each child Mon- Fri please give any feedback that is needed to adjust your child's routine on any given day.



I would like to inform you about a few reminders. Please sign your child in\out this is a requirement and is essential for lock downs and fire evacuation. We will be practicing these drills over the next few weeks and months so that everyone is familiar with their roles and the children are familiar with the process and moving throughout the centre. We have been practising with the metal evacuation cot which is fun and we like to sit down and enjoy the ride.
I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the wonderful, caring Nursery families your feedback and support has been great in creating a the best possible care environment.



Nursery Two!



A lot has happened since our last newsletter!

Transitioning

Just recently we have had a few children transition up into the Senior Nursery room! Alex, Henry, Angus and Atticus have smoothly transitioned and had a great time exploring their new environment, and meeting their new educators and peers. Miss Taylor was lucky enough to move with the boys.

Miss Nozomi is starting in our room with the transition of a few friends from Nursery One are moving over into Nursery Two as well. We would like to welcome Miss Nozomi, Isla, Eli, Olivia, Kai and their families into Nursery Two!

Building new positive, trustful and secure attachments will be a focus in the next few months, helping the children to settle into the room. To start to get to know the children's personalities we have displayed a 'Personality Poster' for parents to write a few describing words of their child's personality. We aim to make a peer profile filled with the child's family photo, nationality, personality describing words and a photo of the child. We hope to display this as an interactive wall or book, and it will be a way of getting to know each child and their individual identity. LOC.1.

Meet Miss Nozomi

Hi, my name is Nozomi. I am excited to start working in the Nursery Two room. I hope as an educator, I can be a good friend to the children and also a great partner to support their development. It is such an amazing moment for me to share lots of experiences with the children and share with them their love of learning.



Physical Program

At the start of March, we introduced a physical program where we focus on one physical skill during the month. During March, we chose to play with balls! The children practiced throwing, catching kicking and rolling. All the children have really enjoyed playing with the balls and we all can now confidently throw a ball! In April, we have been focusing on moving our bodies when dancing. The children have been using their hands to clap, waving their hands in the air, wiggling their hips, twirling, walking around and stomping to the music. Music and movement is not only a great way to move our bodies but a great way for the children to express their personality

Nursery Two!

Music and movement is not only a great way to move our bodies but a great way for the children to express their personality and emotions. We hope to continue this physical program in months to come! If you have any ideas on new physical activities for the children to learn, we would love to hear them!

Children build a strong sense of wellbeing, physically, socially and emotionally as they, not only use their physical skills to move their bodies in different ways, but celebrate their efforts and seek and accept new challenges. LO3

Easter

We have celebrated Easter with a wonderful afternoon of Easter bonnet parade fun. We had a great turnout of parents joining us for our bonnet parade. The children collaged their bonnets themselves and had lots of sticky fun with the glue and collage pieces while making them. Although the hats didn't stay on for long, we think the children loved having their parents with them at the centre for a mingle and a play.





Children celebrate a holiday as a community event, feeling a sense of community and belonging to the community. LO2 the children used their artistic ability and creative flair to create their bonnets. LO4

Henny Penny

Following Easter, we have had the Henny Penny Hatching program come to Little Ducks FV. The children were very excited when we brought the chickens up to level One for them to interact with. We have been practicing our 'gentle hands' as we pat the chicken's soft feathers.





Senior Nursery 1!



This year is going so fast, it is already nearly the end of April, and we welcome you to another newsletter to show you all the wonderful things your children have done over for last 2 months!

We have been having a lot of changes in our Senior Nursery room over the past couple of weeks on the 10th of April, we sadly had to say our goodbyes to our much-loved Miss Suder as she has made her way back down to Nursery, with Miss Taylor coming replacing her and moving up into our Senior Nursery 1 room. On a happier note, we have had a wonderful week of transitions here in our Senior Nursery 1 family with new children from Nursery 2 transitioning into our room, and some of the Senior Nursery 1 children making their big move into Senior Nursery 2 with Miss Suchi, Miss Yumeko and Miss Megan, we have been focusing on our relationships and building strong bonds with the educators and the children in the room. We would like to say a big welcome to Henry C, Alex, Atticus and Angus who have been transitioning into our Senior Nursery 1 room in the last couple of weeks. It has been wonderful seeing each of you settle into the room, and enjoy meeting your new friends and getting to know your new educators and surroundings, Miss Grace and I can't wait for what the rest of the year will bring with all the children in our room.

