Little Ducks Childcare Annerley

July/August 2018

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to our July/ August edition.

Over the last month the Educators have been busy writing summative assessments for each child. ***The term summative describes assessment processes that 'sum up' what a child has learned by reviewing documentation gathered over time from a range of sources. These processes bring together information about what the child knows, understands and can do in relation to the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) Learning Outcomes.***

Reflection is particularly important in summative assessment. We question what we know about the child, interpret and analyse the information collected and reflect on what this tells us about their learning and development and how we can support the child further. Through summing up what has been gathered, educators gain greater insight into children's relationships, cultural context, interactions, learning styles, dispositions, understanding of concepts and interests. Educators draw on educational theories and knowledge during the process. We then use the information gathered to assist us in developing term 3 individual goals for each child.



Once the Educators have completed their assessments we will be holding a Parent / Educator evening were you will be able to talk with the educators about your child's assessment in a casual atmosphere.

I would also like to thank everyone for your warm congratulations on my wedding, it was a beautiful day and the weather was kind to us.

Until next time,

Cheers…Mel

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Kindergarten Approved Program Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

July Events

Tuesday 2nd - Canada Day
Celebrate with our Canadian families and educators and let's learn more about this lovely country.

Sunday 1st – 8th Naidoc Week
NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920's which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians.



Saturday 14th - Bastille Day
The French National Day!

Wednesday 18th – PJ Day!
No need to get dressed today, come along in your PJ's for a cosy, chilled out day.
Monday 23rd – Indigenous Show
Richard will be teaching us about Indigenous culture at 10am, everyone is welcome to come along.

Friday 27th – Crazy Hair Day
Help support the Leukaemia Foundation and the World's Greatest Shave by coming along with your craziest hair-do and a gold coin donation.

August Events

Saturday 4th – **Children's day**
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day is the largest national day to celebrate our children.
Children's Day is a time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to celebrate the strengths and culture of their children. The day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, as well as learn about the crucial impact that culture, family and community play in the life of every child.

Monday 6th – 12th – Dental Health Week
Learning all about how to take care of our amazing mouths and teeth.

Wednesday 15th – Ekka
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday 20th– 25th - Book Week
Bring along your favourite story to share and dress up as your favourite book character on Wednesday 23rd!

BOOK WEEK THEME: Escape to Everywhere.

Thursday 30th - Drum Beats Australia Show.
Join us in learning how to tap into rich universal traditions of using music and rhythm as a tool of communication and develop the ability to express ourselves rhythmically in a positive way!
Session 1: 1:30pm
Session 2: 2:30pm

Friday 31st- **Father's Day Afternoon tea**
Come along for a special Afternoon Tea to celebrate our dads. Starting 3:00pm.

Reminders

New Child Care Subsidy System

Have you signed up for the new CCSS yet??

To make Child Care Subsidy claims and view the status of your claims, you will need to go to my.gov.au and sign in to access their Centrelink online account. If you do not have a myGov account, you can create one and link it to their Centrelink online account. This needs to be made a priority as we still have a number of families that have yet to sign up which means that you will not receive any rebate on your childcare fees until you do. If you are struggling with this please contact centrelink for assistance.

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

July/August reviews are:

COMMUNICATION POLICY - EDUCATORS AND FAMILIES

MANUAL HANDLING AND BACK CARE POLICY

CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

ORIENTATION POLICY - FAMILIES

ORIENTATION POLICY - EDUCATORS AND STAFF

TRANSPORT PROCEDURE

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Lewis, Harper, Efrah, Matilda, Benjamin, Charlene, Alexis, Theodore. C, Luella, Theodore. R, Santiago, Victor, Arkley, Alexander, Finn, Arthur, Alec, Violette, Theodore. S, George, Ronan, Matthew, Patrick, Mayson, Edward, Ruby, Briar, Lottie, Nate, Alexander R & Elvin



Recipe of the month!

savoury muffins

1 medium zucchini

1 medium carrot

1 cup (160 grams) corn kernels, cooked

1 1/3 cup (150 grams) tasty cheese, grated

2 cups self raising flour

60 grams butter, melted and cooled

1/2 cup (125ml) milk, 3 eggs



Method:

Preheat oven to 180 degrees Celsius (350F).
Line a 12 hole muffin tin with papers.
Place the grating attachment onto food processor and grate the zucchini and carrot (and cheese if required). Replace the grating attachment with normal blade.
Add the corn and flour to the grated vegetables and pulse to combine.
In a small jug place the cooled melted butter, milk and eggs and whisk to combine. Add the wet ingredients into the dry and pulse until just combined. Do not overmix.
Use a 1/4 measuring cup to ladle the batter into the prepared tin.
Bake for 25-30 minutes or until golden and cooked through.
A skewer inserted into the middle of a muffin should remove cleanly.
Allow to cool for 5 minutes or so in the tin before placing on a wire rack to cool completely.
Serve alongside a few cherry tomatoes halved and wedges of cucumber for a lovely little baby led weaning lunch or simple supper.

Nursery Natter!

Warm greetings to all our families and warm welcome to our new families for this term.
Our old babies are settling in so well and working really hard on strengthening their current developing milestones. Activities such as push toys, rockers, balance beams and climbing are all planned to stimulate gross motor development. Sand play, shape sorting, eating independently, painting, play dough and grip toys all increase fine motor and manipulative development. Social interaction occurs through group play, waving hello and goodbye, separating well from parents, mirror activities and singing songs. Pop ups, peek-a-boo, art activities and craft also help the child experience different textures and materials and stimulate creative and cognitive development. The above mentioned are just some of the experiences your child will have in the Nursery room. Just a quick reminder of where everything is and what we do throughout the Nursery days to freshen our minds and to fill in new families. In all our rooms we program for each child individually. We do this by observing each child, noting their actions and abilities, their strengths and what challenges they are ready for. The activities we plan are developmentally appropriate and goals are set for the child to achieve. In our room we have a monthly programme as we work on certain skills for babies for several weeks until they accomplish that particular milestone. At the moment you may have noticed each individual child's goals on the wall, we begun working on strengthening those goals in term 2 and will continue where needed in term 3 as well.



Locations of things in the room:
Our program is displayed on the right side of the sign in/out sheet for you to have a look at and can make comments. You will also see samples of the babies 'work' displayed around the room. The babies have portfolios with documentation of certain significant moments or skills that they have achieved, it is located next to the white baskets on the left side, alongside the medication folder and further parent information. The cots have your child's names on them in the morning, it is not compulsory to make the cot as we know the morning can get busy, so you can leave the sheets in the cot and we can make them when your child is ready for a rest. Each week we will reflect in general about our journey together and this weekly reflection will be posted for parents to view. Regular centre newsletters will also be produced and shared with parents by email. The parent information board contains important information most times, please just look up regularly. We welcome parent input in many ways. So please feel free to communicate with us about your child, our program, our room or our centre any time. It is important to us that you feel comfortable coming to us to ask questions about your child and their day and how they are feeling. You can also communicate this information by writing it in the communication book right next to the baskets where you place your child's belongings. We are excited to be learning and growing with our families.



DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK QUESTIONS :)

Miss Concy and
Miss Vijitha





Senior Nursery Tales!

Hello families,



Can't believe that it has already been half of the year…
We had emergency services came in and visit us at the beginning of the May. On the 4th of May, we had our fire truck visit. We have spent the time discussing our Emergency service, and the important role that they play within our community. When the fire fighter came, all of the children were very engaged when they spoke about each individual profession and the part the play. They also showed us all of their safety gear; shoes, pants, overalls, hat and gloves. The week after, we had ambulance service came in… the paramedic has demonstrated the knowledge of emergencies and we had opportunity to go inside to browse the medical equipment they use.

I'm learning wall… is another project that we are working in the past of the months. Thank you families for taking your time to contribute the child goal form. We really appreciated it!!! The goal form helped us to get to know the children better as well as given us ideas on what we can enhance on your child's individual development.

For the next two months, we will be focusing on the outcome 2- contributing the world around us as we will be working on our own garden. We have started planted some carrots, beans, rocket and lettuce. Our intention is to keep this as an ongoing activity by showing the children how to respect the plants as well as to reuse our food scrapes to replant reducing waste as much as possible. Children have showed their interests and helping the educators to watering the plants every day routines.

