Little Ducks Childcare

May/June 2020

A note from your Centre Manager

Hello families,



Let me start by saying a big thank you for all the amazing support you have all given us during these difficult times. It has been an unexpected year and we have all worked hard to maintain our high standards for your children at the service. We appreciate the obvious knowledge you have of us being much more than just a childminder to your children. Childcare is so much more than child minding. These days early childhood Education is heavily regulated and expectations on quality standards are higher than ever. We thank you for embracing us as important educators in your child's life.

We are so grateful for all the families have been practicing great social distancing and personal hygiene during these times. I know it can be tough being at home with children, but going forward we will be looking at creating interactive programs that will allow you to complete the learning we do at the service in your own home.

We will continue to ensure going forward that we still give great care and produce fun activities for your children , placing their development at the highest priority. Going forward we will be introducing an interactive program for you to follow at home. This means that weather you are attending at present or not, your child will still be able to benefit from the great learning activities and developmental activities that happen at the service daily. This will be accessible through the new 'Home Connect' page on Storypark.

Until next time, please stay safe and be kind to one another.

Natalie Gadsby - Centre Manager

Educational Excellence through the Power of Play Based Learning

Purposeful, Playful, Positive

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Upcoming Events!

May	June
Monday 4th – **Labour Day** **PUBLIC HOLIDAY** Sunday 10th – **Mother's Day** Tuesday 26th – **National Sorry Day** We will remember and commemorate Australia's first people, the indigenous population.  	Wednesday 3rd – **State of Origin** Come dressed in your maroon and blue to support your team for Game 1. Wednesday 3rd – **Grange Library Storytime** 10:30am Story time provided by Grange Library Tuesday 9th – **Didge for Kids** 9:30am come and learn about the world's oldest culture through the music of the digeridoo with Didge for kids. Sunday 21st – **State of Origin** Come dressed in your maroon and blue to support your team for Game 2. 

Policy Reviews

We value your input and feedback .....



Centre Philosphy
Incident, Injury, Trauma and illness policy
Emergency and Evacuation Policy
Emergency Lockdown/Intruder Procedure
Emergency and Evacuation Procedure
Handwashing Policy
Immunisation Policy
Infectious Disease Policy
Nappy Changing Policy
Natural Disaster/Severe Storm Policy
Annual Leave Policy-Staff
Fee Policy

<u>Ways that you can provide feedback are:</u>
Our policies are available to read in the foyer and you can give feedback in 2 ways, by email or anonymously via the suggestion box.

Our Community ...

Support Local Small Business





Parents page

Homemade toys and free activities

Homemade games and free activities at home are a great way to keep children entertained, and to help them learn and grow. They don't cost any money, and they can really boost your child's creativity.

You can also give your child things from around your home for some open-ended play – for example, young children usually love putting on and taking off the lids of containers, and older children often enjoy playing make-believe with old tea towels. Make sure that the things you give your child are unbreakable and too big to be choking hazards.

Playing with newborns

Your touch, the sound of your voice, being rocked in your arms, or staring at your face is more than enough entertainment for a new baby. Your newborn will also love being outside when the weather is good, feeling the wind, hearing the sounds of birds, and experiencing new outdoorsy smells. Splashing in shallow water or in the bath is also lots of fun. You could play gentle music to soothe your baby, or make bath time relaxing with a calm atmosphere and warm water, and a warm massage afterwards.

Playing with babies

Once your baby starts to move around more, she might enjoy more active play. Your baby will love to crawl all over you or grasp and shake objects to try out new movement skills. All young children need time for quiet play too, so watch for cues that your baby needs some downtime. Make time for one-on-one play and read books as part of your baby's daily routine Recycle items by making toy shakers. Fill an emptied, washed and dried juice or milk container with rice, pasta, peas, dried pulses or even old buttons. Sing songs and nursery rhymes while clapping hands or doing twinkling star fingers.

Playing with toddlers

Toddlers are like little scientists. Their play is often about experimenting, observing, testing, trying out ideas and figuring out how things work. For example, your child probably loves to 'post' things. Give your toddler some pegs and a peg container. Your child will happily move pegs in and out of the container – over and over and over again! Cut pieces of cardboard into small envelopes and decorate them. You could also make a 'post box' by cutting slits into the front of an old ice-cream container or cardboard box. Remember to go for some outdoor play in the backyard, local playground, beach or park.

