

Little Ducks Childcare September / October 2017 Newsletter

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to our newsletter!

Firstly, I would like to thank all our families for their support over the past month whilst we searched for a Centre Manager. I can let you know that we believe we have found the right person for us! Jamie will be starting with us on Monday 11 September. Jamie holds a Diploma of Children's Services and a Bachelor of Business - Major Leadership and Management, he has many years experience in the industry, working from Lead Educator, Centre Manager to Operations positions. We can't wait to have him on board :)

Steptember! What's this all about ….

Run by Cerebral Palsy Alliance, the Steptember charity event challenges people to take 10,000 steps a day for 28 days straight in, yes you guessed it, the month of September.

Living with Cerebral Palsy affects a number of children within our Little Ducks Community so we are getting right behind this event! We have registered our team, Tracey, Kathryn, Taylor and Joanne, and we are ready to get going … stay tuned for how you can support us throughout the month of September.

Father's Day Afternoon Tea

Thank you to everyone that came out to spend the afternoon with your children. We, educators and children, love having you here spending time with your children.

55 McLachlan Street
Fortitude Valley QLD
4006
Phone (07) 3252 1841

Kindergarten Approved Program Queensland Government

fv@littleducks.com.au

Upcoming Events!

...September...



Friday 1st - **Father's Day Afternoon Tea**
Come along for a special Afternoon Tea to celebrate our dads. Starting 3:00pm.
Sunday 3rd - **Father's Day**
Sunday 3rd - **Australian National Flag Day**
Celebrate on **Monday 4th** with the red white and blue flag that makes us all proud Australians.
Wednesday 6th – **National ECE day**
Celebrating the important role early childhood educators play in educating and caring for tomorrow's leaders.
Thursday 21st – **International Day of Peace** A day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and people.

...October...

Sunday 1st – **China's National Day**
Leading up to this day we'll learn about China and what makes their country special.
Monday 2nd – Queens Birthday - PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Monday 16th – **World Food Day**
A day of action against hunger. Bring along a non-perishable item of food for us to donate to the needy.
Friday 20st – **Loud Shirt Day**
It's an excuse to wear your brightest clothes (love 'em, hate 'em, whatever) and raise money to help give the gift of sound and speech to deaf children. Gold Coin Donation.
Sunday 15th – Saturday 21st - **National Nutrition Week**
Let's learn to eat right and eat for our health.



Monday 23rd – 27th **-Children's Week** Children's Week celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood. It is also a time for children to demonstrate their talents, skills and abilities.
Friday 28th – **National Bandana Day**
Support young children living with Cancer by buying a bandanna.
Tuesday 31st - **Halloween**
Dress up with us and enjoy this traditionally Celtic celebration!



Reminders

Our family information area

There is a range of pamphlets and flyers available in our centres foyer. This is where you can find referrals to local community services, information on healthy eating, breastfeeding, physical activity and development, as well as community programs for children. Please let me know if there is something you are looking for that isn't available there so I can source it for you.

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 September and October are:

- Aboriginal, Torres Strait Island and cultural awareness
- Access, equity and enrolment
- Behaviour management and positive guidance
- Biting management
- Chemical storage and dangerous products
- Cleaning and hygiene
- Dental hygiene
- Discrimination, harassment, bullying and occupational violence
- Exclusion

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!





September	**October**
Keenan	Isla
Adrian	Zara
Alexis	Hazel A.
Maya	Finnegan
Poppy	Aaron
Kyle	Franklin
Paisley	Annabelle
Isabelle	Great
Arkie	Bos
	Indiana





Nursery One!



Hi my name is Olivia, I am the newest lead educator of Nursery One! A little bit about me – I have been working in the childcare industry for little under 3 years now and throughout this time have obtained a Diploma in Early Childhood. I have always had a passion for children and their development and enjoy putting my knowledge to work as I educate the gorgeous babies of Nursery One. I started here at the beginning of July and have really been enjoying my time here at Little Ducks! It has been so lovely to meet with all of the families and staff and build relationships with them. Throughout my time here at Little Ducks I have had the amazing opportunity to educate and watch my little Nursery One family grow and it has been such a pleasure.



