Little Ducks Childcare Annerley

July / August 2020

A note from your Centre Manager

Dear families,
We thank the Jagara people for the use of the land on which we play and learn each day.

I hope you have all been keeping safe and well throughout the pandemic that we have found ourselves in. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for this support throughout this time. We have all faced some challenging times throughout this period, that we never thought we would face. This has also been a time to reflect and implement some strategies that COVID-19 has taught us.

Throughout the pandemic, we restricted visitors throughout the service. This has meant we have ceased all of our extra curricular activities, as the children's health and safety is paramount to us. To ensure that the children continue to have access to these services, we have been incorporating zoom into our weekly practices. Our Kindergarten children have been relishing in the excitement of attending their weekly French classes via Zoom. Our community involvement has looked a little different for us this term, with us having to postpone our monthly Tricare visits. However, we have begun fortnightly zoom Storytime with our local Annerley Library. Prior to these sessions, our educators will be advising the library of the children's current learning interests, to ensure these sessions will be purposeful and enriching to the children's current interests.

We have had limited children attending the service throughout this time, to ensure that the children continued to feel apart of the Little Ducks community, we implemented the use of our Home Connect programme. This was updated daily and experiences from each class were shared with the families via story park, for you to participate in at home. We received a lot of positive feedback from this programme and were thrilled to see and hear the children discuss what experiences they had completed at home, from our Home connect programme.



We eagerly await the 13th July, when we are able to resume our normal operations, once again. Throughout this week, we will be welcoming back all of our families who have been spending some time at home with their families. We will have exciting experiences planned each day throughout the week, to celebrate this exciting milestone! Over the coming months, we will celebrate science week with a visit from Street Science. Our sustainability focus for the coming month will be a 25 day sustainability challenge, which we would love you input in!

Kind regards,
Erin Evans
Centre Manager/ Nominated supervisor

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Upcoming Events!

July

July 13th- **Welcome back!-** Today, we welcome all of our families back to the service

Friday 17th – **PJ Day!**
No need to get dressed today, come along in your PJ's for a cosy day.

Friday 31st – **National Tree Day**
Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature care event.



August

Wednesday 5th- **Science Show**
Come along and share in some exciting science experiments!

Friday14th – **Ekka**
PUBLIC HOLIDAY



Monday17-21st- **Science Week**

Monday 22nd – 28th - **Book Week**
Bring along your favourite story to share this week and dress up as your favourite book character on **Thursday 27th** The Book Week theme this year is curious creatures, wild minds

Easy Art! - Homemade glue

Homemade glue



What you need:

- flour
- water
- mixing bowl
- spoon

Method:

Mix one part flour with one part of water (eg. 1 cup flour and 1 cup water, or 1/2 cup flour and 1/2 cup water) until you get a thick glue-like consistency. Add a bit more water if it's too thick.

Mix well with a spoon to get rid of all the lumps. Add a few tablespoons of salt to the final mixture to help prevent mold

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 May and June are:

- CHILD PROTECTION POLICY & PROCEDURE
- COLLECTION AND DELIVERY OF CHILDREN POLICY
- DUTY OF CARE POLICY
- Orientation Policy – Children and Families
- Parent Involvement and Participation in Service Policy
- ANIMAL AND PETS POLICY RECORD KEEPING AND RETENTION POLICY
- ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Alexander, Eleanor.T, Ayla, Finn.P, Elayna, Arthur, Violette, Theodore.S, Matthew, Scarlett, Sebastian, Matilda, Lucinda, Isabel, Theodore.C, Patrick, Alex.R, Mayson, Riley, Edward, Ruby, Mamie, Charlie, Leonard & Albie.



