



Little Ducks Childcare New Farm March / April 2020

A note from your Centre Manager

At Little Ducks New Farm we have recently had our Parent Information night, a great chance for Parents and Educators to exchange information about the learning occurring in each of our settings. We talked to parents about the different focus and needs of children in each developmental phase. Little Ducks New Farm is a little different from other services. We offer three very distinct learning environments to meet the needs of each stage of a child's Early Years development.

Level One—Our Nursery space on level one is dedicated to our youngest learners 0-2years. This space ensures a flexible environment to meet the individual needs of our babies as they develop at their own pace. Our Nursery educators are very aware of the importance of meeting the individual needs of our babies, Through kind and respectful relationships with children they encourage naturally paced development through meeting the individual needs of the child and providing opportunities for uninterrupted play.

Level 2 - Provides a fun interactive space for our 2 and 3 year old's, Level 2 is a space for our children to develop their confidence through fun learning programs. Our Level 2 educators know the importance of building strong relationships with the children to ensure they feel safe and secure with a strong sense of belonging. They believe strongly in a play based program—knowing play is our brains favourite way of learning.

Level 3 - Our Government Approved Kindergarten Program is led by Our Early Childhood Teacher using the Education Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines to guide the children's learning. Our Kindy is accredited as a Little Scientists Service with a STEM enquiry based learning focus. We provide weekly Chess Classes, a movement program and also a dedicated Art Studio, ensuring our children are holistically developing as they complete their first introduction to formal learning in a play based program.

Our service is rounded off with our **Ground Floor** which consists of a REAL Outdoors playground, Multi age learning spaces and a Community Room. **Why not book a tour today to experience what we have to offer.**



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Educator Spotlight

Ganga
Toddlers Educator



My name is Ganga Jayasuriya. I was born in Sri Lanka.

In Sri Lanka I worked as a Montessori Assistant Teacher for over 5 years. I hold a Bachelor of Bio Science and a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care, and have worked as an Assistant Educator in the Nursery and Toddlers rooms. In 2017 I was recognised for my dedication towards nurturing children in their learning journey and was also nominated for the Apprentice Award for the hard work I did when I was completing my Diploma. I managed to be in top 5 for the Award.

I am mum of three children and my husband and I have recently moved over to Australia permanently. I am proud to have a very happy and beautiful family.

I am passionate about creating and encouraging innovative learning through play. I always happy to have children and families who love seeing me being a part of their children's' learning.

I am so happy to have joined Little Ducks New Farm as the Toddler's Co-Lead Educator and Sustainability officer, I'm really looking forward for an exciting journey with you.

Healthy Habits

SLOW COOKER CHICKEN SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- 1 whole chicken
- 250g bacon (sliced)
- 3 Carrots (chopped)
- 1 Onion chopped (chopped)
- 3 Celery Stalks (chopped)
- Coriander Leaves
- 1 Tbsp garlic
- Chicken Stock
- 200ml Water
- pinch pepper



METHOD

1. Turn on slow cooker place whole chicken, bacon, carrots, onion, celery, coriander leaves and garlic. Mix 2 heaped tablespoons of chicken stock into 200mls water.
2. Leave to simmer for 6 - 7hours

NOTES

- **20 min** Prep
- **6 - 7 hours** Cook
- **8** Servings

Upcoming Events

March

Monday 2nd - Clean-up Australia day

We will hold a 'Little Ducks Clean Up Day' In the lead up to 'Clean up Australia Day.'

Tuesday 10th - Holi Festival.

Festival of colours

Tuesday 17th - St Patrick's Day

Dress in green and come along to learn some fun facts about our Irish friends and families. St Patricks Day is on Saturday the 17th

Saturday 21st -- Harmony Day

This is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Dress in orange to support this wonderful day.

Friday 27th - Earth Hour

Little Ducks will go "electricity free between 10am and 11am" to teach children about being energy conscious.