Playing with preschoolers

Children are becoming more self aware at this age, so creating pretend play and self awareness activities are great. Get them involved in independent skills building through play with baking and helping with chores in a fun way. Fill a box with clean, old clothes for dressing up. Let your child's imagination turn old cardboard boxes into toys – a car, cubbyhouse, shop counter or kitchen stove. Visit the local park or a friend's house, or just take a walk in your local neighbourhood. These are all sources of adventure and fun for your child. Tape some scrap paper together to make a simple book. Let your child create the story and decorate the pages either by drawing the characters herself or cutting and pasting them out of old magazines.

Playing with school-age kids

Keep your child entertained and stimulated by. Find some big, old boxes and see what your child can do with them. They could become a cubbyhouse, rocket ship or hide-out. You could ask your local supermarket or electrical retailer if they have boxes you could take home. Cook with your child – start with some simple family favourites. Turn old sheets into a tent by draping
them over the backs of chairs, or make a cubbyhouse by draping a sheet over the edges of the table. Let your child help you out with small household chores and tasks. Children often enjoy collecting the mail, helping to fold clean washing or watering the garden. Play word games – for example, make up silly rhymes and riddles.

Parents page



CREATIVE





LUNCH BOX





IDEAS

https://www.today.com/food/5-cute-creative-bento-box-lunch-ideas-kids-t41066
https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/healthy-packed-lunch
https://www.happinessishomemade.net/school-lunch-ideas-for-kids/
https://www.thetot.com/baby/feeding-and-nutrition/6-creative-lunchbox-ideas-your-kid-will-love/
https://health.codejans.com/details/themed-bento-lunch-box-ideas-owl-tmnt-dog-

Nursery Natter!

Welcome to another edition of Nursery news



Since last time we have had some of our friends move up to Senior Nursery and we have welcomed some new babies of older siblings.

We have been very busy working on many different ways of achieving our age appropriate milestones such as walking, crawling, sitting up and feeding ourselves.

As educators in the room we have been eager to help the children achieve these goals. Through setting children's personal goals with the help of their parents, we have helped create our daily programs, While these goals all happen in there due time, this is where the educators can help them progress - Singing name reignition songs to help them understand their name along with photos displayed around the room. Giving them opportunities to self feed with using spoons and bowls- yes its messy but we can always have a bath! Its always fun to have a lay on the ground, we always enjoy laying alongside our younger babies who are practising tummy time or getting up on all fours as they begin to crawl. By having walkers and low furniture this provides the chance for children to cruise along until they have built enough confidence to take those first steps. Among many things of firsts, we have been having a lovely time looking at all things sensory! This began through using paints for a slimy experience and then pushing next to playing with some cooked pasta. This enabled the children to explore with food as they begun to eat new items!



Through our Easter celebration Miss Jess and Miss Brenda created some lovely opportunities for children to touch some fuzzy bunnies and squish some balloons filled with sand in replacement of Easter eggs!

As there are many changes happening around the world at the current time, we are ensuring the children are becoming more routined to handwashing and their hygiene processes. We have begun to look at this through singing songs, and many experiences revolving around the basic understandings of germs washing after toilet, wiping nose and eating.



Thanks for all your hard work and support!
With love and kindness
Miss Jess and Miss Brenda

Senior Nursery News!



We would like to thank all of the families in our room for being so incredibly flexible and understanding during this difficult time. The senior nursery team is still as dedicated as ever to continue providing enriched learning programs and upholding the high standards you are used to.

This term we are collaborating with the families to work on the children's individual goals. A fair few parents have mentioned verbal communication and this is continuing to be a very large learning theme in teaching curriculum. We have begun to focus particularly on expressing our needs verbally, such as 'drink', 'bottle', 'food'. By encouraging our smalls friends to verbally communicate themselves we are better able to understand their needs and in turn the children are feeling heard with in their learning environment. We are as always continue to apply the abecedarian approach to prompt back and forth verbal dialogue. During small reading sessions we are asking questions in relation to the book and aiming for verbal or non verbal responses relating to the book. This technique is aimed to lay the foundation that information is gained from text while reading.