Slow Cooker Vegetable Minestrone



3 cloves garlic, crushed

1 medium brown onion (150g), chopped finely

1 stalk celery (150g), trimmed, chopped finely

1 medium carrot (120g), chopped finely

2 cups (500ml) vegetable stock

1 tablespoons tomato paste

400 grams (13 ounce) canned crushed tomatoes

400 grams (12½ ounces) canned cannellini beans, drained, rinsed

2 cups (500ml) water, approximately

3/4 cup (100g) dried small pasta tubes

150 grams (4½ ounces) green beans, trimmed, cut into 3cm (1¼-inch) lengths

1/2 cup (60g) frozen green peas

1/4 small cabbage (300g), shredded finely

1/3 cup (25g) finely grated parmesan

1/2 cup loosely packed small fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves

Method

Place garlic, onion, celery, carrot, stock, paste and tomatoes in a 4.5-litre (18-cup) slow cooker. Cook, covered, on low, for 6 hours.

Add cannellini beans and enough of the water to make a thick soup consistency. Cook, covered, on low, for 2 hours. Season to taste.

Meanwhile, cook pasta in a large saucepan of boiling salted water until just tender, adding green beans and peas for the last 2 minutes of cooking time; drain.

Divide pasta, green beans, peas and cabbage among serving bowls; ladle soup mixture into bowls. Serve minestrone topped with parmesan and parsley.

Nursery Natter!



Warm and gentle greetings to our Nursery Families! Welcome to a new month, we hope you have all been keeping safe. In the Nursery room, we have seen many successes in development over the last couple of months. Since our last update, children have had keen interest in exploring the room and using their developing milestones such as; crawling, standing, and rolling over as they reach to accomplish their term goals. More success from the children as we are all standing now and beginning to take steps to walk as other children are beginning to confidently walk. We extended on these developmental milestones, with certain children graduating to Senior Nursery mid-July.

We plan a various amount of activities for your child; 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 children experience different textures and materials and stimulate creative and cognitive development. These are just some of the experiences your child will have in the Nursery room.

In addition to planned activities, we also extend around the children's interests and further development milestones and goals. We like to work with families to plan for their children's goals and interests.

Most children are beginning to show signs of independence as they move their hands to pick up spoons, and other toys. This term we plan to intentionally teach around the development of fine motor and gross motor skills. We plan to expend on the different types of painting by planning group painting such as on the floor, had painting; allowing the children to use their fingers and hands instead of brushes. For motor skills, outdoor planning and indoor will include challenging obstacles and physical activities such as ball play to strengthen children's motor skills and hand-eye coordination, as well as balance.



We welcome parent input in many ways. So please feel free to communicate with us about your child, our program, anything at all. It is important to us that you feel comfortable coming to us to ask questions about your child, their day and how they are feeling. You can also communicate this information by writing it in the communication book right next to the sign in/out sheet.

We are excited to be learning and growing with our families





Miss Concy



Miss Moutushi

Senior Nursery Tales!

Hi families,
During the past few weeks, our children showed their passion in learning new words through engaging in reading and learning new action song, whilst having verbal communications with their educators. We are so proud to see their vocabulary has been rapidly increasing lately.
The children have also displayed their curiosity in exploring their environment, whilst exploring the colours on rainbow lorikeets, finding seeds from the tree, looking for worms and planting seeds in our garden.



For our Move and Groove Program, our children have been developing a sense of mental and physical wellbeing through participating in our daily yoga and pilates sessions with their educators and peers. We have been learning many poses: the corpse pose, cobra pose, mountain pose, easy pose, cat pose, boat pose, chair pose, hero pose, happy baby pose, lion pose, butterfly pose, tree post, bow pose, tree pose and bridge pose. We have also been developing children's coordination and balance skills through practicing kicking: Kick a ball to an educator or peer, kick the balloon with a string, kick a ball to knock over the blocks, kick a ball into caterpillar tunnel, a bucket, kick it over a line, over the rainbow tunnel, and exploring the ability to kick while walking etc.



We have been also learning about things we can do to help reduce global warming on Sustainability Program. We scaffolded the three R's – reduce, reuse and recycle through a variety of learning experiences: we explored how to reduce the usage of water in hand washing, collected rainwater to water our plants, we spoke about the important of turning off unused lights and air conditioning before leaving the room, reused our fruit scraps for composting and fed the worms in our worm farm, explored what recyclable materials are and how to reuse them to make a simple bird feeder etc.