Introducing Miss Taylor…

A big hello to all the families in Senior Nursery 1, I have had the pleasure of getting to know most of you over the past couple of weeks and you have all been so welcoming and lovely to me while I have been settling into the room and of course getting to know all your wonderful children.

An insight to my personal teaching philosophy…

I aim to provide a caring, safe and home-like environment that is welcoming, warm and inclusive of all cultures, nationalities, abilities and family situations. An environment where children, parents, families and educators feel safe, secure, respected, supported and comfortable to approach myself and each other to contribute to the room, service and community. Where partnerships and friendships can be formed, and maintained, lines of communication are always open and valued, help can be obtained and sourced without judgement being cast, trust and credibility can be built, maintained

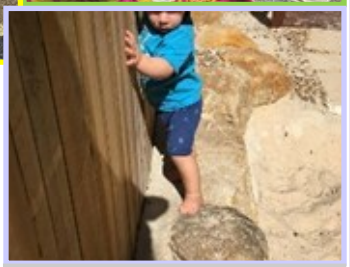






Senior Nursery 1!






and grown, and confidentiality is held in the up most respect. In relation to children my aim is to implement an educational program and environment that reflects on both individual and group needs and one that promotes each child's; interests, culture, learning, development and individuality through play. Where children can become successful, capable and confident learners.

Easter hat Parade (13-4-17)

During April, we had the pleasure of celebrating Easter here at Little Ducks, the week before the Easter long weekend, was a busy week full of fun exciting Easter activities that the children loved participating in. To start with, we used kitchen mashers to make some wonderful rainbow egg shapes full of colour for our Easter hats, another activity the children participated in to make their Easter hats really unique just like each and every child we have, Miss Yumeko and I thought to stick some A3 paper to the table and let the children get all different types of arts and crafts that they could use stick onto the paper, but of course before we stuck them all down, the children used their paint brush to put glue all over the paper and then afterwards masterpiece happened.

13th of April we invited all the families to come to Little Ducks for an Easter hat parade, the parents got to see all the beautiful masterpieces the children created, using their creative imagination. It was an amazing
turn out and it was wonderful to see all the parents come out and celebrate with all the educators and their children.

Henny Penny chicken hatching and kindy outdoor picnics and visits (21/4/17)

On Friday, Miss Yumeko, Miss Grace and I took the children down to the kindergarten area for a picnic lunch, the real reason we went down there was because a couple of days ago, the centre participated in Henny Penny chicken hatching. We all got to see the lifestyle of a chicken from the egg to the baby chicken hatching from the egg. During this the children showed happiness and curiosity and just how caring and gentle they can be when holding the chickens. This hasn't been the only time we have come down to the kindy outdoor area, over the past couple of weeks, we have been enjoying our outdoor visits to the kindergarten area, it has been a very big focus in Senior Nursery 1, with the children's curiosity and physical abilities growing rapidly, they have been branching out and challenging themselves on all different types of physical activities.

Senior Nursery 2!



Hello everyone!! Hope you all had wonderful Easter break. There is a lot happening and we are excited to share all wonderful moments we had, with your amazing children here, learning, bonding and growing up.

We have been always working towards all-round development for our children, however the last couple of months, we have been watching our children getting more independent towards their language development and they have been talking a lot!! Lots of new words and some even starting join them to form sentences and it's amazing to see this happening with every passing day. And hence we have encouraging and supporting them on this through more of group times, more interactions and routine activities. The "**Bee-Bee Bumble Bee**" song has been quite popular among our kids and they love singing at the transition times, which has made them confident about their own identity and their friends & educators around them.





We also have been quiet keen with our sensory play exploring all our senses and getting to be more confident about using them. Extending on this area of their interest, we did several different kinds of experiences which in turn not only gave them a learning experiences to master on their sensory skills but they had lots of fun doing those!! The most loved activities were playing the shaving cream, ice, paints, spaghetti and most of all water!!

