Little Ducks Childcare Wilston

May/June 2017

A note from your Centre Manager

We're coming up to that time of year again when our children are showing us they are strong, capable learners and are looking to transitioning to the next stage of their learning. Many of our children are in the process of transitioning to a new room. In early childhood we believe in following the developmental stages of each individual child. For this reason we do not always follow a calendar year in each room, as some children show signs they are ready for the next environment sooner than other children. It is our aim to ensure all transitions occur gently over a period of time to give children time to adjust to new environments, peers and educators. You can help at home by talking positively about these changes and making a conscious effort to establish a strong relationship with your child's new educators. Children look to us to help them organise their feels. When they see us happy, confident and engaged they will follow our direction and feel confident, happy and engaged themselves.

Towards the middle of June all children will receive an assessment of leaning letter that highlights their current development and learning in relation to the 5 learning outcomes of the EYLF and QKLG curriculums. After these letters go out families will be invited to attend a family conference with your classroom educators to discuss how your child is going. This is a great opportunity to have some one on one conversations with your room educator away from the distractions of the playground and children. Please watch your inbox for information about how to book a time.



Finally I have some exciting news to share with you all. Last weekend on a beach in Yeppoon my partner of 2 years, Pete, proposed to me. I am very happy to say that I said yes to becoming his wife and step mum to his 3 beautiful daughters Elaynah (10), Georgia (9) and Olivia (8). Thank you to everyone who has congratulated me on my engagement we are both very happy.

Rebecca

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

May

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

Monday 13th – **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea**
We will be celebrating our special mums with an afternoon tea starting 3:30pm.

Sunday 14th – **Mother's Day**
Don't forget to spoil your mum today!

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**
We will remember and commemorate the mistreatment of the country's indigenous population.

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

June

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

Monday 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. We will be having a special visitor come to Little Ducks and help us get closer to nature.



Tuesday 6th – **Queensland Day**
Come in dressed up as your favourite Queenslander! Queensland Day 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...

- **Security access–** New security fobs have arrived. 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.
- **Egg Allergies** Please remember that we have children at the service allergic to egg. No quiche, frittata, omelette or egg prominent items to be placed in lunchboxes please.

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,. Innes policy—minor
* Accident/Incident Policy—Severe
* Asthma and diabetes policy
* Duty of care policy
* Handwashing policy
* Policy for the se of gloves
* Infection control policy
* Infectious illness procedure
* Nappy changing policy
* Confidentiality Policy
* Orientation Policy—families
* Fee Policy
* Open door and parent participation policy
* Record keeping policy

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- *Ava*
- *Amelia*
- *Shark*
- *Stella*
- *William*
- *Stephanie*
- *Amy*
- *Grace*
- *Thomas*
- *Charlotte*
- *William*
- *George*
- *Harriett*
- *John*
- *Henry*
- *Elijah*
- *Harvey*
- *Odette*

Mothers Day Treat
Vanilla Fudge

Ingredients

450g castor sugar

400g double cream

50g butter

1 tbsp glucose syrup

1 vanilla bean, split and scraped



Method:

Begin preparing this recipe the day before you intend serving it.

Line a 20 x 20-centimetre cake tin with baking paper. Put sugar, cream, butter and glucose syrup into a medium-to-large saucepan. Heat to dissolve sugar and melt butter, stirring now and then.

Once dissolved, insert a sugar thermometer, making sure the end is covered by the syrup. Increase heat and bring syrup to a steady boil. Keep bubbling, stirring occasionally to stop sugar from catching, until the mixture reaches 116C. Remove pan from heat and leave to sit, undisturbed, for five minutes, until the temperature drops to 110C.

Stir in vanilla seeds scraped from pod and a good pinch of salt. Beat mixture vigorously with a wooden spoon until the temperature cools. By this time the fudge will be really thick and will have lost its glossy shine. Continue beating a few more minutes. Before it sets completely, quickly pour fudge into prepared tin and smooth the surface.