We have also explored about how coronavirus pandemic has impact our environment in a positive way, with less traffic on the roads. We discussed what we can do to maintain this by; looking at images of traffic congestion, Effect of carbon emissions and things we can do to reduce the wastage through using reusable bags, bringing our own reusable containers for take away and recycling plastic packaging.

To celebrate National Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week, our children participated in a variety of learning experiences to increase their recognition of our indigenous Australians. Art is the most effective way for very young age children to explore the rich Indigenous culture. Our children participated in Aboriginal art appreciation experiences with their educators and peers, by engaging in aboriginal dot painting with natural materials, painting with the colours of the Aboriginal flag and Torres Strait Islander Flag. Us educators scaffolded the symbolic meanings of the flags during the art experiences. We explored their music through music appreciation, watched group dance performances and used rain sticks and clapping sticks. Our children spent a long period of time dancing along to the aboriginal music and played their instruments along to the aboriginal music we listened to. Together we read "The Kangaroo and the Porpoise", "When the Snake Bites the Sun" and "How the Birds Got Their Colours" these dreamtime stories were also popular in our room, our children requested to read them multiple times in our group times. Our children were also enthusiastic participants in our daily acknowledgement of country through action songs: "Taba Naba", "Inanay" - songs from the Torres Strait Islands. Together we are learning to acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and ongoing custodians of the land.

Over the next couple of weeks, we are going to support our older children to have a smooth transition into their new room and spend time get to know the new friends in our room. We will focus on supporting children's individual goals of term two. We are also going to look after our regrow fruit and vegetables and replant some plants that got harvested by our possum friends.



Miss Vicky



Miss Abigail

Toddler Time!



Hi families,
We Hope you are all well and staying as safe as you possibly can, it's been a very turbulent time of late, but hopefully the worst has passed and everything will get back to normal soon.
It's a bit of a sad time as we will be saying goodbye to Isla, Kabir. Marcello, Odette, Elise and Camille, as they will be moving up to Junior Kindy, to continue their journey at Little Ducks. We wish them all the best on their big move, but we are excited to continue to spend some time with them in the playground.
We have some new friends to welcome to our Toddler class, from Senior Nursery we will be joined by Emersyn, Freya, Clifford and Zachary.
We will all make you feel very welcome and are incredibly excited to begin our learning journey together.
We have been extremely busy engaging in a variety of activities which have included; cooking, sensory play, physical experiences and music and movement. Cooking has been a big focus of ours as it's a great way to promote turn taking, sharing physical skills and mathematical concepts and of course we have enjoyed eating all the food we have been cooking.
We have also been learning about possums, after Miss Di found a tiny baby possum in the playground one morning. We have been exploring and learning about possum's characteristics, their habitat and different foods they eat.
Miss Lauren has been incorporating our move and groove programme with the children and exploring music and movement, which has including lots of action songs, this learning opportunity will be a focus over the coming weeks.

Reconciliation Week was full of activities to promote awareness for the Indigenous culture. Throughout this time we planned experiences such as; nature collage, bark painting, cooking Damper with Lemon Myrtle added a group collage for Sorry Day.

Miss Lauren has been incorporating our move and groove program with the children and exploring music and movement, which has included lots of action songs, this learning opportunity will be to assist language and literacy development.
If your child has a favorite rhyme please let us know and we will include it in our program.



Over the next few weeks we will be building relationships with our new friends, building a sense of security for them and learning their interests, promoting social development between old and new toddies, through music an movement and lots of group activities to promote our social skills.





Miss Di



Miss Lauren

Junior Kindy Column!



Dear Families,
Welcome back to all of our families. All of the children have been settling well in the room and exploring new experiences throughout the past few months.



