

Little Ducks Childcare New Farm

Jul/Aug 2020

A note from your Centre Manager

Well our world has flipped again and we have now returned to a “New Normal” It has been great to welcome back our families and we now have a better appreciation for how busy our days are but how nice it is to have these busy days!
We have emerged with a new appreciation for health and hygiene which I think is a very positive step. The focus on wellbeing as well as physical health and the stories of kindness show opportunities for a great future.

Within Little Ducks Childcare New Farm our educator team is preparing for professional enlightenment as well with the start of our Pathways to Resilience Program. Last year we worked hard on applying for Innovative Business Solutions Funding and were successful, having had approved a mentoring program by Pathways to Resilience. This company will complete multiple professional development evenings with our educators as well as over the next 12 months work on the floor with them as part of a mentoring program to build the educators capacity to provide quality learning programs that build educators, children and families resilience, something that is so very important at the moment.

There will also be opportunities for Parent evenings with the company, these being planned for later in the year. We will also host an professional development opportunity for the Inner Brisbane Early Years Network group. This we hope will be an opportunity to impact the resilience of our whole community! Exciting times ahead!!



Stay safe
Michele

55 McLachlan Street
Fortitude Valley 4006
Phone (07) 3252 1841

Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

fv@littleducks.com.au

Educator Spotlight

Suchi
Educational Leader



This month the Spotlight is on Miss Suchi, Little Ducks Childcare's Nursery Lead Educator and the service Educational Leader..

Miss Suchi began working in Early Childhood here at Little Ducks Childcare New Farm in 2016, not long after the centre opened. Starting as a casual educator, Suchi's dedication, and passion for early childhood has seen her move to Educator, Lead Educator and now to the position of Educational Leader .

Suchi is responsible for fostering the Educational Program and Practises for the Service. Suchi has built such wonderful relationships with all the children and the educators, she is the perfect person to inspire and mentor the educators to provide high quality, Child lead programs. Suchi is dedicated to constant improvement and always looks for ways to provide the best opportunities for the children, through creative and innovative programs and experiences.

Suchi is also Mum to a beautiful 9 year old living locally with her husband and daughter she holds a very important place in our service as well as our community.

Thanks for your dedication and passion Miss Suchi!

Healthy Habits

Egg and Toast cups

Lure kids into eating a fulfilling breakfast with this cute all-in-one dish. You can cater to individual tastes too: Add chives to one up and spinach to another, or exchange the bacon for ham.



Ingredients

6 (3/4-ounce) slices whole-wheat bread
1 tablespoon unsalted butter, melted
1 ounce shredded reduced-fat cheddar cheese (about 1/4 cup)
1/4 cup finely chopped tomato
6 large eggs
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
2 bacon slices, cooked and crumbled
1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives (optional)

How to Make It

Step 1
Preheat oven to 375°.

Step 2
Flatten each bread slice with a rolling pin until very thin. Trim crusts off bread. Lightly brush both sides of bread slices with melted butter. Cut each bread slice in half diagonally.

Step 3

With cut sides facing, place 2 bread halves in each of 6 muffin cups, making sure to cover bottom entirely and allowing bread corners to extend above rims. Bake at 375° for 5 minutes or until bread is slightly firm. Remove pan from oven; sprinkle 2 teaspoons shredded cheese into each cup. Top each cup with 2 teaspoons chopped tomato. Crack 1 egg into each cup; sprinkle eggs evenly with salt and pepper. Bake an additional 18 minutes or until whites are set and yolks are still a bit runny or to desired degree of doneness. Remove egg cups from pan; sprinkle evenly with bacon and chives, if desired.

Upcoming Events

July

Wednesday 1st - Canada Day—Leading up to this day we will lean where Canada is in our world and the importance of 'Canada Day.

Friday 24th – Crazy Hair and Sock Day—Help support the Leukaemia Foundation and the World's Greatest Shave
by coming along with your craziest hair-do
and a gold coin donation.



Sunday 5th – 12th - NAIDOC Week—postponed by the National NAIDOC council until later in 2020

August

Friday 14th—Ekka PUBLIC HOLIDAY—changed from Wednesday 12th – Centre closed

Monday 3rd – 9th Dental Health Week—Learning about how to keep our teeth
healthy

Saturday 22nd – 28th - Book Week—Bring along your favourite story to
share and dress up as your favourite book character on Wednesday 21st
BOOK WEEK THEME: CURIOUS CREATURES, WILD MINDS



Wednesday 26th Dress up as your favourite book character.

Friday 28th Daffodil Day—Wear your brightest Yellow today
and donate a gold coin for the Cancer Council.

Level One—Nursery

Welcome Nursery families to our current newsletter. We have had a great time in the past months with the Nursery babies showing a great involvement towards their learning and development.