OUR INTERESTS



Over the past month we have shown great interest in making marks and sensory play, we have been extending off these interests in various ways such as: playdough imprinting, making marks in glitter/cloud dough/ flour/sand and marble painting! We have been implementing a lot of family input into our program as well with the family 'weekend sheets' – we encourage all families to write down what they did on the weekend and we extend off their interests throughout the week! We have also shown great interest in music and movement over the past month and we are in the process of creating a music corner to suit our interests!



TRANSITIONING AND ROUTINES



As the Nursery one children get older and begin to start walking and self-feeding we have had a lot of our children transition into Miss Amy's room in Nursery Two as the children are around the same age and share similar interests. From Miss Amy's room the children have been transitioning into the Senior Nursery rooms and having a fantastic time with their new educators and friends. We have been working a lot on self-feeding during lunch times and bottle-feeding times, it has been a success with a lot of our children now able to feed themselves. We have also been trialling self-settling when it comes to sleep time and this has been working really well within our room.

NEW FRIENDS

We have welcomed Reegan, Elle, Zane, Charles and Isla into nursery one over the past 2 months and they have all settled extremely well and are enjoying their time here at Little Ducks. Our doors are always open with welcoming arms for your children to come and have a play here, please feel free to stay and play or visit us for a tour of the centre. We do encourage you to ask any questions regarding your child/children's care as this helps us as well!



Nursery Two!

Here we are again, its newsletter time!

Since our last newsletter we have had many friends graduate to our Senior Nursery program and many new families have started with us in Nursery 2. We would like to welcome Loic, Noel, Lily, Meleni, Amogh and Keenen! We are happy to report that all new children are beginning to settle into Little Ducks life and having lots of fun while they explore their new surroundings.

VISITING OUTDOORS

We have been visiting ground level a bit more recently to introduce our new friends to this space. It has been nice to take small groups down at a time to get outside into the fresh air and explore the outdoor environment. We would love to make this a regular daily activity and encourage all families to pack a hat in your child's bag so that we can be sun safe while playing outside.



CULTURE

On the 14th July, we celebrated Bastille Day. The children were involved in painting their own interpretation of the French flag. We also enjoyed listening to some French music. The children have especially liked dancing to the different types of music and so we have continued to include cultured music during our days.



SPANISH WITH SANDRA

Miss Sandra has been joining us in our classroom once a week to share some of her culture. On 28th July, it was Peru Independence Day and to celebrate Sandra brought in a show and tell of traditional home wears and outfits warn by Peruvian people. Every time Sandra visits the children are mesmerised by her energy and the language she speaks. They especially like to listen and be involved in the songs that she sings when she visits.



Senior Nursery 1!

Oh my gosh I can't believe it's September already! We have done so much over the past 2 months and we have had so many new faces join our Senior Nursery with Olivia transitioning from Nursery 2 and our friends new to Little Ducks, Grayson, Blake and Alexis!
It has been wonderful to see you all settle in so well to your Senior Nursery One room, you are all starting to show secure attachments with educators, showing feeling of trust and confidence within your environment and of course making new friends each day!
We also had to say goodbye to a much-loved member of our Senior Nursery One family, Henry S! He made his big move up into toddlers last month, and I have heard from his educator Miss Caitlin that he is starting to settle in wonderfully to his new room. We all miss you Henry but we are so happy to hear that you are loving your new room!