Construction Trucks
The Children displayed a keen interested in trucks and diggers, to extend on the children's learning about construction vehicles; we created an learning pod, where the children explored different transportation through new experiences daily. The Children learnt the names of a variety of diggers and trucks and what their purpose was used for. This was done through card games, Sensory trucks play in the sandpit, and small bob cat play with colored rice.

Term two goals
We are continuing to work towards achieving each child's individual goals. This is done through a range of activities providing children opportunities to work towards achieving their individual goal.

Sustainability
This month we are focusing on global warming. Throughout the pandemic, our carbon footprint decreased, so we have been exploring ways on which we can continue to keep our emissions low. We have explored the effects of global warming through group discussions and reading stories together and asking the children what they believe we can do to help save our planet, as every little bit counts.

Gardening
We have had a large focus on gardening and worm farming. We have been saving all of our food scraps to feed to the worms. It has been an exiting time as we have harvested our fist batch of worm tea to use on our gardens and share with our families. Children planted vegetables and herbs in the garden. They are taking care of our garden by watering them every day.



Move and groove
The children's wellbeing is incredibly important throughout this time. We have been exploring our kicking and hand eye co-ordination, through learning kicking skills. Kicking is a manipulative skill that involves applying a pushing force with the foot to an object to move it forward. Kicking requires good balance and coordination. Children explored different kinds of kicks such as fast kick, slow kick, over the line, low and high kick.

We have some new transitioning children from toddlers and some our junior Kindy friends moving in to senior Kindy. We will be doing transitioning to ensure they settle well in their new rooms.
If you have any question, please come and see one of our friendly junior staff.
Thank you



Miss Savita

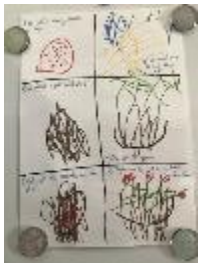


Miss Luana



Mr Peter

Senior Kindy Catch Up!



What a busy few months we have had in the Senior Kindy room, but so much fun. Over the past few months as you would have noticed from the displays in our room. These projects are based on the interests of the children and it is amazing to see how excited the children and even the families are as we become more involved in these projects. We have done a large focus on healthy lifestyles, which seemed appropriate with the current pandemic we have been facing and it has been great to see the children reminding each other about general hygiene, e.g. washing hands, coughing into elbow, etc. Though this project we were also focusing on not only learning about hygiene, healthy foods, exercise, but also looking at our mental health and helping children to understand that it is ok to get scared or stressed and help them to learn ways in which they can overcome this. We focused on Pilates, breathing techniques, talking to others and adults when they feel overwhelmed and ways in which we can regulate our own emotions. We also held Reconciliation week and it was amazing to see the interest of the children in learning about our First Australians. The children particularly enjoyed using the aboriginal symbols to make up their own stories – and even adding some of their own. The children displayed much understanding of us all working together which was very evident in one of the drawings from one of our children, when she said - We need to take care of the Indigenous people because we all live together.



We have also had a great focus on science experiments – extending from the children's interest in our science/nature table and this has been so much fun and a wonderful learning experience. We engaged in experiments such as Milk art, bicarb/vinegar, slime, lava lamps, snow fluff and oil and water and I think we all agree that the favourites of the children were "one's that explode" as the children said. Seeing so much interest in this we will continue to add new science experiments in to the program each week, so if you have any that you think the children would like to do, please do not hesitate to come and let us know.