Developing on their all-round physical wellbeing has also been yet another focus we have working on every day and given them the opportunities to be physically active, we have been observing some wonderful outcomes! The outdoor environment is changed on a quiet regular basis to keep our children engaged and motivated towards their physical development. Providing a range of simple to complex activities has given some wonderful opportunities to show our children's fine motor skills as well as their cognitive development eventually. They are developing their skills with learning the basic concepts of shapes, colours, animals, fruits and vegetables.



Senior Nursery 2!



All this while, we have also observing some wonderful bonding happening between our children and with us which great deal reflection on their social skills. They have been compassionate, respectful and caring towards their peers and educators!!

We also had fun celebrating different events in the last few months which gave us an opportunity to teach our children on cultural diversity. We celebrated one of famous festival from India called as **Holi**. Ms. Roushini, a cultural collaborator taught us all about the Hindu spring festival which is known as festivals of colours and sharing love. Our children loved the music, story and colour play associated with celebration of this festival.

We also celebrated **World Health Day** to celebrate our healthy mind, body and spirit & learn all about how to keep ourselves healthy. We got a day filled with lot of experiences like group time, cooking activity and role modelling to celebrate and learn all about being healthy and happy. The **Easter Bonnet Parade** was fun celebrating with our children and their families. We made our eater parade hats and joined in with our friends from Senior Nursery one to celebrate it together.

And yes, the **Henny Penny Chickens** currently at our centre is not just fun to watch but gives an opportunity to learn about the natural environment around us and how we need to be respectful and caring about it.

And last but not the least, a lot of our friends are **turning two** and we have been celebrating their birthdays with all friends and as they move up to the Toddlers room along with Ms. Jessi, it's going to be a bit of sad moment for us as we are going to miss them a lot, however with the new friends transitioning from senior nursery one to our room, we are excited to start a new phase of learning, bonding and growing up together.

In the coming few months, we will be initially focussing on settling down our new friends in our room while continuing learning and extending on our interests. We are looking forward to learning more on our children's families and their cultural background and hence we would like to invite all the families to join us as we plan and organise different experience to learn and celebrate them and their children in our centre!!!!



Toddlers!



First, we all welcome our new friends from senior nursery two who have been moved up and those who are still in the process of transiting to join the toddler family. Our toddlers have been busy, engaging into many learning experiences. The month of march started with being crazy with the "Crazy Hair Day" and we all spent whole week enjoying our own hair saloon and getting the babies dressed up and doing different hair styles to the educators and our friends. We not just tried using the hair tools for the hair do's but also experimented painting with the tooth brushes and combs, showing our creativity and experimentation skills.

We have been doing lots of different sensory activities and incorporating natural materials and recycled resources to our plans and programmes and using it in our daily activities. The sensory experiences started with the water and ice and to continue our exploration, we experimented with ice cube and frozen berries, painting and smashing the berries against the paper getting natural ink coming out from berries. To further extend this activity we experimented with big balls of ice with colours and salt. We painted the big ball with paint on our hands and feeling the cold ice ball and saw it melting with the salt water spray. To further continue this interest, we sprayed the water and enjoyed getting the mist on ourselves and enjoyed making rain inside. We also made our own showers with recycled bottles and having fun by splashing water on our friends. All the water play activities were so calming for the children, where they reflected their enjoyment through their facial expressions and verbal communication.

Children have been showing lots of interest in connectors, blocks and construction area, making towers and practising fine motor skills, therefore we have added lots of resources to our construction area, such as cardboard cylinders, trucks, cars, K'NEX set, wooden blocks, Legos, shape connectors, cardboard rings, plastic cups, glasses and containers. Along with this watching construction across the road has been one of our favourite activity. Children have been watching the cars, trucks, buses and motor bikes across the road and counting them, telling us the colour and telling about the colours of the cars of their parents, using their cognitive skills to recall things and connecting it to the real world. To extend this interest we painted our wheels, pretended making bus with the chairs being lined up and sitting on that bus going for ride with our friends singing "wheels on the bus". Also,





Toddlers!





we watched the pictures of the buses around the world and getting to know about different kinds of buses.