We've had such a busy last couple of weeks with many special events making their arrival. On Monday we started to celebrate Book Week with focusing on the hungry caterpillar. The children have loved reading and exploring different ways of reading a book, with puppet storytelling and a sensory dig and find. When focusing on the hungry caterpillar, and we gathered fruit from home corner and put them in a box full of sand for the children giving them to opportunity to engage in this experience and showing confidence when identifying the fruits as they found them.
The children were also involved in a painting activity which gave the children the opportunity to do their own interpretation of a caterpillar, using red and green paint, and a bottle cap lid as a stencil for the head and body of the caterpillar. We read the very hungry caterpillar so many times, I honestly think I can remember it off by heart, each time the children asked to read the book, I noticed they would read along with me, pointing out the egg on the leaf, or the moon or all the food the hungry caterpillar was eating.
Our book of the day was Hairy Maclary, it was one of my favourite books as a child and I've loved having the chance to read and talk to the children all about Hairy Maclary. I thought we might like to try telling the children a story a different way, by using puppets, so I printed off each of the popular dogs within the book and put them on the end of pop sticks to create a real-life animation that the children could become involved, all the children involved in this experience showed enthusiasm when interacting with the puppets, taking the initiative to investigate and try to understand this new way of reading a book.





Senior Nursery 1!

We also celebrated NAIDOC week where we did experiences focused on respecting and teaching the children all about the history of the founders of our country. We did symbol drawing on a light board, fireworks painting where the children used the traditional colours of the Aborigines, black, yellow and red. All the children loved reading and hearing about dreamtime stories, where they got the chance to draw their own interpretation of a bird from the dreamtime book. It was wonderful to see all the children become so involved in these experiences, showing their own way of respecting and remembering the true owners of our land.



Goodbye Miss Grace...
The day has come to say goodbye, who knew this day would come so quickly. Unfortunately, we must say goodbye to much loved member of our Little Ducks family, our front runner and the person who has been such an influence in our lives and your children's lives for over a year now, Miss Grace, words can't describe how much we will all miss you, but thankfully after your well-deserved holiday in Tasmania, you will be coming back to help out in the centre, so we will all be seeing you again very soon!
We wish you all the best on your adventures, we can't wait to hear all about them!



CENTRE PHOTOS!
I would just like to say again how proud I am of all the children and how well they went with during their photos, all the children had a huge smile from ear to ear, laughing and enjoying their time in front of the camera!
I can't wait for all the families in Senior Nursery One to see their child's photos (I can't wait to see them either)!

Love from Miss Taylor and Miss Morgan





Senior Nursery 2!

The most important development over the past 2 months was our children's confidence and sense of agency!

Starting this month, we observed our children developing their confidence and curiosity towards learning which was oriented towards their sense of agency, choosing what they want to explore, experiment and research on. And given them ample of opportunity, we are so proud to see them grow and develop each every day and reaching their milestone across all the domains of growth and development.



The most important development we could notice over these two months was their language development and their growing ability to be able to express themselves for their needs and learning. We have been hearing so many new words and the efforts by our children to put them into proper small sentence and that's amazing to hear from them!! And this inspires us each day to support and encourage them with planned and spontaneous experiences, group times and interaction during routine times to master this skill.



As moved through the month, we were quite keen on learning on different topics like colours, numbers, letters, shapes, our senses and music how fun was it to do all different kind fun activities and to see all participating so well.

We also have incorporating more and more sustainable practices into our everyday routine and educating our children about them through recycling, gardening talking about saving water, worms farms and much more. Thanks to all the parents who have supporting us on the same.



OUR NEW FRIENDS IN THE ROOM - We also welcomed our new friends Ayla, Sarah, Scotti, Deon, Kai, Lelu and Angad into our room. It was wonderful to see them watching you all exploring in and around the room and slowly settling down in the room. Our existing children showed some amazing gesture of kindness and being helpful for their new friends in the room.

Senior Nursery 2!

INDOOR / OUTDOOR PROGRAM

We have recently introduced concept of indoor-outdoor program across all the level where our children can choose between the planned experience and free play set ups between both the environments. This program is going well and helping us to observe our children's interest and plan for them accordingly. While we see some children involve themselves in quite active indoors others have keen interest with different physical play outdoors.





ONGOING YOGA AND SPANISH CLASS

This is yet another new addition to our program, where Ms. Yumeko is teaching us yoga daily and Ms. Sandra teaching us Spanish every week.