The children have really focused on our Sustainability module this month – global warming. The children have displayed a great understanding of this concept and they have been sharing this information at home with their parents and siblings as well. Extending from the children's interest in this, we have been using our fruit and vegetable scraps to make up new plants for our garden which has been very exciting. Feel free to visit our science and nature table and follow our progression. This will be an ongoing project for the next month or so. If you have any fruit / vegetable scraps that you can share with us – please feel free to bring them in and we will try to make new plants. If you need some ideas about what can be regrown from scraps, please let us know. Over the next month some of the children will be transitioning up into the kindy room, whilst others will join us from the Junior Kindy room. As well as these changes, some of our friends whom have not been here since the pandemic will be coming back to join us, so there will be a few changes in our room, but we are confident that the children will all adapt to the upcoming changes. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to come and let us know.. Another area whereby we will also be focusing on in the upcoming months will be our self help skills. The children are all developing into competent and independent persons and are keen to do things for themselves. So we will be encouraging them to do this and providing them with any skills necessary for them to achieve their goals. If there are any self help skills that you feel your child could benefit from , please do not hesitate to come and tell us.We sincerely thank you for your support with the changes that have taken place in the Senior Kindy room over the past few months – we understand it has been difficult with the children moving between rooms some days – but together we have supported each other and most importantly provided a safe and secure place for each of your children – so once again thank you.





Miss Leighanne



Miss Mitaly

Kindergarten Program!

Kia Ora Families,
Warm greeting to you all. We would like to acknowledge how well you adhered to social distancing and keeping safe during this covid-19 pandemic period. Great to see most children are back to kindergarten and settling well into the routine. Did you know having a consistent routine is healthy for our children as it supports them to predict what to expect next. As usual, we are continuing our learning and exploring and making sense of the world around us. Thank you to all our families for continuing to contribute towards the learning with us.



Over the last few months, we have been promoting holistic learning in kindergarten as we believe that it enables our children to grow their capabilities across all dimensions. Through these experiences our children are developing their creativity and imaginary skills as well as the relationships with physical surroundings and with others.

Also, we have been working on providing an empowering environment in our kindy room. Our children have created and acted on their own ideas by developing their knowledge and skills in areas that interest them. Volcanoes, layers of the earth, spider webs, bird feeders, mental health wellbeing and gardening have been our focuses over this term. It began with sand play. Children's curiosity while building volcanoes led to multiple questions where by the teachers provided choices to do a real science experiment on volcano eruption. The Children showed their excitement and investigated how the volcano worked. A further extension was discussing layers of the earth where children learnt words like core, mantle and crust.

Our next focus was an enquiry based learning experience about spiders and spider webs that some children had observed in the kindy environment. The teachers scaffolded their interest with in-depth discussions using books, watching learning videos which initiated an interactive display set up to enhance the understanding of spiders and setting up a Terrarium.



Another interesting happening in kindy was a visit by some noisy minors in our lunch area and eating crumbs off the concrete. These visits created a concern as children felt the noisy minors eating those crumbs and would get sick. Kindy children and teachers had a lengthy discussion of what we can offer instead. this project, our children are making connections with the world around them and developing their language in a meaningful way.



Miss Rupa



Miss Jenny

Kindergarten Program!



As we had limited knowledge of what foods are good for birds, we researched and found out that there are some healthy treats that birds can eat such as apples, sprouts, cooked beans and cereals. Considering the compassionate thoughts from our children, the decision to make bird feeders by threading cereals into pipe cleaners to hang on the tree nearby was taken. Each day, the kindy children observed, discussed the bird feeders and waited for a visit from the birds. Through this project, our children are making connections with the world around them and developing their language in a meaningful way.

Sorry Day and Reconciliation week (In this together) was another focus in kindergarten room. This supported our children to learn about the history, culture, and achievements of first people of the land. Children helped to set up interactive Aboriginal resources table. This has been placed in the entrance. To create a respectful relationship and connectedness to Australia, each morning we acknowledge the first owners of the land in our designated area which we will be continuing throughout the year.



As part of holistic developments and wellbeing of kindy children, we rearranged to create revitalization area in the room where children can have quiet moment to themselves. This area is surrounded by family clicks, teepee, colourful pillows, books, and plants. This is a popular area.
Updates:

Our current projects:
Penguin World- Antarctica, Gardening and Healthy Eating are some focuses initiated by kindy children which is in progress. We welcome all our families to stop by and browse through our children's amazing work of art such as paintings, drawing, origami, collage, clay, and craft. Feel free to share your ideas and suggestions and create discussions at home with children about their learning.
Updates:
Our local Annerley library has scheduled every second Tuesday a story time with kindy children through Zoom. We have had trial first Zoom story time which was success. Our children engaged and interacted with librarians and are looking forward to the next one.