Miss Erin, Miss Jenny & Miss Luana







Toddler time!



Wow this year is progressing so fast!
The first half of the year was exciting as we had lots of families within the room expecting babies, we have spoken lots about how cool it is to be a big brother or sister and get ready for it together through discussions, books and play about it.
We have engaged in a variety of learning experiences to explore facial features and body parts, we expanded our curiosity with different textures through sensory explorations with mud, clay, sand, barks, soil and playdough etc. We also challenged our fine motor and eye hand coordination through activities by transferring pom poms with pegs and spoon, scissors cutting and using droppers etc.



We have worked on their verbal communication skills by supporting children in learning to use their words to express their ideas and needs. We have also introduced how we could use our words to encourage our friends to share toys and take turns with us.
For our sustainability program, we have been busy caring for our plants that we recently planted in our recycled containers; they are coriander, carrot and peas. They have been started seeding and I'm sure they will grow rapidly as the children love helping to water them! We have also been busy learning to jump, to bouncy a ball and explored different ways to run and relaxed our body with Yoga through our movement program.



We have had a few visitors of late; a visit from our friendly paramedics, and our elder friends from TriCare. The paramedic, Bronwyn spent some time introducing us to the items that they use to save people's lives, showing us around the Ambulance as well as allowing us to sit in the back and listen to the Ambulance sirens. Doctor play was also a big hit in the Toddler room since the Ambulance Visit as we have created a hospital theme play area in the room. Our children absolutely loved it as they enjoyed spending lots of time on exploring how to use those items that doctor use for helping people when they get hurt or get sick. It was always exciting to have a catch up with our elder friends from TriCare. Our toddlers enjoyed going over to say hi and having some cuddles with them, some were still a bit shy and needed some time to warm up.



We are going to have couple of new families and children joining our room in the coming week, they are Theodore, Camilla, Jaimie and Ruby. Over the next few weeks we will be concentrating on building a bond with these children and getting to know them and their interest/ likes. We will be also started supporting our older children in the room having a smooth transition to the next room and spending time to get to know their new teachers and peers.

Vicky and Mitaly

Junior Kindy column!

Its been a fantastic term, we all shared in junior kindy. The children been engaged in various array of experiences. Children are enjoying our Jungle area with lots of animals. They all like to sit down and have a quite play in a cosy corner.



We have had a wonderful Ambulance visit in our centre, where children get chance to learn about emergencies. Paramedic Bronwyn explained to children that how we can help in Emergency by dialling triple zero. Bronwyn came with big picture book and read with children, children also response very well. We were lucky to get into the Ambulance and explore all the equipment's. We also have a chat in the group time and discussed about emergencies.



We celebrated Matariki day with children. Miss Loretta is from New-Zealand and came to our room and read Matariki story with children. Matariki is Maori came for the cluster of star also known as Pleiades. Matariki literally means the 'eye of God' or little eye. Children explore the diversity of culture, heritage, background and tradition and that diversity presents opportunities for choices and new understanding. We also play multi-cultural music outside to extend on children's interest.



As our sustainability programme, children has learnt about air pollution, and also we have our compost bin our room where children are collecting the banana peel and crust to put inside for our big suitability bin. Every afternoon we make a little excursion with children to put the scarps into the compost bin. Children enjoying spinner wheel compost bin and also involved in spinning it. We have planted our own herbs into the garden where children are helping them to grow by watering them twice in a week. For next couple of weeks, we will be learning about global warming and how our little steps going to work toward it.





Children are enjoying the interaction in the room. We provide opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create and imagine. Extending on children's interest, we read "Hungry caterpillar" story with big visual book where children get to learn the life cycle of the butterfly. We also create our own caterpillars by using the recycle material and painted them and displayed crawling on the wall. Children enjoyed the rainbow coloured butterfly which they have painted and learn about the colours.



We are working toward children's individual goals, implementing their interests and extending on their experiences. Children are progressing towards their individual goals and in all areas of development areas, co-operating with each other's and socialising well as a group.