CENTRE EVENTS WE CELEBRATED

We have celebrated quite a few events over last two months. The most popular events were the Naidoc week we celebrated in the 1st week of July where we created our own Naidoc corner adding different resources and crafts we did connecting us to our Aboriginal and Torre strait island people and their culture and tradition to learn about. Next, we learnt about the French National day celebrating the Bastille Day creating own fire work painting. Pyjama Day was yet another fun-filled day where we had great fun watching movie while having some yummy popcorns!!



We had visit from Tooth-fairy too in the dental week we celebrated in August where she told us all about keeping our teeth all nice and healthy. Learning about one of most popular festival from India, "Rakhsa Bandhan" from Ms. Suchi, we created our own Rakhi and made some yummy "coconut ladoos". We ended our beautiful month of August with celebrating the "Book week" which was a great event for our children to celebrate their love of reading, characters and authors. It was a great time to dress up, talk about great books and encourage our children to love reading.



Toddlers!

What a busy few months we have had in our Toddler room program. The children have been learning a variety of things throughout the last 2 months and we have been pleased to have been a part of their learning journey so far.
We introduced both Miss Caitlin and Miss Toni to our Toddlers room and it has been great watching them being a part of our room and engaging with the children daily.

Our area of focus over the last few months has been helping the children with their colour recognition, alphabet and word recognition and working with the children and the families to help our children become toilet trained. By helping the children now in these main areas, we are helping to set the foundations up for future success once they transition into the Junior Kindy room.



During the month of July, we celebrated Dental Health week and this brought about conversations with our children on the importance of Personal health and hygiene. The children learnt how to look after and brush their teeth, what foods are good for keeping teeth and gums healthy and what foods are a healthy or a non-healthy snack.

From here we continued with learning about how to keep our bodies healthy by eliminating germs from our lives. The children learnt the importance of hand washing procedures and how to not spread germs when sneezing or coughing.
We also enjoyed our pyjama day where all the children arrived at school in their pyjamas and enjoyed the day of making popcorn and watching movies and just having a great time chilling out together with friends.





Toddlers!

Our last event that we've celebrated together was book week. This year the theme was escape to everywhere. We discussed with the children where escaping through books takes them, and their responses have been amazing. Some of the children have told us they go to the beach, go on holidays with family in airplanes, go for an adventure with mum and dad, whilst others believe that they become princesses or superheroes.

From appreciating and reading books with the children, we have had the opportunity to explore their current interest of superhero's, flying planes, dramatic play in a shop and to building our own kitchens.

Our focus will be to continue toilet training with the children in conjunction with the families and have them confident and ready before they leave toddler room, and we look forward to what the next few months has in store for us :)





Junior Kindy!

As we come to another newsletter, we look back on everything that has happened within the junior kindy room and everything we've accomplished. The room has continued to grow as more friends from the toddler room have transitioned into Junior kindy, it's been great getting to know the new children and the families as well.



Over the last two months we celebrated dental health week, book week and NAIDOC week these were a great addition the room as they were a theme that carried on and every child got involved on the days that they came in. It was great to see the children excited about getting to explore these topics, sharing information or something they already knew about these topics and helping create our exploration on the topic even more exciting. These gave our rooms whole new looks as we created art, constructed giant art pieces together and filled the room with our ideas and the children's creations. We would like to be able to include these more into the room, allowing the children to really get involved in these kinds of projects and help keep the room looking colourful with all their great art and creative designs.



Show and share has also become part of our routine and part of the group times, giving the children to talk about the toys, photos or items they've brought into the centre. Everyone has really been enjoying getting to share this with the other children, we've even started to work some questions into the process. Getting the children to engage each other with simple questions like "Where did you get it?", "What does it do?" etc. This has been a great way for the children to interact with each other, sharing aspects of their life and has been helping everyone get to know each other better as new children come into the room. As we continued through the next few months we look forward to seeing what the children will bring in next.