Leave to cool at room temperature overnight - don't put fudge in the fridge as it will become sticky and won't set properly. Cut into pieces about 4 centimetres square and put in an airtight container. The sweets will keep, in a sealed container, for up to two months.

Nursery Natter!

Lead Educator: **Debbie Mynn**
Educator: **Kerri-anne Hogan**



We welcomed lots of new friends into the Nursery room during the last couple of months. We hope that Ben, William, Lotus, Violet, Oliver, Odette, James, Macsen, Grace and their families all have lots of fun and learning during their time with us. We have enjoyed getting to know all of the children and their families and are working on forming strong bonds with everyone.

A lot of our play based learning has been focussing on sensory experiences. We have loved the feel of lots of different textures including scrunched up paper, bubble wrap, bags full of squishy paint which led to some very messy and fun finger painting, water play, sand play, touch and feel books, examining a variety of different kitchen utensils and best of all popping and catching lots of bubbles that the Educators blew for us.



Another popular interest has been 'posting' things. We started off posting pom poms into cardboard tubes attached to the wall. This led to posting paddle pop sticks into cardboard boxes, posting large buttons into dishes and various sized containers, hiding blocks in our mail boxes and putting coins into the piggy bank slot. This is fantastic for our hand eye coordination. We were all very excited to see the little chicks from Henny Penny Hatchings. We had an excursion out into the foyer to look at the eggs and baby chicks hatching out. Our Educators held the chicks in their hands so we could all very gently pat the soft, fluffy baby chicks. We were all very happy to show off our beautiful room and centre to our parents who joined us for afternoon tea just before the Easter break. We played, sang, ate fruit and popped even more bubbles.





The Nursery children are continuing to develop at a rapid pace. Some have moved onto starting to eat solid foods, learning to sit by ourselves, pull up to a standing position, standing alone, climbing over the obstacle course, climbing up ladders, pushing prams around the playground and even walking by ourselves.

Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator: **Nabia Songco**
Lead Educator: **Tiago Oliveria**
Educator: **Georgia Dunning**

First we would like to welcome Ms. Georgia to our room. We are so happy to have Ms Georgia in our room and we are all looking forward in getting to know her.
We began the month of March with plenty of sensory experiences. We started by exploring the soft texture of the shaving foam and learn the colour white. We continued this learning experience by incorporating water colours into the foam, which the children found exciting. Next, the children enjoyed squeezing and moulding the playdough and moon sand with their hands, which help in the development of their hand muscles and joints. Playdough and moon sand also help the children to be creative as they made pretend cakes, create their pretend snakes and roll playdough balls.



The children also enjoyed exploring the sticky contact paper, the bumpy bubble wrap, create sounds with the corrugated paper, observing the sensory bottles, feeling the edible slime, gak and wobbly jelly.
The development of the children's fine motor skills is an important foundation for the attainment of other important skills in the future such as writing, drawing and self-help. With this information we thoughtfully set up the coloured rice spooning activity, balancing egg on a spoon, stick drop, button sorting, squeezy puffy painting activity, stamping and painting using different mediums such as balloon, pompoms, sticks and foams.

The children's physical wellbeing is very important in the development of a healthy mind and body and we endeavour for them to learn to take increasing responsibility of their own health and physical wellbeing. This lead us to teach them proper hand washing during our transition to the bathroom, teaching them to swish and swallow the water after every meal, teaching them to catch their sneeze and cough through song and showing how this is done. We also set up a food tasting activity and allow the children to choose the food that they wanted to try and we further extend the activity by discussing why eating healthy is important. We also set up a baby bathing activity with the children and discussed the important of cleanliness for a healthy body.



Physical wellbeing also encompass the development of balance, gross motor skills and proprioception and because of these the confidence course was set up daily. This activity allows the children to challenged themselves thus help them develop resilience, perseverance, problem solving skills and allow them to feel pride of what they had achieved. We saw children traverse the stepping stones on their own, learn to jump and navigate the area confidently and safely. We also began to teach the children simple yoga poses and teach them to breathing techniques to calm themselves.