Thank you very much all the families to supporting us.

Miss Savita, Miss Suder, Miss Amy and Miss Crystal

Senior Kindy catch up!



Can you believe half the year is gone already, can't believe it.
Well term two was quite eventful. The children seemed to enjoy studying our emergency services and having our wonderful visits from the Annerley Police, Firemen and our ambulance personal, certainly the most exciting events for the month.
We have been engaging the children in a variety of different art activities over the past few weeks adding clay, different paints and quite a lot of scissor practice. We enjoyed working on our weaving wall outside as well as painting recycled bottles and decorating our meat trays with cellophane to hang in the tree. The children are really enjoying using our recycled materials and getting more creative every day.



We have been helping the children extend their knowledge on sustainability and recycling practices over the last month. Sharing books on the subjects, group conversations and demonstrations on how recycled materials can be used, has really helped children to be more aware of ways to help the planet. The children also enjoy taking turns daily, placing our compost in the outside compost bins. We are hoping to get some plants up and running soon as well and we will be using recycled containers as pots. If you have any old food tins they would be much appreciated.



As the children have lost interest in the hair salon play, it has been replaced with our Aussie Bush play area. Here the children can engage in play using natural bush materials like mini tree logs, rocks, seeds, gumnuts and sticks etc. allowing the children to extend their creative play learning different textures, smells and colours as well as extend on their maths concepts sorting, matching and counting etc. If you feel you may have any interesting seed pods, branches or any other natural items out of the garden, please feel free to add them to this play area.
As you all know we have had a few changes of staff in our room with Ms.Bec having her maternity leave. The children seem pretty content and relaxed with these changes and know all the staff as well.
The Sr. Kindy children are maturing into confident little individuals building strong respectful relationships with their teachers and friends.
We are having a great year engaging well with the children sharing their interests and adventures helping them learn about the world they live in while here at Kindy. We hope you are all happy with your children's development and if any one wishes to have a chat about any issues, please don't hesitate to ask.





Till the next time,

Kindergarten Program!

Our program is child lead and we extend on the children's interests. Our program has been based on a group or individual interest. The children engage in research, information finding, virtual excursions and hands on activities, making learning fun.
Our last month had been a very busy time learning all about habitats and how the animals have their needs met within their habitat. The children plan and make the diorama and have many play activities using the animals in their specific habitat that demonstrate what they know about the animals e.g. desert dingo and thorny devil.





We also look at different environmental problems that may occur in these habitats. E.g. such as litter in our waterways and the turtles eating plastic bags as they think it is their food, jelly fish.




We continue to learn our jolly phonics and build school skills using educational games.




Kindergarten Program!

We had a very busy time making and using our puppet theatre. The children were very engaged as they made the setting and characters of “The Owl and the Pussycat”
We also made sock puppets and the children created their own stories.













The sign in book has been a success as children learn to write their name by tracing them every morning.

Parent teacher interviews will start in July so look out for it on the lockers and sign up for Mondays between 3 and 4p.m.

Miss Jo, Miss Di & Miss Maryanne

The social stages of play

Do you know how my 5th grade teacher taught us the planets? She sang it to us. When her former students would come back and visit, she would always ask if they remembered the order of the planets. And they'd all end up singing it back to her. Imagine these big high school juniors and seniors singing in the middle of a 5th grade class?!

And even now, when I say the order of planets, the melody plays in my head. It stuck with me. Because I learned it through play.

The best way to learn anything is through play. Children can not only learn about science, math and engineering through play, but they can also learn important social skills while playing. Children can learn about problem solving, advocating for themselves, decision-making skills, working in groups, sharing and resolving conflicts.

As children develop and grow so does their way of playing. Mildred Parten did some great work observing youngsters at play, and developed the stages of social play for children. Let's take a brief look at how social play develops and changes over time for children. There are six stages of social play and it starts at birth.

1. UNOCCUPIED PLAY

I know this can be hard to believe, but play starts at birth. You know those random movements that Infants make with no clear purpose? This is actually the beginning of play.