Saturday 28th - Earth Hour

Saturday 28th - Little Ducks New Farm Open Day



April

Tuesday 7th - World Health Day

Celebrate your healthy mind, body and spirit and learn all about how to keep ourselves healthy. This week we will be exploring our health

Friday 10th – Good Friday **PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Monday 13th - Easter Monday **PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Tuesday 14th - Henny Penny Hatching

Lifecycle of the chicken , watching eggs hatch for 2 weeks

Thursday 16th - Paskha (Пасха)

Orthodox Easter Day in Russia

Saturday 25th - ANZAC Day

Leading up to this day, we will pay our respect to the diggers.



Level One

Nursery

What a wonderful start of the year in the nursery.

With most of the friends transitioning to the toddler's room at the beginning of the year, they are doing well and happily settled in with Ms Joey in the room. Saying that we welcomed a few friends in the nursery too. Marcel, Leo, Zuri. Jasper and Carter and they are transitioning well settling into their new environment. While our friends Darcey and Elise are continuing their journey of learning and development in the nursery while supporting their new friends in the nursery through the process of settling in by being empathetic and respectful towards them. Our nursery routine continues to be flexible and progressive working towards to meet the requirements and interests of our new friends while they settle in into their new environment.

Over the past two months, we have celebrated centre events this focus incorporates cultural diversity into our curriculum to provide an opportunity for our nursery babies to understand about the diversity of culture and traditions. We celebrated Australia Day acknowledging the history and celebration associated with this day. Chinese New Year was yet another centre event where our nursery babies had a chance to understand the diverse cultural background and traditions associated with this day. Waitangi Day gave us knowledge about New Zealand people and their cultural diversity. Along with the diversity nursery babies have also been communicating with their local community through centre visits. and helping to support the natural environment around them through our Sustainability programs running every week. Over the last month, we had visits from Hairdresser, Ms Courtney and from a dentist who helped us supporting our wellbeing but also taught us about their roles helping the community.

Talking about wellbeing, we are working hard along with our new and old families supporting our babies emotional, physical and social wellbeing. Our Move and Groove program and the daily program is planned to support the physical wellbeing of our individual children. Running these planned modules every week, we can see the progress and confidence level growing in each child in the nursery. Supporting the individual needs and interest, our babies are getting emotionally stronger and reaching us for new challenges every day. Their social interaction is also supported through planned group activities throughout the day, multi-age group play and supporting each child individually towards this skill.



Level One

Nursery

Each day our babies have been involved learners with regards to their skills and interests, and in order to support each of the children to progress with their learning and development, we have collaborated with our families to work towards the child goal for this term. With the focus, planning and experiences happening our babies are getting opportunities to learn, participate and progress towards their goals.

Communication and language development have made great progress with our older babies as they continue to observe, listen, repeat and communicate with verbal communication through everyday interaction about routines, transitions, group times, planned experience etc. And at the same time, our little ones are keen to listen, observe and showing interest towards responding to the communication done with them.

We had a great start to the year and we are really looking forward to the coming months to bond and support our nursery babies in different areas of learning and development. We are really excited and looking forward to coming days with focus continuing towards our individual child goals and celebrating a few of the amazing centre events (Clean up Australia Day, Holi, Harmony Day and Earth Hour Day) which will provide our babies opportunities for new understanding and learning as they participate in them mainly focussing sustainability & cultural diversity. And these can great opportunities for all us to understand and explore new learning!



Level Two

Toddlers

Welcome to the new year, I can't believe we're already at the end of February! We have had a very busy two months in the Toddler Room...

We welcomed Miss Ganga to the Toddler Room in January, who will be co-leading with myself and Miss Aditi will now be our assistant three days a week. The children have all bonded so beautifully with Miss Ganga already and were very excited to see Miss Aditi when she returned from holidays. Our Nursery graduates have settled in well to the Toddler Room.