Shapes have been one of the favourite interest of the children and we have been encouraging this interest feeding the shape monsters, doing Colorama shape puzzles and reading books about shapes. It has been wonderful to see that most of the children can recognise shapes and connecting it to the real world by expressing about it such as “circle mats, circle crackers, bowls, plates, triangle sandwiches and cheese”.

During group time, we have been practising about “body parts”, doing yoga and stretching every day, counting numbers, learning about new Spanish words, reading books of children’s interest and engaging into conversation with educators and our peers. It has been amazing to see children being more social with each other, interacting, communicating and making new besties.

Once again toilet training and communicating about our needs and self-help skills are our big achievements of these two months. We have seen children being more and more independent and confident in their routines and toilet training.

In our journey of having healthy mind, body and soul, we have been talking about healthy eating every morning on the table during morning and afternoon tea time and lunch time. We have been encouraging children to taste all the fruits and vegetable that we have for morning tea. On “World Health Day”, we cut our own fruits and veggies for making our own sandwiches with the choice of our own fruits and veggies. Also, we have been acknowledging the contribution of Land in providing food to us to make us healthy and strong. Every meal time we all say “Thank you” to the Mother Land for the food and strength. It is wonderful to see children saying “Thankyou” in a group and acknowledging it and getting to a link with the natural environment.
A big thanks to all the families who came to see us on the “Easter Bonnet Parade” and it was good to see children being with the parents doing different activities and showing them their hats and parade.

This is my last new letter of the year as I am going for my maternity leave (Ms Jyoti) and I hope you all have wonderful year ahead and will see you next year with a new status of Mum.

Junior Kindy!



The last two months in the Junior Kindy room have been filled with heaps of excitement, learning and fun, it's been a wonderful two months with the children as many new faces have come to join the room as well. As the room grows it's great to see all the children developing beautiful friendships.

Throughout the time in the room the topic of Safety has come up a lot, the children wanted to explore both Fire safety and road safety. During March, we took a close look at fire safety, looking at some of the fire safety equipment in the room from the fire extinguisher, fire alarms and our fire safety evacuation plan. The children got a chance to make their own Fire trucks, we also practiced a proper fire evacuation within the centre.

As April came we looked at road safety, involving the children in many discussions about how they cross the road and what they should and shouldn't do when crossing a road. To be able to practice and demonstrate the safe way to cross a road we made some of our own traffic lights, crossing walk and road signs, bringing them into our outside yard to that the children could create their own roads. It was great to see the children putting into practice the things we spoke about, both when they were pretending to be a pedestrian or even when they were pretending to be a car using one of the bikes.

We've also been exploring the world around us with the children, more so looking at the many countries and cultures that make up the world around us.. While there are so many countries in the world to look at, we've been leaving it up to the children to decide where it is we would be looking at next before marking on our map which country we were currently looking at. We've been including stories and Music from both South Africa and Nepal during March and April, these were the countries that the children picked and have been very excited to see and learn every aspect of the country and its culture as we've progressed through these couple of months. While we visited South Africa the children were very interested in the life style of the people there, taking a closer look at the kinds of houses people live in there and how they differ from their own homes. To looking at the ways the people of South Africa perform everyday tasks, practicing trying to balance a basket on their head to take clothing to the river or the



Junior Kindy!



way the women carrying their babies on their back with a wrap.

As we ventured into Nepal the children have been looking more closely at the buildings there. They tried constructing some of the buildings we had showed them. The children really came together as a team to look at the image and figure out how they could create their own with blocks, they've also really enjoyed just seeing how different things are around the world and being able to say Hello to us using a different language. – From Mr Jamie

During the lead up to Anzac Day on the 25th of April, we have been discussing with our Junior Kindy class what Anzac Day is all about.

The children were interested to find out what Anzac means, how to recognise a soldier by their uniform and that soldiers are both men and woman who are serving in the Australian Defence Force. Miss Kathryn brought in some military uniforms and we continued this discussion further about the slouch hats, uniform and we had the chance to look at some of the medals that the brave Men and Woman receive for serving our country.