2. SOLITARY PLAY

This stage, which starts in infancy and is common in toddlers, is when children start to play on their own. When engaged in solitary play, children do not seem to notice other children sitting or playing nearby during this type of play. Just because it starts in infancy and toddlerhood doesn't mean it needs to stop. All age groups can (and should!) have some time for independent, solitary play.

3. ONLOOKER PLAY

Onlooker play happens most frequently during the toddler years, but can happen at any age. This stage is when children watch others play. The child who is looking at the others who are playing may ask questions of other children, but there is no effort to join the play. This may happen when a child is shy, or unsure of the rules, or is hesitant to join the game.

4. PARALLEL PLAY

Parallel play is usually found with toddlers, although it happens in any age group. Parallel play starts when children begin to play side-by-side with other children without any interaction. Even though it seems like they are not interacting, they are paying attention to each other. This is the beginning of the desire to be with other children. This stage really starts to lay the groundwork for the more complex social stages of play.

The social stages of play

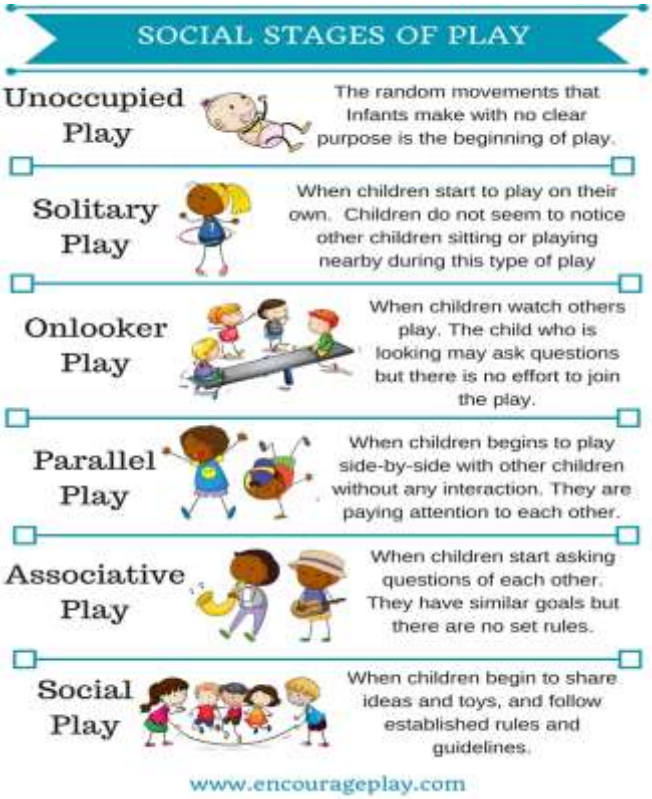
5. ASSOCIATIVE PLAY

At around three to four years of age, they eventually become more interested in the other children rather than the toys. At some point, a child will start interacting more with the other child they are playing with; this is called associative play. They start asking questions and talking about the toys and what they are making. This is the beginning of understanding how to get along with others. During associative play, children within the group have similar goals (for example: building a tower out of blocks). However, they don't set rules and there's no formal organization.

6. SOCIAL PLAY

Children will really begin to socialize starting around three or four. They begin to share ideas and toys, and follow established rules and guidelines. They play shop and figure out who will play what role. They can work together to build something or maybe play a simple game together. This is really where a child learns and practices social skills, like cooperating, being flexible, taking turns, and solving problems.

As children proceed in the stages of play, their play becomes more complex and involves more and more interacting with others. For children to practice social skills like cooperating, compromising and problem solving, the best way to do that is to let them play. They'll remember the rhythms and melodies of social interactions much more smoothly if we allow them the time and space to play.