As weeks progress, we observed the children's developing sense of community and understanding of their reciprocal rights and responsibilities to contribute to their world. The children

Toddler Tales!

started showing interest in helping tidy their toys and they also showed interest in our herb garden. The children started smelling and tasting the herbs that lead us to discuss about what we can do to care for our garden so that we will continue to enjoy smelling the herbs. With this consistent learning discussions the children showed growing appreciation and sense to care of our garden through engaging in watering our garden daily, getting involve in weeding the garden and planting more seeds and herbs, which was a very exciting experience for them.

Smelling the herbs in our garden also lead us to engaged the children in a smelling sensory experience, which they learned the different smell of the herbs. We later incorporate herbs and other spices in our playdough, providing children an open ended sensory experience. With the children becoming socially responsible being we introduced the worms to them. This new experience sparked a new level of wonder and interest in them that we visited the worms every day, bringing our leftover fruits and vegetables. The children learned during this experience the vital role of the worm in disposing our leftover foods and the role they play in the development of healthy ecosystem.



As the children began to develop the sense of belonging they also showed interest in the people around them. The children began to show interest in cooperative play, engaging in pretend plays such as teddy bear picnics, camping, roads and cars, cooking and playing with the dolls in our home corner. We foster this interest by setting up a small group activities that encouraged them to work cooperatively with each other, take turns and share positive social interactions, accordingly we set up the marble painting, ball rolling, building blocks together, group painting with the Junior Kindies, singing with the Pre-schoolers, group collage, racing around the yard and dancing as a group.

The month of March and April saw us celebrate a few cultural tradition, which was another great opportunity for the children to learn about the diverse culture around them. We celebrated the Indian festival of colours, Holi, and learn about its significance. We also celebrated the St. Patrick's Day and learn everything about Ireland, such as the colours of the flag, the meaning of clover and learning to say Dia Dhuit (Gaelic Irish for Good Morning).

We also celebrated the Harmony day by wearing an orange shirt and posting the diverse background of the children in the Toddler room next to their pictures. This was followed by a discussion about how everybody belongs in spite of our differences. We also taught the children about diversity through our Hello song and singing different nursery rhymes in different languages.

In the month of April, we celebrated the Holy Week and taught the children how other culture celebrated this Christian tradition. This took us to do egg rolling, water play, decorate our own Easter basket, create a Swedish Easter tree, Easter Eggs, Easter bonnet and discussed about the bilby and the bunny. The Easter also brought the henny penny egg hatching experience in the centre. The children were so excited to be given a chance to hold and pat the chicks. We also visited the chicken in the big yard which lead us to discuss about the chicken life cycle. What a busy and wonderful month full of learning and adventure!

Junior Kindy Jumble!

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

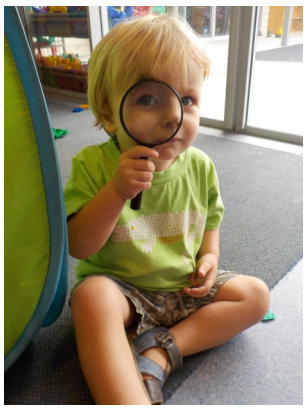
What a fantastic couple of months we have had in the Junior Kindy Room. We would like to welcome the new families that are starting with us. It is a pleasure to have you in the Junior Kindy room and we look forward to a wonderful year.

The chidlren have enjoyed building In the outside environment. The children have became little engineers and architects in the garden when creating their buildings out of sand, sticks and flowers. We engaged in creativity through building experiences by manipulating objects like a hammer and nail.



Through this, Team work has been a key feature in the use of construction resources. The children have worked together to design, build intricates and thoughtful structures using their creativity, imagination and logical thinking. Social, communication and language skills are all improved through playing with these construction resources as we learn about the importance of safety. The children have learnt how to build with perseverance as they build their own constructions using resources like natural materials.