We discussed that Anzac Day is about saying thanks to our soldiers and the children made a giant poppy in our class room to say thank you to the soldiers and made Anzac biscuits and discussed the meaning behind them. – Miss Kathrine

I'm excited for the next couple months as the Junior Kindy have so much in store, Mother's day is coming up with a lovely afternoon tea so be excited for that! We have so many new faces in the room and this means more families, I'm so excited to see you all interact and continue this beautiful community we have going in Junior Kindy.



Please remember that we utilise the outdoor area every day and we need hats to play, we also need blankets as the cooler weather kicks in. – Miss Jo

Kindergarten Program!



Welcome to the Kindergarten room, Isaac, Hazel and Henrietta! We are so glad you have joined us!

The past few weeks has seen us develop a focus on communication in the Kindergarten room. With quite a varied age range, we see a lot of different communication styles being used so we see it a great opportunity to further develop these skills.
Through the implementation of the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines, the children can share and interpret meanings presented in a variety of ways, including speaking, singing, moving and facial expressions. The children use spoken and nonverbal communication to support emerging scientific investigations and find answers in our play. Our results also encourage communication as we question each other further, celebrate achievements with hugs and hi-5's and reflect on our hypothesis.
We have also been exploring literacy in personally meaningful ways as we continue with our letter of the week, show and share relating to that letter and the implementation of children's individual writing books. These books are available to the children all the time and are used at the children's leisure rather than at a structured time of day. This ensures that the children use them for their interest and play, which promotes their learning.

Most recently we have been lucky enough to enjoy the chicken hatching program through Henny Penny Hatchings. We hosted the chickens in the Kindergarten room which enabled the children to keep a close eye on the hatching process. The first 6 chickens to hatch were yellow, and the following 3 were black! This was such a delightful surprise as the children certainly didn't expect it. Throughout the fortnight, we discussed the life cycle of a chicken which enabled the children to add to their memory bank - repetition is vital for knowledge development at such a young age. We engaged in an activity where the children named the chickens.

I would like to remind you all about the extra-curricular activities that we have available to the children too. We currently have ballet, tennis and yoga that we host throughout the week. All children from the room engage in Yoga which is held on Thursday with Miss Faye.



Kindergarten Program!



Faye. Tennis and ballet are a little different with external companies implementing these experiences but it is a great opportunity to enjoy these activities that would normally be squeezed into your weekend; let me know you would like some more information.

Finally, I would like to express my thoughts and beliefs behind all the cooking experiences that we engage in. I firmly believe that engaging the children in cooking experiences encourages healthy eating habits and skills for life. We engage in so much cooking because it is a fun way to learn about cultures and other countries, a great opportunity to develop or mathematic & scientific skills, develops teamwork and collaborative approaches and encourages conversation and negotiation among the group. These skills transfer into all different experiences throughout the day and they have been learnt through the children's interest. You will be able to see throughout our "Around the World" folder the foods we have cooked to far, and you will also see these engaging experiences throughout your child's portfolio.

Moving forward throughout May, we will be focusing on building our resilience to change. We have had some new friends arrive and one friend move away, we are getting more children transition to Kindy from Junior Kindy and we also have new casual staff. These changes indicated we may need to focus on further developing our resiliency skills to ensure we continue to feel a sense of belonging in the environment. You will have noticed that the children now have their very own carpet square on the wall in the classroom that is to promote their own sense of belonging. We include photos of family, fun weekend activities, drawings or paintings that the children are proud of and they are encouraged to add other items and show them to their friends and family. I look forward to seeing these fill up over the coming weeks, housing a small piece of home away from home.



Spotlight on... Miss Grace Senior Nursery 1

1) Where did you grow up?

I grew up on the Sunshine Coast in beautiful Noosa. This was our family home until I was 12 years old. We made the decision to move to Brisbane to have greater access to Universities and jobs.

2) What was your first job?

My first job was when I was 15 years old. My best friend and I both got a job in the Seafood Department of IGA.

3) What do you do when you're not at work?