Miss Rupa



Miss Jenny

Sustainability Program!

What a busy time we have been having in our Sustainability program over the past few months. With the Covid 19 pandemic impacting our daily living during the month of May we looked at what was happening in the environment during this time. It was amazing to see the difference – particularly in our air pollution during that time with reduced transportation in both our community and overseas – and how much the air quality improved which displays how much pollution we are actually putting in the air with our current lifestyles.

During this month we discussed with the children alternatives that we could use in order to reduce the amount of pollution in the air or as the children call it "yucky air" looking at alternatives that we could use including solar power, walking to more places and remembering to turn off appliances when not in use.
WE also discussed how some of the sustainable practices that we were previously using prior to Covid 19 we were not longer doing eg. Many people are not using reusable bags, there are lots of face masks which are ending up in our landfills/waterways and these take years to decompose, and whether we should restart doing these again.

Extending from this in the Month of June, we talked about Global warming – what this is and how it will impact humans, animals and nature. The children have been really involved in this and constantly talking to their parents about "the earth getting hotter". I have had many parents come and tell me that their child has been teaching them about this at home also – which is rewarding to hear. When looking at ways in which we could reduce this – the children wanted to "plant more trees" as the trees "eat the yucky air". Alongside with us learning about reusing items – many of the rooms have stated to grow their own plants from food scraps – this way we are not just reduce, reusing and recycling, but also growing plants to reduce the pollution in the air.
The children have been very excited to see our plants start to grow – and this will be an ongoing process over the coming months – if any of you have any items that you could share with that that we can add to our project of growing our own plants – please do not hesitate to come and see myself or your child's educators.

I have attached two links which can help you go understand the different items that can be regrown from food scraps :-
https://www.ruralsprout.com/regrow-vegetables/
www.eatingwell.com/article/290729/how-to-grow-fruits-vegetables-from-food-scraps/
Over the next month we will be focusing on an Zero waste and will be sending home a questionnaire reminder for all families to see which of these you are currently doing and which you feel you could incorporate into your daily routines and lifestyles – This will be sent out via storypark at the beginning of July - and consequently we will be discussing these with all the children over the month of July.
If there are any areas you would like to see us incorporate into our sustainability program – please do not hesitate to let us know….thanks



Miss Leighanne

Move & Groove Program!

There is so many benefits from children being active and learning fundamental motor skills. Research shows that children doing regular physical activity have

Improved emotional wellbeing – helps young children feel more confident, happy and relaxed with improved self esteem and self concept

Improved healthy – encourages healthy growth and development of children's bodies and similar benefits of physically active adults

Improved mental health – improves concentration skills and ability to manage anxiety and stress



With this information in mind – during the month of May – when we were facing the pandemic of the Covid19 – we felt that it was really important for the children to engage in a series of pilates programs – enabling the children not just to be able to be physical active but also to focus on their mental health as well. These programs were done to a series of relaxation music, helping the children to relax and focus on body movement and control in a fun and exciting way.

During this time – many of the children even made up their own pilates movements which they shared with their friends and this session became an important part of our daily program – at times the children just starting their own sessions by following the diagrams which were on the wall.

During the month of June we moved onto kicking following the interests of the children in the playground. Through this process we have noticed that the children are developing more directionality and control in their kicking experiences – which has been rewarding to see.

Over the next month we will be focusing on hopping following the children's interest in hopscotch over the past few weeks. We drew a hopscotch in the playground path and we noticed that many of the children in the multiage yard were interested in trying this. For the younger children we will focus on jumping again – following a similar plan to that of the hopping.



If there is a particular area which you would like us to focus on please do not hesitate to come and contact myself or your childs' educators and we will incorporate this into our program.



Miss Leighanne