All our Toddlers have been progressing well developing their individuality. We can see they are getting quite confident to show their sense of agency and confidently communicating their needs and desires. They are increasingly cooperating and collaborating with each other in their play and in routines also. The children are taking on new challenges and risks everyday which is exciting to see. We support this through our planned learning experiences and spontaneous activities. We have been working on our self help skills - the children have learnt where to collect clean bowls, plates and cutlery and then where to return their dirty ones, we are working on removing our sheets and blankets from beds after nap time then where to store them.

Our children have been showing their connection and sense of belonging to their Little Ducks community. They have begun to show a deepening friendship with one another and the older children from Junior Kindy, playing with them throughout the day and joining in on joint learning experiences.

Regularly we are talking about how to make friends and treat our friends and how we like to be treated also. The children have shown a growing curiosity for the outside world too, we often find them lined up at the windows looking down below at the cars or up in the sky at the rain and clouds. This had led to some wonderful in-depth discussions about how and why it rains, with Ms Ganga creating the water cycle on the wall, which is also part of the Sustainability focus of Environment cycles. When we have visited the garden, the children have been tasting the mint and basil which led to us making a delicious salad with them and strawberries.



Level Two

Toddlers

Our children are demonstrating a lot more confidence within themselves and are increasingly co-operating with one another during their play and daily routines. We are seeing a lot of self-recognition too, when they achieve something new! Our toddlers are becoming quite empathetic towards one another and educators also. Their increasing knowledge of emotions and how we feel is showing through their caring nature toward one another.

The toddlers have enjoyed exploring their new environment on level two and in the toddler room. Every corner of the room is always busy with children engaged in their activities and play. Imaginative and creative play have been very popular, the children using the babies and playing mums and dads, we recently set up an office space for the children to explore, the home corner always a favourite- we are offered many snacks and cups of tea on the regular!

The toddlers are showing a growing curiosity in the world around them, questioning everything and wanting to know how things work, why we do things, how we do it and why things might not be safe to do also. We are engaging in many group discussions and learning sessions about different topics daily- learning the different parts of our bodies, what the weather is and how it rains, buildings and the city- learning about different landmarks in Brisbane. The children are beginning to make more connections between things they already know about and something new that is shown to them.

Our toddlers have been creating many works of art too! During February we have been exploring water-based art. So far creating crepe paper artworks, nail polish marbling art, powder paint splash art as well as painting the black boards.



Level Two

Junior Kindy

The beginning of 2020 has flown past here in Junior Kindy, we said Goodbye to Miss Toni and welcomed Miss Osi and Miss Charmel.

Throughout the first couple of months we have been developing our sense of belonging and strengthening our connections and friendships, we have begun exploring the different cultures that make up our room. Exploring first what countries these cultures come from and which of our classmates have family who come from that country, allowing the children to develop that understanding of how there are differences amongst us that we can't see with the eye. The children have been interested in looking at some cards we made to represent each country and enjoying getting to see who belongs where and looking at the flags. We shall continue to explore these further as we move through the year. Miss Charmel has already been sharing her language with us as we've been practicing how to say hello and goodbye in Filipino.

For Art Immersion we have been exploring water within the creative arts, allowing the children to explore different forms of creative processes and how combining natural and man-made materials can create interesting and exciting new ways of thinking and creating. Move and Groove has us all practicing kicking and the children have been enjoying this as well, practicing how to move with a ball, different styles of movement and the way they can kick to accomplish different tasks for different games.

Sustainability has brought the idea of Ecosystems into the classroom, how the world around them works and as there has been a lot of rainy days during the start of year, we began by looking at the water cycle and what part water plays in our ecosystem. The children in Junior Kindy have also been expressing an interest in insects, so you may see some large insect toys around the yard which the children have been using to investigate, explore and play and develop their own understanding of these creatures within their world. Along with exploring our insects encased in plastic, the children have been able to use these to get a closer look at once living insects along with creatures such as spiders, scorpions and wasps without the danger of being near a living one.

As we move forward into the year, we look forward to getting to further our exploration of culture, getting to explore and learn about new and exciting interests the children will bring into the year. We will have Henny Penny Hatching coming into the centre in the up coming months, which will allow the children to observe and investigate the life cycle of a chicken and interact with these animals. We also welcome input from any of our families who have any cultural holidays coming up.