I like to keep active. This does have varying degrees; some days it's a nice long bush walk other days it's a stroll with my dog Doug.

4) Where would you like to visit?

I have a trip booked to Tasmania in September. I am planning on enjoying the many bush walks around Tasmania and the yummy food that they have on offer.

5) What is your secret talent? or if you had a super power what would it be?

I enjoy to cook and love to explore different healthy recipes. I make a very yummy raw chocolate cake.





Healthy Eating....

Chicken, cheese and vegetable patties



Ingredients:

- 2 large potatoes, peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 tbsp butter
- 2 tbsp milk
- Half a medium brown onion, finely diced
- 1 medium zucchini, grated
- 1 medium carrot, grated
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 3/4 cup cooked brown rice
- 1/2 cup drained tin lentils (optional).
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup (40g) tasty cheese, grated
- 500g chicken mince
- 1/4 cup (25g) breadcrumbs to thicken pattie mixture (if necessary)
- Crumbing 1 cup (90g) breadcrumbs
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup (150g) plain flour

1. Preheat oven to 180C (160C fan-forced). Line a baking tray with foil and set aside. Cook potato and sweet potato in some boiling water until soft. Mash with butter and milk and set aside to cool a little. Fry the onion, zucchini, carrot in olive oil and the soy sauce. Season with salt and set aside.

2. In a large bowl, combine the pre-made mash, fried veggies, rice, lentils, eggs, cheese and chicken mince. Mix thoroughly until all ingredients are well combined. If you feel the mix is too wet just add 1/4 cup of breadcrumbs to bind the mix a little better.

3. Scoop up a tablespoon of mixture and shape into patties or whatever shape your toddler prefers to eat. Dip in flour, then through beaten egg then into the bread-crumbs and onto the baking tray. Bake for 20 minutes, turning once, or until gold-en brown.

Connecting with the Community.....

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

MUMS AND BUBS SOCCER FOR 2-3YEAR OLDS

Monday, May 22, 2017
9 – 9:30am
New Farm park

Fun, safe, soccer games using balls, goals and cones. This is the perfect mix of fun, physical activity and instruction that is sure to please all. Suitable for 2-3 year olds.

Bookings essential. To book visit Ginger Sports or for more information phone 3890 3338.

POWERKIDS: LITTLE ARTIST AT PLAY

Every Tuesday (excluding school holidays)
Turbine platform, Brisbane Powerhouse
Powerkids: Little Artists at Play is a creative play workshop series for children aged 0-5 years and their parents and carers. Bring your kids along to take part in multi-art experiences led by internationally acclaimed artists from Imaginary Theatre.
Each week the host artist will collaborate with the group on unique and engaging activities.

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

Sunday, June 11, 2017
11 – 11:30am
Brisbane Square Library

Experience the magic of story time with your child at the library. This interactive session includes stories, songs and mark making activities for young children. Ideal for children aged 2-5 years.



MT COOTHA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Hide 'N' Seek Children's Trail leads you around the garden to all the different experiences and hidden secrets the garden has to offer



Helpful Online Resources



Parent works is an online program for Australian parents and caregivers of children from 2-16years. It provides evidence-based parenting strategies to improve parenting skills, confidence and children's behaviour.

https://parentworks.org.au/#/

National Quality Standard Professional Learning Program

NQS PLP Play-based approaches to literacy and numeracy

This article focuses on the play based learning technique that Early Childhood Education focuses on. Research has shown that children engaged in play based learning retained the knowledge greater due to an increased connection to the learning.

http://www.ecrh.edu.au/docs/default-source/resources/nqs-plp-e-newsletters/nqs-plp-e-newsletter-no-66-2013-play-based-approaches-to-literacy-and-numeracy.pdf?sfvrsn=4

Healthy Food Healthy Planet

Nutrition Australia—QLD

This is an article that includes tips on how to encourage children to try different foods and incorporate them into your child's diet.

https://d2ktlgllpgl04o.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/20143615/Encouraging-different-foods-to-children.pdf

Thank you for taking the time to read our centre newsletter. Please remember our door is always open and that we value family participation across all aspects of our program.