As you may have seen on our programs and through various learning stories, ball games such as soccer have been an extremely enjoyable way to develop and expand our physical develop. By embedding ball games like soccer into our plans for physical learning we are able to practice complex patterns of movement and full body co-ordination. When running and kicking the ball our small friends are using their corpus callopsum also know as crossing the midline negotiating places to improve over all gross motor ability. Yoga is still a class favourite for some of the children looking for more relaxed pace forms of physical exercise. The senior Nursery will offer a session of animal yoga before getting ready for rest time to relax and calm our bodies and focus on our balance and core strength.



Yoga has also been a fantastic tool to strengthen our emotional well-being. Again as you may has seen we have been working with our wonderful families to foster the children's ability to self regulate their emotions. Utilising the Beyond Blue Be You training for early childhood we are working on the fundamentals for strong emotional resilience. By incorporating our learning for verbally communicating our needs and learning about feelings words, we are providing the children with the tools to communicate how they are feeling and what they need from the

Senior Nursery News!

big people in their lives. The ability to recognise and unicate feelings is phenomenal way for our children to work through times that may be emotionally taxing for them. If you would like to discuss your child's emotional well-being further or ask about particular strategies please feel free to ask one of the Senior Nursery Educators.

Many families have let us know about their children counting and repeating numbers at home. We have since begun participating activities for early numeracy. With loose parts play we are beginning to count using visual representations and number grouping. Counting out every day activities to begin to understand and apply number patterns in everyday activities. This as been a fantastic start to learning about numbers and look forward to more weeks exploring this concept further.

It is both a pleasure and privilege to be a significant part of your child's learning journey. We value parent input and if there is anything you would like the senior nursery educators to include in our curriculum please let us know either verbally or on story park.

Thank Miss AJ and Senior Nursery educators





Junior Kindy/ Toddler Time

Jingeri Jingeri (Hello and Greetings in Yugambeh in Language)



Welcome to the third edition of the Junior Kindy Catch-up! Before we delve into the children's learning over the past two months, we would like to acknowledge the traditional landowners and share our respect for the land in which we learn, explore and play on each day. This is imbedded into our practice daily with the Junior Kindy children, leading Acknowledgement of country each morning. On that note we would like to warmly welcome our new friends Chloe, Patrick and Isla in the Junior Kindy community. These new friends of ours have settled well in the room and formed friendship with their peers in no time.

The children had a blast in the last few months engaging in the doctors surgery learning journey and learning about keeping their body healthy and strong as a continuation of our Doctor Surgery learning journey. We learnt the different colours of the food through reading the story book *"I'm having a rainbow for dinner"* and scaffolded this through discussions with the nutritionist, Riku's Mum MS Saraya, as well as food colour sorting activities.

Keeping our body healthy also involved learning how to wash our hands properly. This prompted us to launch a crusade in the room and encouraged the children to be Soapy Heroes. We made masks, which the children proudly wore, and urged them to look after themselves and others through following proper role modelled hand washing techniques. We investigated why we need to wash our hands through different experiments and purposely engaged children in guided discussions on when to wash hands. Considering the current health situation that we are facing we deliberately incorporate the coughing and sneezing etiquette in children's learning to explain to them how viruses are transmitted and how to stop it from spreading.



Since we set the term 1 goals for the children, we have been actively organising and implementing different activities to help each child reach their set goals (please see story park learning program). We noticed the Junior Kindy children as active, involved and enthusiastic learners who demonstrate wonder and interest in their environment. These inquisitive individuals with array of questions lead us to organise different experiments involving the weather and water cycle. We also pretend to be geologists and explored the different types of rocks and why they have different colours, as well as exploring our curiosity towards living things in our garden, in particular worms, caterpillars and small insects. Through these hands on experiences, we are able to intentional teach the children how to be

Junior Kindy Column!



environmental warriors and care for our environment by being sustainable with scraps, watering the plants and respecting the grounds in which we explore and learn each day.