Numeracy and Literacy was a big interest in the room in the last two months as well, the children really got involved in exploring their numbers and letters through an array of different activities and styles of learning. We created ways for some of the children who wanted to try writing a letter or number of their own, it was great getting to see the children exploring

Junior Kindy!

We have also been learning about and working together to create our own toys and aspects of play within the room, as the children have expressed an interest in certain animals, places, objects or even costumes they wish to play with we have been working together as a class to create some if not every idea that comes up in the room. We have created many different animal toys we don't have here, including a crocodile, elephant, snake, octopus and many more. We even managed to make some of our own dress ups out of recycled materials; this was a great opportunity to practice many different skills as we did this. The children and staff would look into what we could use to create these objects, looking through our resources to come up with the best plan for it all. We practiced fine motor by using wool for weaving as we made our costume out of card board, we had discussions on how these animals look and what aspects of these animals really make you think "Wow that an elephant". This kind of thinking and creativity has been a great addition to the room, the children have really started to look into how we can create something we don't have so that the play just never has to stop.



We have started to include more time downstairs into our program as well, we are hoping to be able to spend some time down there in the morning, during the day or the afternoon of course depending other plans for the day and how it can work into our schedule. The children have really been enjoying getting to spend more time into the outside yard, epically the times we go down after morning tea. It's a great opportunity for more messy play, the ability to just run around if they children want and to get to spend some time with the kindy children. As part of this we have also been splitting the room up a little, as our room does have high numbers we have found that some days we are able to divide the room so that the children who wish to go outside can do so along with the children who wish to stay in the room are also able to have that. These have been working well for the Junior Kindy room and the program, it's great to see the children enjoying these changes and we shall continue this throughout the rest of the year.

Til next time,

Mr Jamie and Miss Sandra

Kindergarten Program!

School Information Session

Early in August we had two wonderful prep teachers from New Farm State School hold an information session for our families to put their minds at ease with the expectations of children moving into prep in 2018. This session was very reassuring and gave some helpful tips in what areas could be promoted with the children in the coming months; for example:



- children are able to take on and off their own shoes and socks
- children are able to recognise their own name (on their locker/hat etc)
- children are able to open and close food containers, packets and lunch boxes/ water bottles (a helpful hint when choosing your child's lunchbox for school is to take them with you and make sure they can open and close it easily!)
- children are able to take turns, sit on the mat and listen to a story at group time and express their needs and wants
- children are able to toilet themselves effectively

Dinosaur theme activities

Recently you would have noticed the area in our room that housed our dinosaur theme! Suder noticed an interest in the children and ran with it, teaching them about an array of dinosaurs, herbivores and carnivores and then about the era when dinosaurs existed. Suder engaged the children in activities such as making dinosaur eggs by freezing small dinosaurs in balloons filled with water and have the children fossick them out, creating a volcano that would erupt with the colour theme derived from the children's feedback and that 'dino' means terrible 'saurus' actually mean lizard. The children thought this was hilarious!

Mem Fox



This year we chose to focus on a theme for book week, and we chose the author, Mem Fox.

Throughout the week we spoke about the stories Mem Fox has written and the journeys those stories can take us on. We created a 'Mem Fox Attribute Chart,' where after each story we broke down the different components that were relevant to our class and exercised our memories by recalling events. We also learnt about the elements of a story book: a hard cover/soft cover, the author, illustrator, words, pictures (drawn, painted, photographed) and if the story was a rhyme or not.

This literacy journey was one that the children greatly enjoyed, as we ensured to extend each story in a different way to the one before it, including making some vegemite sandwiches (Possum Magic) and sharing stories of our favourite people in the older generation (derived from Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge.)

Cooking experiences

The children have been very interested in scientific measurement recently so we have scaffolded a lot of learning using cooking. This process has allowed the children to predict and hypothesise while providing an outcome that they greatly enjoy! To move through the process of collecting ingredients, adding correct amounts, mixing, kneading, juicing or combining, followed by cooking, freezing or setting, the children have worked through a sequence and produced a product.