Level Three

Kindergarten

In Kindergarten room, for the past couple of months we have been growing in enrolments as many new families have come to join us. We are delighted to have them part of our Kindergarten community.

Managing our belongings, settling in our class routine, getting to know our classmates and learning each others names, building our relationship with one another and making friends are the major focus in our room. To start with we have been exploring the world around us and learning to say 'hello' in different languages through a song. We have explored the Flags of the countries and the traditional dresses they wear. We have also learned about different cultural celebrations around the world with the help of Museum resources, especially, The Chinese New Year, New Zealand Maori culture. We have showed our respect for diversity through engaging ourselves in an array of experience such as cooking dumplings, making money envelopes, music and movements with 'Poi' (a kind of ball tied to the end of a string).

Most of our experiences at this time of our year are related to connecting with other children in our classroom. Children are intentionally taught about friendship based on the book, 'Stick and Stone' differentiating how it feels to be alone and how fun it is when everyone stay together helping each other in time of need. Children actively participated in recognising various feelings and emotions through matching boards and flip book that shows people with different emotions based on the situations and analysed what could be done to avoid those situations.

The topic of Fire safety has come up a lot. So, we took a closer look at the fire safety and looked at some of the fire equipment in the room such as fire extinguisher, fire alarms and safety fire evacuation plans before the actual mock fire drill.



Level Three

Kindergarten

Children have participated in STEM experiences making a sling shot with plastic spoons and rubber bands, Volcanic eruption- exploring the cause and effect of vinegar and bicarb soda causing a chemical reaction when added, investigating how rain clouds are formed and how waves are formed in the Ocean. We have started an Ocean project as this emerged from children's interest and building on their interest through various activities. Reading books, listening to read along stories, singing songs, discussing about the story and guessing the story looking at the cover page and extending our conversation are the favourite part now. Children are exploring numeracy counting the total number of children and has begun counting objects and the corresponding numbers and how it looks like. We will be continuing to explore numeracy with anything that falls on our way.

Moving forward, when the children familiarise with their name and their peers, I will be placing a sign in notebook for children to begin making marks. Also, we will be engaging in cooking experiences as a focus of encouraging children to healthy eating habits and hygiene practices. It is also a great opportunity for children to develop mathematical skills, collaboration and encourages communication.

Other activities:

- Art Immersion, we are experimenting with water-based painting in all our art pieces.
- Move and Groove – Children are developing their kicking skills and participating in Yoga with Miss Megan
- Every Wednesday, children are very interested in involving in Chess lesson with Mr. Ben.

Our routine is flexible to suit children's needs and interests. Our program for the day will be updated in story park every day and parents are welcome to comment on the program. Feel free to add any suggestions or ideas you think will help in the learning and development of your child.



Move and Groove

Wow, this year is flying by as we continue with move and groove. Each month within move and groove we focus on a different skill; these skills allow the children to develop fundamental movement skills that help to assist the children in controlling their bodies, while performing more complex skills. The activities allow the children to co-operate while allowing them to observe their friends and peers through a variety of fun activities. These activities within the focus allow the children to build on previous knowledge while learning new skills that build on that knowledge.

At the beginning of the year, we were refocusing on what we did last year; with balancing, side sliding hopping and many more. The children's excitement has continued to rise as we moved on in February with kicking, encouraging the children to focus on balance and co-ordination as they kick the ball as Kicking is a manipulative skill that involves applying a pushing force with the foot to an object to move it forward. Over the month within each lesson and with the help of the wonderful teachers who have continued to incorporate this into their program the children have grown more confident in kicking. I have continued to observe how the children have incorporated what they have learned within move and groove into other activities throughout their day. The Kindy children have enjoyed challenging themselves and are rapid learners as we quickly explore and challenge them each lesson. They enjoy the challenge as they explore and persist on how they could improve within each movement. Within Nursery we have adapted the focus to suit their needs as we encourage the children to explore each activity slowly, Our Nursery friends have shown delight as they explore the different movements. Toddlers and Junior Kindy Confidence has continued to grow as we explore more fundamental skills. As we have new friends that have transitioned up the older children are role modelling while showing encouragement to the younger children. The children are very enthusiastic when learning new skills.