When using these natural materials we discovered insects and plants in the garden. We then explored our curiosity by investigating what we can see through a magnified glass. To continue our learning further we then created a insect environment in the room. It was great to see the parents bringing in insects from home for us to investigate and research. We researched spiders, a locust, garden beetles and butterflies. When investigating we used our discovery skills to document our findings.





The children developed on their cognitive development and fine motor skills as they used instruments like tweezers, tongs and Magnified glasses that offered the children the chance to see the world around them in finer detail.

Throughout these learning development activities team building has been a key for our social and emotional development. We explored our differences and all felt a sense of belonging during collaborative activities with both kindy and toddler rooms. This collaborative play gave the children the opportunity to communicate and

Junior Kindy Jumble!



interact with each other and also learn from each other in the outside play area. We had fun during these collaborative play experiences. The Junior Kindy children enjoyed mastering their physical skills as we endured a challenging obstacle course with the kindy children and the toddlers were welcomed into the Big Yard to express creativity. This was a blast! Toddler and Junior Kindy explored spray painting and sensory sand painting. The children described the creative play experience of being “Fun”, “Messy”, and “colourful”.

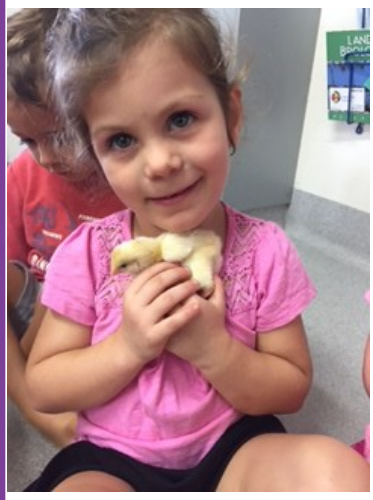
As the children enjoyed expressing their creativity this month, they also expressed their imagination through sensory play in the sandpit where they continued to build. We have had a great couple of months exploring our social, emotional, physical, creativity and imagination skills. Next month we hope to continue building relationships through play based experiences that involve the children on developing these skills further. We will also be continuing on focusing on our self help skills including toileting. The children are doing extremely well with using the bathroom at this stage. It’s important that we consistently keep this training continuing at home for a smooth transition from nappies to undies. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Miss Mandy or Miss Jasmine.

Kindy Catch Up

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

Welcome to another addition of Kindy news. How wonderful a time we have had this past few months with the ending of our Easter break.
To begin, we would like to welcome all our new friends Sam and Isabelle to the kindy room. We are so lucky to have new friends and can't wait to get to know and learn with you all.

Moving along…
This past few months have seen some incredible opportunities of learning and development emerge with our continued practicing of fine motor and gross motor skills. The children have been busy exploring playdough, sand, slime and other textured materials to increase sense of wonder while engaging in active learning. These opportunities of play encourage the children to progress in strengthening and developing confidence within themselves and their skills. Our Outdoor environment have been filled with opened ended exploration and play as we investigate the worm farm, learning important steps for caring for and respecting our environment. We have been encouraging sustainability within our centre and recycling our food scrapes was the natural step in achieving this with the Kindy children. Just last week we collected up our scrapes to feed Hugo's chickens from the Preschool room. Did you know Chickens love Apple, like our Kindy friends?



Also, our Kindy friends have shown great skill on the monkey bars and Obstacle courses, designed to challenge and invite the children to participate. We are now moving from strength to strength and can use our upper body to hold on and swing on the monkey bars. This has brought out the best of the children, as they recognise and celebrate their own achievements.

Other great examples of learning happening in our environment have been our investigation into Space. We used this opportunity to include intentional teaching as we begun our journey through the solar system, learning the names, shape and sizes of planets, exploring the galaxy, stars and moons. Miss Sawsan loves Space and took the lead sharing her valuable knowledge as we used our creative skills to draw our interpretation of each Planet. That was lots of fun and together we were able to share this with our families on our learning wall and each day adding something new and exciting to our environment. Like the addition of our Space Rocket.