The development of the children's fine motor skills is an important foundation for the attainment of other important skills in the future such as writing, drawing and self-help skills. With this information we thoughtfully set up activities such as real tools, zippers and button manipulation toys, pegs and cube connectors, threading, playdough with extruders and scissors and other activities to strengthen the children's hand muscles and refine their hand eye coordination.

Since our last newsletter the children have come on leaps and bounds with Toileting and self-help skills. We are so proud of the resilience the children have demonstrated as they reach their developmental milestones and demonstrate their confidence with each stage of the toileting process through to dressing themselves. After transitions the children pack away their belongings and work towards putting their own shoes and hats on ready to go outside and play, demonstrating the children's sense of belonging and resilience to their routine, structure and environment.

These are just some of the exciting things happening in our environment. As we move forward we will continue to implement and focus our teachings using the children's strengths, interests and abilities with the upmost respect and care. Our service prides itself on our work with supporting children through change and transition and we look forward to continuing working in partnership with families to achieve the same goal. If you have any question or would like to share any input? Please don't hesitate to approach your Educators, send an email or write a post on Storypark.

Until next time,
Ms Nabia, Miss Mel & Ms Sawsan



Kindy Catch Up!



The last few months have sent a number of changes at the centre. We appreciate all of the support from our families during this challenging time and will continue to provide a caring environment for all. Hopefully it will not be too long before we are back to normal.

Bugs, bugs, bugs

The Kindergarten children have been very excited about bugs. We have had so many specimens from home to share and examine, including a wasp nest, grasshoppers and caterpillars. We even had the chance to see a cocoon hatch. The children helped to create a book about the bugs we found in the yard, featuring an image, information about where we found the bug and it's lifecycle.



To extend our knowledge of bugs and their behaviour we conducted several experiments on real bugs. We found out that caterpillars move more as they warm up. We asked the question Do ants prefer sweet or salty foods? Then performed an experiment to find the answer. We observed how snails moved and found out they have teeth that make a noise (under high magnification) when they eat. Throughout the unit we have been compiling a project book of bugs we investigated. Please feel free to have a browse and add some additional comments. If you find an interesting bug, please bring it in as the children continue to be interested.



Literacy and Language

Our Show and Tell has moved on to objects that start with the letter d. This began as a result of our interest in dinosaurs and dragons in our play. We have started a word wall to remind us of the new words we are learning. Some of the children have brought in some inspiring objects such as dough (Atticus helped his mum make pasta) and dragon fruit (which grows at Harvey's grandma's). This has been an opportunity to expand our literacy focus on beginning sounds.



Our language work has focused on how we use it for the purpose of storytelling. As a class we have been creating group stories on topics of interest, using a simple three part strategy: beginning, problem and end. The children contribute their ideas which are becoming more detailed, for example the Easter bunny whose house burned down or the octopus who managed to squeeze into an aquarium. We are also exploring how to give voice to puppets or felt characters, matching their features to their voice, for example a slow voice for a turtle.

Germs and personal hygiene

It is not surprising that the Kindergarten children have been discussing Covid19 and the changes they have observed. We have been trying to support their understanding by revisiting our hand washing routine, making sure we are using soap, making bubbles and washing for 20 seconds. We have also been demonstrating the spread of germs through an experiment where a doll was covered in pretend germs and we observed what happened when everyone handled it. Dr Binocs and Operation Ouch have also helped us to explore germs, viruses and covid19. These are good videos for you to watch with your children and answer further questions they might have.



Virtual French

Despite restrictions on visitors to the centre, we have been able to continue our French lessons through the video conferencing facility, Zoom. This has been a change for the children, but they are becoming more accustomed to it. We have just finished our unit on colours. We are due to start our new unit on farm animals with the new term.

Kindy Catch Up!



Gross motor- balancing and jumping

Our gross motor focus during the last weeks has been on jumping and balancing. Jumping from the plank allows children to build confidence to challenge themselves with a risky activity. They also develop muscle awareness and balance as they land by bending their knees without falling. We have also been working on our balance using our walkers, wobble boards made from blocks and the car tyres. Balance is important for self confidence in different sporting activities as well as table top tasks and posture. We are going to continue working on balancing objects in the coming weeks.