We have continued to explore other Pilates and stretching moves from the Kids Heart Pilates. These Pilate poses focus on a variety of movements that helps to encourage the children to be active as well as supporting the focus movement of the month and refocusing the children to allow them to relax. The children have enjoyed exploring and learning the different poses together. As we move forward, these next few months we will be focusing on catching, bouncing and Jumping. These will build on our previous focuses and build on the children's interest.

As we finish off each session, we all stand together placing our hands on top of each other, as we raise our voices high saying "We Did It" or "Go, Team"
I can't wait to see where these next few months will take us.



Sustainability

Environmental Cycles

A natural process in which elements are continuously cycled in various forms between different compartments of the environment (e.g., air, water, soil, organisms). Examples include the carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus cycles (nutrient cycles) and the water cycle.

How have Environment Cycles Changed? Ecosystem processes, including water, nitrogen, carbon, and phosphorus cycling, changed more rapidly in the second half of the twentieth century than at any time in recorded human history. Human modifications of ecosystems have changed not only the structure of the systems (such as what habitats or species are present in a particular location), but their processes and functioning as well. The capacity of ecosystems to provide services derives directly from the operation of natural biogeochemical cycles that in some cases have been significantly modified.

The Water Cycle The water cycle is the process by which water travels in a sequence from the air (condensation) to the earth (precipitation) and returns to the atmosphere (evaporation). It is also referred to as the hydrologic cycle. Human use of water can transform the water cycle through irrigation or the construction of dams, for example.

Water withdrawals from rivers and lakes for irrigation or for urban or industrial use doubled between 1960 and 2000. (Worldwide, 70% of water use is for agriculture.)

Large reservoir construction has doubled or tripled the residence time of river water—the average time, that is, that a drop of water takes to reach the sea. Globally, humans use slightly more than 10% of the available renewable freshwater supply through household, agricultural, and industrial activities, although in some regions such as the Middle East and North Africa, humans use 120% of renewable supplies (the excess is obtained through the use of groundwater supplies at rates greater than their rate of recharge).

Toddlers have been looking at the water cycle and learned following steps. This is the sun, this is river or ocean, these are clouds and these are trees and grass. The sun takes up water from rivers and ocean to the sky to make the clouds. Then the clouds give us rain. The rain helps to grow plants and grass. The rain water then flows to rivers and ocean. Then it happens again.



Art Immersion

ART IMMERSION

What talented little artists we have at Little Ducks...!

We started our Art Immersion program for the year in February, exploring water-based artwork.

- All of our children have been exploring this with a few different techniques:
- What happens to crepe paper when it mixes with water/glue- how the colour transfer to the paper.
- Food dye coloured ice blocks, smeared across the paper, leaving the colour behind.
- Nail polish marbling in water, with the paper placed over the top.
- Powder paint splash, art using a syringe to create the splash of paint.
- Watered down acrylic paint in a syringe or water dropper, squirted down the paper.

In March we will be exploring printing/stamping using a lot of mixed media and different ways to make images on paper.

Miss Joey.



Policy Review's

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

- Aids / HIV Policy
- Health, Hygiene and Safe Food Policy
- Excursion Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Late Collection of Child Policy
- Maintenance Policy
- Educator and Management Policy
- Sandpit Procedure
- Toileting Policy

Ways to provide feed back are:

Policies are available in the office and by the Level 1 lifts you can give feedback by providing a note in the feedback box located in the Level 1 foyer or sending an email to newfarm@littleducks.com.au.

Community Partnerships



<https://kangaroopointrealestate.com.au/>



<https://fivestarcinemas.com.au/new-farm>



<https://www.jamesstmedical.com.au/>



<https://www.facebook.com/kindyhair2020/>