Next, came our enthusiasm for drawing and creating story books. This came about after lots of parent input and feedback about their child's current interest. We were able to observe the children engaging in ways to express themselves through their

Kindy Catch Up!

artwork, drawings and extension of vocabulary. Each child's work celebrated together at story time with their friends and little bit of imagination. Our love of Books continued with Miss Mel, Sawsan and Juanita bringing along their favourite books from their childhood.

Most of you would have seen the different changes to our environment, with the addition of our home corner play. A valuable and treasured space amongst our Kindy friends where opportunity of social interaction, dramatic play and real life engagements has emerged. Cooking has been on the agenda during this play experience, with the children using role play with café and restaurant fun. What a fun experience that enables the children to learn through play with materials also found in our everyday lives and homes.

With so many great experiences happening each week we would like to take the opportunity to remind families that we have information and records of the children's activities, meal and sleep times available to families in our parent area. (On top of bag rack). Please feel free to sit down, engage with your child and read their portfolio. There are lovely examples of your child's achievements and experiences so far. Feedback would be much appreciated as this helps both educators and families be apart and contribute to their child's learning and development.

Lastly. With the weather cooling down in the morning and afternoons, could we please ask that you pack your child a spare pair of clothes, named in their bags.

" What we learn becomes a part of who we are"

from Kathy Jeffords

Preschool Pride!

Early Childhood Teacher: **Cherie Samson**
Early Childhood Teacher: **Vicki Anderson**
Educator: **Revathi Mehandran**

What an amazing experience it has been having the Henny Penny Chicken Hatching Program in the centre over the past two weeks. The pre-schoolers have shown immense interest and curiosity, observing the chicks hatching from the eggs, watching the feathers slowly dry, and engaging with the many little chicks, picking names, gently holding, patting and caring for them. This has been a perfect real life experience that the children have been able to learn from, with some children making links to their home lives as some children have chickens in their family homes or at relatives' houses. We would like to thank the Mudie family for bringing along 'Jack' and 'Henny Penny', two older chickens that Chloe set up in the big yard for the children to observe (chickens from our hatching program a few years ago). Our pre-schoolers had some fantastic conversations around this chicken coop, engaging in taking turns and listening to each other, asking and answering each others questions and thoughts. We have been learning about the many ways we can care for chickens and their environments, alongside investigating the interactions between people, chickens and eggs. The life cycle poster in the foyer provided the opportunity for children to explore the use of symbols and pictures to depict communication and this in turn gave the children just another opportunity to engage in literacy in personally meaningful ways. Holding the chickens was also a great opportunity to promote personal hygiene and wellbeing by demonstrating hand washing after holding and patting the chickens.



You may have noticed in our weekly Friday news that in the preschool room we have been focusing on a 'Letter of the Week'. This has proven to be a real hit with the children, with many children bringing in objects from home to share with the class. The children also show a lot of excitement when 'their letter' is the letter of the week and we can celebrate the child's name! With object hunts around the room, cutting out magazine pictures, brainstorming words that begin with the letter and all sorts of fun activities, this has been a great way to incorporate literacy into our every day program and encourage fun learning of the letter names and sounds.

Our fine motor and gross motor skills are coming along in leaps and bounds! With the many opportunities provided to the children on a daily basis for cutting, threading, playdough manipulation, drawing, pinching pegs and using tweezers, the children's fine motor skills and hand eye coordination for manipulating small objects are beginning to become more refined. The children have been having lots of fun exploring their large movement skills, with challenges such as climbing over the top of the monkey bars, using obstacle courses and pushing each other on the swings. We have been purposefully



Preschool Pride!

engaging the children in a variety of specific activities to broaden movements, build stability and motor skills and challenge children to step out of their comfort zone and gain confidence in their abilities.

