



## Little Ducks Childcare Fortitude Valley March/April 2019

### A note from your Centre Manager

Let me take this time to introduce myself. I am excited to officially step into the role of Centre Manager at Little Ducks Fortitude Valley. For the past 4 years I have been the Centre Manager at Little Ducks Bardon, opening Bardon in April 2015. It is exciting to move to Fortitude Valley—a much larger service and closer to home. I have worked in the Early Childhood Sector for 19 years now although this is my second career having spent 10 years in records management—Early Childhood is a much more interesting, exciting and fun career let me tell you! I moved into this sector after having my third child—my children are now all grown up and at university or work so my husband and I are now enjoying the rewards of parents of adult children! Weekends away, dinners out so what better place to be working than 300m from James St! I can't wait to explore.

This is a beautiful service and has such amazing potential. The Kindy Program facilities are better than I have ever seen and the service is so lucky to have such large indoor/outdoor spaces but also real outdoor space!! Having the age groups separated on different levels gives a real feeling of intimacy - of small groupings -when it is actually a large service. We are very lucky!

My first task as Centre Manager will be to work with the families on our Centre Philosophy. It is a requirement of the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education services to review their philosophy regularly so it seems like a good place to start. Be on the look out for some simple questions on Storypark as we look into what our children, families and communities want from our service., I am very interested in your input.

Looking forward to working with you,  
Michele Kovchenko



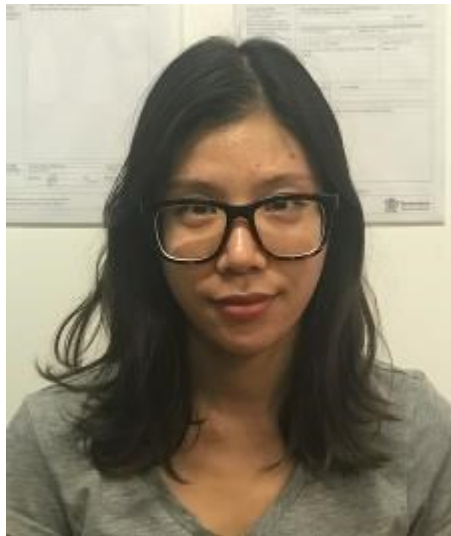
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# Educator Spotlight

Minji Kim  
Nursery Lead Educator



Minji is the Lead Educator in Nursery One. Minji started her Career in 2013 a lead educator in the nursery at Little Ducks. She has a diploma in Early Education and Care and has also completed a child and family studies degree. Minji says—

“I believe each child has amazing gifts and talents and I feel privileged that I can help children learn and grow in their abilities and skills. It’s amazing to see the developmental growth in the children. I love setting up stimulating and inviting play areas, as well as interacting with children and play (especially reading books and sing songs)”

In my spare time Minji enjoys—Watching movies, Hiking, waking on the beach and Travel.

We hear Minji’s songs and stories all day long as she constantly interacts calmly and respectfully with the children contributing to the lovely calm Nursery of Little Ducks Fortitude Valley

# Our Favourite Resources!

## Mobilo

This educational construction resource offers endless possibilities: The basic geometric elements can easily combine using various connectors. In no time, a windmill becomes a helicopter etc! Once children have familiarised themselves with the versatility of Mobilo they can create an infinite number of models without any limits to imagination!



# Upcoming Events

## March

Friday 2nd—**Clean up Australia Day**—We will take our part in cleaning up our little piece of Australia keeping our environment clean and beautiful

Friday 27th—**Earth Hour**—Little Ducks will go “electricity free” between 10.00am and 11.00am to teach the children about being energy conscious.

## April

Thursday 18th—**Easter Egg Hunt** -Celebrating the tradition of the Easter Egg hunt celebrated in many countries around the world.