Easter

The children were very excited about the prospect of chocolate eggs from the Easter Bunny. We used the interest to explore numeracy concepts such as pattern matching and counting. We made eggs from sustainable materials that we hid and hunted for over and over again. To help children understand the environmental impact of rabbits we explored some Easter Bilby stories during the week.



Anzac Day

We will be commemorating Anzac Day by celebrating the mateship that existed between the diggers during wartime. We are seeing so many stories about how people are helping others through this difficult time, just like the diggers.

Social emotional- strategies for working together, turn taking

We have been developing our turn taking skills by practising the strategy of asking to play with a resource before they take it. This reinforces respect for the rights of others as well as strengthening our resilience when our wants are not gratified immediately. I have had some great responses from the children during our roleplays at group time. We explored what it looks like to see people taking turns and playing cooperatively. During our recent creative experience of building a dinosaur with magnetic tiles, I was so pleased with the cooperation in the group. We will be reviewing these strategies throughout the term.



Looking forward….

Mother's Day

The children love to show you how much you mean to them and Mother's Day will be coming shortly. Though we cannot have our gathering at the centre, rest assured you will receive something special. World Environment Day is on the 5 June and the theme is Biodiversity and there are some great resources around coral reefs which will inspire the children.

Miss Natasha

Move and Groove

Hello everyone

Welcome to move and groove movement. There has certainly been a lot happening in the world recently. Although it can be very de-motivating, please remember that during these times it is still important to exercise and be active!

Over the last month we have finished the Move and Groove cycle and have started over again with locomotor skills (crawling, walking and marching). It's been great playing Ball on a string, soccer and other kinetic games with the children over the past month and I've seen some really good improvements along the way.

I hope to see more confidence over the next few weeks from the younger children and more improvement from the older children as we tackle jumping, climbing, running and galloping. They are great mentors to our little ones at times and very encouraging and inspire building.

Move and Groove will be going interactive!!!

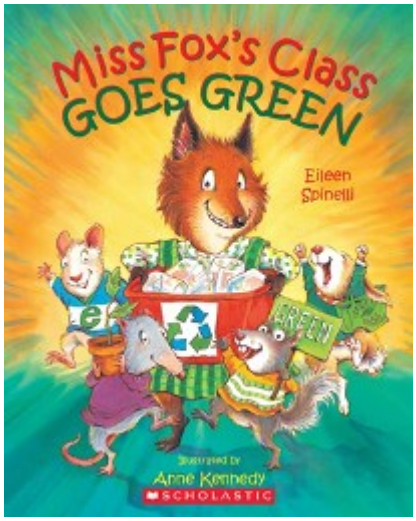
As part of our extra support for those families staying at home during the week and even on weekends, we will be creating great plans that you can now follow along with at home.







Sustainability



Let's all go green as well

Over the last few weeks, in the Kindergarten room, we have been reading a very interesting story about a teacher who motivates all her students to become more conscious and to learn simple things we can all do to take care of our planet Earth. We have been discussing possible daily activities and tasks we all do, but with a 'greener' way of seeing the world.

From now, we want to get inspired by Miss Fox and her students and make our centre more sustainable as well! Soon, we will have our Kindergarten children as mentors to their younger peers, within all of our Sustainable activities!

Importantly as well, we have been talking about how to reuse and recycle resources in the centre amongst our staff members! For this reason, all of our educators have been working hard on minimizing waste and making amazing setups and learning experiences in every room in our centre! From 'Under the Sea' and 'Lifecycle of an insect' explorations, children have even made displays about their investigations and discoveries about germs and viruses. The opportunities are endless, and we will continue working on them!

Lastly, one of our educators, Gabriele, has been completing a professional development course along the Brisbane City Council regarding ways of making the centre even more sustainable, touching base from concepts of recycling, to auditing waste in the centre and how to effectively carry on with meaningful and effective strategies.

Step by step all of our educators and children are learning how to make a positive difference to our world!

Did you know?

Teaching children from early years about sustainability not only fosters more responsibility, connectedness to and consciousness about their own environment, but also the abilities of thinking outside the box, planning and reflecting, envisioning a better future, working collaboratively and critically thinking.



Best *green* wishes,

Miss Gabriele