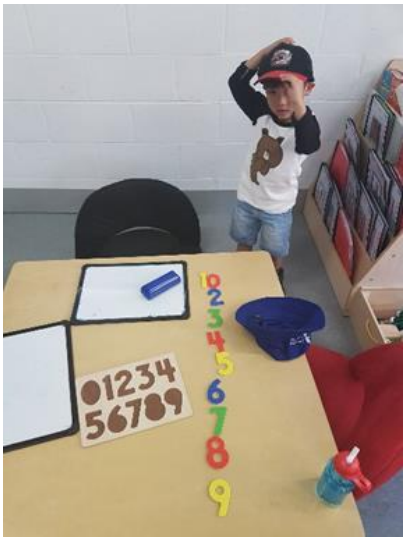
Some of our cooking experiences have been whizzing up strawberries to make some icy poles, making gingerbread men to extend on the recent popularity in The Gingerbread Man book and a muffin recipe. To extend on this further, and to incorporate our beautiful herbs growing in the garden, we are going to make a pasta sauce in a thermomix and enjoy it over some pasta that the children will make themselves too! Excitement plus in Kindy this month!

Kindergarten Program!

Literacy and numeracy
Moving forward, we will be exploring in more details aspects of literacy and numeracy that interest the children. We have been engaging in activities that promote literacy, such as writing letters in the sand, flour and shaving foam. This led to practicing letters as well, and a couple of the children have been enjoying using the numbered puzzle pieces in their play. The children have also been invited to engage in some experiences on the computer, not only literacy and numeracy practice but using it as an extension to their art interest and creating some masterpieces in paint.

We will also promote activities to the children that help develop their gross motor skills, large and small. This will mean lots of outdoor play as we take risks and make educated guesses as to our own skills and abilities – with the intention to challenge our bodies!
Check out our book week parade!







Spotlight on... Miss Kathryn Toddlers

Where did you grow up?

I grew up on the northside in Redcliffe.

What was your first job?

I was working in a Chinese restaurant.

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

I love spending time at the beach and hooping (hula hooping)!

Where would you like to visit?

I love to go back to Europe.



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

I can roll my tongue in many ways.

Super power— to fly! And travel the world.

Recipe of the Month....

Chocolate chia seed and berry pudding

INGREDIENTS

2 1/2 cups coconut milk
1/4 cup Dutch processed cocoa powder
1/4 cup rice malt syrup
1/2 cup chia seeds
2 cups mixed frozen berries

METHOD

Step 1 Place coconut milk in a large mixing bowl, sieve over coconut powder and stir well to combine. Add rice malt syrup, stir well to combine, then add chia seeds and stir well for about 5 minutes until pudding begins to thicken as the chia seeds enlarge.

Step 2 Divide mixture between serving glasses or jars, cover in cling wrap. Place in fridge for 4 hours or overnight.

Step 3 Place frozen berries in a saucepan with ¼ cup of water and place on low heat, swirling pan occasionally until berries are just defrosted. Set aside until ready to serve.

Step 4 To serve, top puddings with berries and juice.



Queensland Kindergarten's

A little about approved kindergarten programs

Approved kindergarten programs are designed to meet government guidelines to support children's participation in quality early childhood education.

They are offered in:

⇒ Kindergarten services
⇒ Long day care services (such as Little Ducks Fortitude Valley)
⇒ Limited hours care services.

An approved kindergarten program is:

⇒ Provided for children in the year before Prep (i.e. children who are 4 by 30 June in the year they start—see kindy age requirements)
⇒ Provided for 15 hours a week for 40 weeks, or 1 school year
⇒ Play based
⇒ Delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher
⇒ Non-compulsory.
⇒ Other Australian states or territories may call it 'preschool' or 'kinder'.

The play-based learning of an approved kindergarten program helps children:

⇒ Prepare for school
⇒ Develop a love of learning
⇒ Make friends
⇒ Develop skills useful for life.

More information can be found at:
https://www.qld.gov.au/education/earlychildhood/programs/