Friday 19th—**Good Friday**—Public holiday, centre closed

Thursday—25th **ANZAC Day Public Holiday** centre closed

Friday 26th—**ANZAC Day celebration**—we will pay respect to our diggers and share our experiences from the previous day



## Educational Practises

At Little Ducks we have recently introduced Storypark as a way to advise about and include families in children learning and documentation. At Little Ducks Fortitude Valley we love to see parents commenting and know that they are excited to hear about their children's learning by the great comments we receive often as soon as something is posted. Working collaboratively with families really helps the children to get the most progress from their learning adventures in two ways.

1. Parents are their children's first teachers and therefore know the children well, if we as educators can tap into that knowledge we can connect with the children more easily and therefore influence their learning extensively
2. If family and educators work on the same goals together it can have powerful results!

To continue to build on families access to children's learning from March we not only be posting the children's learning stories on Storypark but also the weekly program. The program can be accessed through the planning page of your child's room (you will need to login through the website rather than the app to see the planning page). The program is the detail of all of the experiences you child is introduced to during each day rather than just the experiences documented into a learning story. YOU will also find pictures of the experiences and links to the learning stories about your child.

Families will have ability to comment on the program as you do the children's learning stories—we look forward to hearing your feedback!!

## Policy Reveiws

**We value your input and feedback....The policies in review are:**

Exclusion policy  
Grievance Procedure—educators and staff  
Grievance Policy  
Immunisation Policy  
Late collection of children policy  
Maintenance Policy  
Animal and Pets polcy  
Sandpit procedure  
Safe sleeping policy  
Sun Protection and clothing Policy  
Toilet training policy and procedure  
Excursion Policy

**Ways to provide feed back are:**

Policies are available in the office and by the Level 1 lifts you can give feedback by conversation with Centre Manager, email or via suggestion box located on aby the Level 1 lifts.

# Level One



Over the last two months, we have had an amazing time with our babies witnessing, supporting and encouraging on their learning and development.

Our babies exploring & reflecting so well on their individuality. We could see they are getting quite confident to show their sense of agency and reach out to communicate on their needs and interests. They are increasingly co-operating and collaboratively with each other. They were able to take the considered amount of risk in their play, learning and development. We have been supporting them on this every with our planned program and spontaneous activities.

Our babies in the nursery have shown their great interest to connect with the world around as explore their social and physical environment. The centre events celebrated over the last two months which has aided to their learning and respecting the social environment as in their family, peers and community around. We have learned about the cultural diversity of our neighbouring country New Zealand celebrating the "Waitangi day" and the colourful festival of India as Ms. Roushini came in to tell us all about the " Holi Festival". A day full of activity to keep our children happily engaged while focussing to teach the cultural diversity from the country. Incursion Of "Chirpy Chicks" into our centre was a great opportunity for all our babies to explore, infer, predict and hypothesise to in order to develop an increased understanding of the natural environment around us and how we can take care of it. And continuing our learning about being empathetic and respectful, we are role modelling, encouraging and teaching on this important topic and can see our babies developing this skill. Our " Valentine's Day" Celebration was all about teaching our children on being caring, respectful and empathetic towards others.



Over the last two months, we have witnessed some wonderful physical development and milestones achieved of our babies.

They are getting confident in motor skills as they explore them to their interests and curiosity. Their confidence with sitting down, crawling, standing up /walking with support, taking independent steps are amongst the major physical milestones achieved through daily practice and encouragement through different fun-filled activities. Sensory exploration has been popular learning and our babies have been so involved in all the



# Level One



activities we plan and things they can explore around them. Our "Messy Play Day" & "Rainbow Day" was a wonderful opportunity for our babies to extend on their interest on the topic. Their emotional wellbeing has been equally on focus which aimed to let our babies be individuals to make choices, accept challenges,

take considered risks, manage changes and cope with frustration and unexpected. We have been working on this on daily basis and we have reflecting on the developments and working towards maintaining the continuity of learning.

Talking about their involved learning, our babies have been curious learner about so many topics, and we let them explore on different topics in detail every week. Few topics of interest were body parts, its hygiene, animals, natural environment, senses, shapes, vehicle. They are participating in their own learning with great enthusiasm and extending on it with all their energy, focus and concentration. Most of the learning is happening through play which also aids their creativity, imagination, problem-solving, experimenting and hypothesis skills. We are also seeing them getting engaged in co-construct learning and developing an ability to mirror, repeat and practice the action of others either immediately or later. Practising the fire drill in February was yet another wonderful opportunity to learn about our safety.