Movement Programme

Well the children certainly have been very active over the past few months with our Movement Program – which the children are really becoming involved in and it is great to see the improvement in these fundamental skills that the children have been learning during these sessions.
During the past Months we have been focusing on our Ball Bouncing skills and also our running skills. These may seem easy skills for the children to master – but we are focusing on the children learning how to do these skills with control, coordination and learning how to do these skills properly. The level of difficulty in these skills is naturally balanced with the ages of the children.
The difference in bouncing the balls by dropping the ball and trying to catch it is quite different to controlled pushing down of the ball and retrieving the ball with control and purpose and it was great to see how even some of the younger children were starting to master this skill throughout our sessions. Some of the older children were even able to bounce the balls several times in succession throughout the month and even bounce in direction – which was rewarding to see.
With our running – for the younger children we were aiming for them to find the control and coordination to run whilst maintaining a balanced stance – and gradually increasing their speed whilst still retaining their balance – and it was great to hear the children call out 'run run" as they practiced their running around the playground (we often went to the big playground as there was more room for them to practice this skill). The older children were focusing on running with control and trying to run with their arms in a forward direction (instead of across their body) and they also practiced stopping and starting skills (controlled running), different forms of running (backwards, sideways, fast, knees high, kick backs, etc). The kindy and Senior Kindy children also learnt how to do relay running – working together in teams to achieve this goal – and they did an amazing job.
Over the next few months we will be focusing on kicking and underarm throwing – so keep an eye out for lots of ball skills over the next few months.
if you would like any extra information about our Move and Groove program – please do not hesitate to come and ask myself or one of your child's educators about what we are doing with the children in these sessions –the programs will be available for you to see at any time.
Please remember with these programs – they are adjusted to the ages of the different children so not all the experiences are done by all the groups – and each month we start off with the basic skills until the children are comfortable and confident in these before moving onto more complex exercises and skills
During the months we are also doing some revision on the skills we have already learnt – and it is great to see the improvement in the children's development the more confident they become in learning and implementing these skills in their daily movement and exercise.



Community / Cultural Liaison Officer

We are so very fortunate here at Little Ducks to have such a diverse range of different cultures and family backgrounds that we are able to share in events that are special to you as a family and as a community. Over the past few months we have been able to celebrate International Children's day, Mabo Day, National Sorry Day, World Environment Day, World Ocean Day – just to name a few of these. We ask if there are any days or events that you would like to see included in our program – please let us know as what is important to you is important to us as well – and we would love to share that with the children and families within our centre as well. we have had our lovely residents from Tri Care come and visit us again – and I am not sure whom enjoys these visits more – the residents or the children. It is such a beautiful experience to watch the interactions between everyone and just how happy everyone is to see their new friends at each visit. The lovely visitors love their cuddles and hearing the stories the children are eager to share with them on their return each month – truly a beautiful experience to witness.

As mentioned last newsletter – Miss Savita and myself went to a local playground – and this is going to be a regular occurrence for the rest of the year. it was great to meet our new friends – and even to see some of the children who attend our centre who also attend local playgroups. We look forward to returning next month.

As part of our community involvement – several of the staff are also starting to volunteer at one of the local op shops within our community – 'Yesterday's' which is located on Ipswich Road. WE have placed some flyers in each room if you are interested in having a look – definitely worth it for sure as each item is $4 or under and on Sunday's you can fill a bag of various items for just $4 – what a bargain.

WE are also looking at starting our own Swap Centre within the centre – whereby we encourage our families to bring in clothing, shoes, hats, toys, etc that your child has outgrown – and dontating these so that another family can "treasure" them. These items will be free to other families to take as they wish – so instead of donating items to charity – we thought it would be great for our families to share within our community. After a month if these items are still within the centre – we will then donate these to our local charity – in preparation for new items that our families might wish to share with others. If you have any questions about this – please come and see us. This will be starting within the month – we are just trying to get some stock first to get it up and running – so if you have anything you wish to donate now – please see Leighanne or the Office.

Remember – what is important to you is important to us – so please if you have any ideas, special days, local events or charities that you would like to see us become involved in – please do not hesitate to come and talk to us……..thanks for your support



Community Information

New Business in town!

Yesterdays Thrift Shop Discount Outlet

Used clothing store

Address: 474 Ipswich Rd, Annerley QLD 4103, next door to the fabric shop

Phone: (07) 3892 5285



Opening hours

Saturday	9am–4pm
Sunday	9am–4pm
Monday	9am–4pm
Tuesday	9am–4pm
Wednesday	9am–4pm
Thursday	9am–4pm
Friday	9am–4pm