Over the past few weeks, we have been making better use of our wonderful outdoor environment. Vicki and Cherie both believe that both indoor and outdoor spaces are hugely important to the children's learning and development in all learning areas. We encourage you to read our 'learning wall' where we have made a display with just some of the amazing opportunities that outdoor play provides our children. If you have any questions about learning in the outdoor environment after reading our display, please feel free to talk to Vicki and Cherie about how fantastic it is for the children's learning and development.



Vicki and Cherie have implemented a 'Floor Book' to document our program and learning. This is placed on the top of the lockers in the afternoon for parents to read. Please take time to read it daily, as this will give you an idea of the learning and development that has occurred throughout the day and may include items relevant to our learning throughout the day; including recipes we may have used in cooking, recommended courses for parents, photos of the children engaging in their environment, children's thoughts and ideas etc. We encourage you to include your feedback and input in this book as it is for educators, children and parents to all have part in the daily program. For effective learning to occur, it is important to have input from all areas of the children's lives. Please feel free to add any information that you think is relevant to the learning of our children, links to home life or positive comments for the children to read.

A few reminders...

Just as the parents have a sign in book, the children also have their own Morning Sign In area. If you haven't yet seen the children's sign in area, ask your child to show you where it is, and celebrate with us that fantastic progress the children are making in writing their own names!

Please remember to check the top of the lockers for Scholastic Bookclub, parent info etc.

If you haven't yet taken home your child's 'all about me' book to fill in, blank ones are on top of the lockers. The children love reading these independently and with their friends, and it is a great way for the children to feel a sense of belonging in the room while helping the children to build a confident self-identity.



Curriculum Corner

Researched and written by Miss Vicki (Educational Leader and Early Childhood Teacher)

Language and literacy comes in many forms. It is important for us to recognise that there are many pre-literacy skills that children need to build on before they will be ready for specific writing and reading activities.

Storytelling	Music	Singing	Movement	
Drama	Conversation	Dance	Visual art	Listening
Symbols	Technology	Talking	Drawing	Critical thinking

In the preschool environment, we focus on the importance of language skills. Children need to be able to express themselves with language, using ever expanding vocabulary and an understanding of the world around them as an important base for literacy. As each individual child begins to show an interest in literacy in their environment, then we are able to encourage their interests, providing opportunities for activities such as drawing/mark making (a precursor to writing), conventions of print (understanding books – cover, spine, pages, reading left to right etc.), phonological awareness (manipulating sounds, rhyming etc.), and letter identification. It is important to note that this step occurs at different times and in different stages for each child; and it is important for us to use literacy in contexts that are meaningful for the children.

You may be asking so what can I do at home?

Story telling – tell stories of your childhood and of your child from when they were younger. This is the perfect occasion to model full sentences and descriptive words while giving your child opportunity to learn more about themselves and their family.

Notice language in the everyday environment – children will begin to recognise the purpose of different types of print and communication and learn to identify these in their surroundings. Road signs, menus, shopping lists, newspapers, timetables, maps, mail etc. can all be functional and meaningful to children, showing that language and literacy have a purpose in our lives. Encourage your child to help mark off items on the shopping list, search for the street sign you are looking for, check who the mail is addressed to, follow the map of the city etc.

Have conversations – instead of asking your child “what did you do today?”, have a conversation with them about your day; model how to talk, listen and ask meaningful questions. Children learn their communication skills from the people around them, and will soon learn to talk about their day in a similar way to how you talk about your day.

Introduce words – children love using descriptive language when they understand it. E.g. If your child says some thing is ‘big’, you could mention “Yes, it’s gigantic, I’ve never seen one bigger.” Or huge, massive etc. Children learn from the words we use with them.

Read books – everyday! For fun! Use funny voices, vary pitch, tone, speed, talk about what is happening in the story, hypothesis what your child thinks will happen next, reflect on what you would do if it was you in the story etc. Get your child to ‘read’ their favourite stories, using the pictures as prompts.

Remember, we want to encourage a lifelong love of language and literacy. It is so important for us to help build these basic skills that be the building blocks for literacy such as reading and writing once they are at school.

Entertainment Book
Fundraiser

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