Making a connection to learn things has also aided their skills of communication and hence develop their language skills. Their understanding and comprehension are going amazing based on their current age and interest. While older ones have started to say quite a few new words every day and little ones can understand simple interaction and are able to respond back. Our daily planning involves lots of fun-filled interaction, group times and singing which providing opportunity each day to learn and develop on these skills.

With an amazing start to the year we are excited for the next few months to focus and work in more details towards our family goals for their child/children based on regular discussion and partnership. A lot of which is happening currently, and we are inspired to follow their learning and development over the next months.



## Level two

Wow the last few months have flown by, leaving wonderful adventures and excitement to see what will come next. The children's face light up with delight as we explored their interests an ocean adventure started, sensory, food exploration where we taste, exploring scissor and cutting with play dough, plastic fruit, paper. We have also celebrated a few things already as Australia day came, Wai-



tangi Day and Valentine's day, where face painting was great fun as the children picked what they wanted while incorporating the celebration of the day. Lots of laughter and intrigue came when we had some ducklings over for a few weeks, the joy of watching the little ducklings grow and swim brought wonder to your friends' eyes.



We have been incorporating the acknowledgment of country within our routine, the last couple of weeks we have been combining with Junior Kindy during this time, we will be working together to further incorporate this into our daily routine.

Moving on we will continue to explore and build on the children's interest as they continue to explore their environment. We will also provide love and support as we guide the children and our new

friends when they enter our room.

We will be having a wonderful time over the next few months Holi is coming up, we will be visited by Roushini who will be showing us more about Holi, we also have Easter coming up where stories and imagination will fly as we have an Easter Parade where the children can show their creations. Art explosion will also arise as Mr Jamie continues to explore Art emersion as we explore more about different



types of art. Sustainability will also fly through the centre as we learn more about taking care of our environment and the planet.

Wow seems like it will be an interesting few months I can wait to see it all takes us.

Love Miss Megan, Miss Toni, Mr Jamie and Miss Vicky

# Level two

Here in Junior Kindy 2019 has started off with a lot of new and exciting interests and ideas coming into the Classroom, the children have really been sharing with us more and more the different topics that have captured their interests. This is always a great addition to the room as it really allows us to shape the rooms activities to their liking, it's also a great way to see what the children really want to learn about.

Space has become a growing interest in Junior Kindy, there are many different aspects space for the children to learn about and discover. This interest arose from a tent in the yard that the children had decided was a rocket ship, from there the interest has grown and developed to something that is starting to take shape in the room. The children have been looking and reading books about space, painting their own rocket ships, looking at the stars and the planets and how different they are. It's been great to see them all sharing this interest, wanting to explore and learn together here in Junior Kindy.



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The children have also been showing a great interest in their physical play, wanting to run, jump, climb and find new ways to explore this kind of play. You can see the Junior Kindy children finding new ways to explore the obstacle course or adding new pieces to it to extend on their own play. Using the large bouncing balls around the race track as they hold their own races, getting the hoola hoops out and trying to accomplish that perfect hoola spin. While creatively the children have been exploring new and different ways of enjoying and creating art, this is a great way for them not only to explore their own creative instincts but to give them that opportunity and chance to show off their creative talents and let them interoperate these different art mediums and show us how they'd use them.

We would also like to welcome Miss Leanne to our room. Miss Leanne has transferred over from Little Ducks Bardon, she has completed her Diploma and worked in the early childhood sector for nearly 20 years. So brings a lot of knowledge and experience to the team.



Mr Jamie and Miss Leanne





# Level Three

## Kindergarten News

Welcome to Kindergarten program, 2019. What a lovely start of the year here in Kindergarten.

Children are well settled into our Kindergarten routine. I have spent a lot of time together observing the children, their strengths, interest and Challenges and has set a goal for each child from my observation and from family goal forms. We will continue to work towards achieving this goal this term.



Until this date, children have involved in various activities of their interest in large and small group. Our focus has been mostly on building a respectful relationship towards others and our environment. Activities are planned with an intention to build on their social skills. We are practising our organising skills by keeping our own belongings safe in our lockers, tidying up and replacing the resources back in place.



We have had our Centre Event 'Duck hatching', where children participated with interest knowing the life cycle of ducks, A day in a life of ducks, what they eat, how can they swim longer without getting their body wet and why they have webbed feet.

We have celebrated Valentine's Day showing our love to our friends in our Classroom by writing a letter telling them how much we love them. We showed our gratitude by baking a cake with a red heart on top to our loved ones and have had delicious food shared by our lovely parents.



We have almost started our literacy and numeracy whenever opportunity arises, and children are learning through play activities. We will continue to learn and become familiar with the letters and numbers. Children will be involved in planned activities on developing their fine motor skills that strengthen their fine muscles for writing

# Level Three

purposes later this year. Children will learn to use language to express their ideas, feelings and needs, become independent and confident in themselves as learners; explore, experiment, investigate and problem solve and build skills needed for school, in this year. Preparing them to have a smooth transition to school in 2020 is my number one priority. Our routines include access to children to engage themselves in all areas including indoor and outdoor. Our learning areas include Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Multi-cultural, Fine and Gross motor, Technology, Art, work stations, STEM and Loose parts play.

Beginning of next month, Show and Share roster will be displayed near the Parent Information Wall. Children can bring anything other than toys into our classroom to share with their friends (family photos; books; food healthy choices). Alphabet song -Jolly phonics, numbers and shapes



will be introduced this term using flash cards, other visual representation and activities in our daily program. Parent Input is highly valued which will be added into our program to plan further activities for your children. We would love to have parents to show off their skills and talents if any or just to spend time reading special stories or to contribute to our program in any way if possible.

Please ensure that all children have

- hats, drink bottles and two sets of spare clothes (Shirt/ dress, pants/ skirt and undies) always.
- Bed covers and flat sheets for children who have afternoon sleep.
- Healthy food choices (no traces of nut and egg) if no centre food, please.

We look forward to working with you this year.

Miss Suder and Little Ducks Team.

# Healthy Habits!

## Chicken and Vegetable Stir Fry

\*Not suitable to freeze

INGREDIENTS	6 serves	25 serves	60 serves
Canola oil	1/2 tbsp	2 tbsp	3 tbsp
Crushed garlic	1 clove	2 cloves	3 cloves
Chicken thigh fillets (skinless)	350g	1.5kg	3.5kg
Cabbage	1/4 small	1 small	2 1/2 small
Carrot	1 medium	4 medium	10 medium
Red capsicum	1	4	10
Zucchini	1 medium	4 medium	10 medium
Sweet chilli sauce	2 tbsp	3 tbsp	125ml
Rice (uncooked)	1 cup	4 cups	10 cups

### Method

1. Cook rice according to packet instructions.
2. Wash vegetables and slice into pieces of similar size (discarding capsicum seeds and stalk).
3. Cut chicken into small strips, removing and discarding any skin or bones.
4. Heat oil in pan, add chicken and garlic, and gently cook until chicken is brown and cooked through. Set aside.
5. Add cabbage, carrot and capsicum to pan and cook for 2 to 3 minutes.
6. Add zucchini and continue to cook for 3 to 5 minutes.
7. Add chicken and sweet chilli sauce to pan. Stir and cook until vegetables are tender and chicken is warmed through.
8. Serve with steamed rice.

Get up & Grow: Healthy eating and physical activity for early childhood provides general non-commercial, evidence-based information to early childhood education and care settings, to assist in developing healthy habits for children birth to five years.

This resource has been updated to reflect the Infant Feeding Guidelines (2012) and Australian Dietary Guidelines (2013).

Information Sourced from: Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Get Up & Grow, Healthy Eating and Physical Activity for Early Childhood