All our Nursery babies have been displaying a strong sense of identity as they all have built a very strong connection with their educators and peers across the centre. It has been wonderful to see how all our Nursery babies can sense and respond to the feeling of belonging towards their social and physical environment. They also have been developing skills towards interacting with others with care, empathy and respect. We can see this when the children greet each other on arrival in the morning. It is lovely to see all the children even the non-verbal children move toward each other smile and babble with each other as they arrive each day, really showing that they have made strong connections with each other.



Connecting to their world, our babies are exploring this topic in all different ways with their educators. Understanding and acknowledging diversity, we continue to learn and enhance our knowledge each day through songs, stories, music and greetings from different parts of the world. Celebrating National Reconciliation Week was also a great part of our learning with regards to the First People of our Nation. Over the week, our babies participated in several experiences to enhance and extend their learning about Indigenous people's history and cultural diversity. And it was amazing to see how beautifully all our babies have shown a great interest to embrace the diversity and participate in different learning experiences around this topic.





Next was the the wellbeing of our babies, it's a pleasure to share with you all how all the babies have shown a great sense of wellbeing through the past months. Our Move and groove program has been a great supportive aid towards different physical movements skills (both gross and fine motor). Our Move and Groove focus for the month has been throwing, the children have been exploring this skill by using balloons, bean bags, and balls including recycled home made balls to practise and explore the skills required for throwing .

Level One—Nursery



All our babies are growing in their emotional wellbeing too which is reflected in how wonderfully they can share humour, happiness and satisfaction. As the children become more familiar with each other and build strong relationships we can see them interacting – passing a ball between each other, playing alongside each other and smiling and giggling with each other. They have shown a great deal of curiosity to seek out and accept new challenges, make new discoveries, and celebrate their own efforts and achievements and others, many of the children have reached new milestones like walking crawling and rolling over – wonderful achievements for our babies.

Our babies have enthusiastically been involved learner towards many different experiences. Gardening has been one of them and we have explored this topic over the month and have been learning all about it through all different kinds of play based experiences. Our gardens on Level one outdoor and ground-level outdoor have been providing our babies opportunities every day to extend and enhance their learning. We have enjoyed planting seeds and plants, watering the plans and watching them grow.





Music has been a great interest too which we have been exploring— we have each week been adding new songs to our repertoire. Singing is a wonderful way to encourage children's language and communication skills and the children have shown a great deal of enthusiasm towards progressing with respect to observing, listening, comprehending and responding differently depending on their developmental milestones.

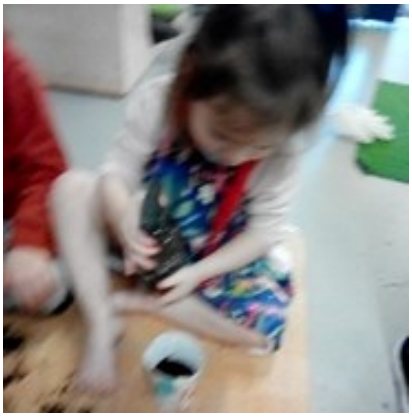


It has been wonderful to see all our babies learning and developing to best of their interest and skills and we are looking forward to the coming days to be able to support, encourage and motivate our little curious minds.

Miss Suchi and Miss Joey
Nursery Lead Educators

Level Two - Toddlers

At the beginning of the month Toddlers were excited about the Veterinarian role play area set up in the open environment. The “Pet Vet” as we call it provided the Toddlers with lots opportunities to engage in taking care of animals and learning a Veterinarians role. The children role played many different scenarios including caring for the animals, giving medication to the animals, greeting the customers and many more. Role play encourages children to cooperate with each other and negotiate roles and relationships through play as well as build knowledge and language skills from the area of interest, in this case the Pet Vet.



In the meantime, we started our Gardening project aligning with our Sustainability focus. This has opened more opportunities to connect with the natural world and environments. Talk of growing food opened an opportunity to create a market area. The children were introduced to the process of “Where food comes from” The farm – the supermarket – our homes. This was a big learning opportunity for the Toddlers as they role modelled what we do at the shops. Not only did this create the usual shopping role play opportunities but we saw the children extend the shop to delivery of groceries from the farm and stocking the shelves but also extending to delivering the groceries to each other’s “homes” – maybe this is something that is happening more in the children’s homes these days?



As well as role play the Toddlers have been learning about their senses and engaged in the experiences to be knowledgeable of their body and how it works.



Our literacy focus has been reading the book ‘Where is the Green Sheep’. The children look forward to hiding and seeking the green sheep hidden in our learning environment, they move the sheep around the room and make more sheep like in the book to create lots of fun and interactive learning. The experience encourages the children to explore the concepts of in, on, up, at, under and above and challenge their thinking and understanding.

Level Two— Toddlers



We have introduced new experiences from Turrbul culture such as; Yarning Circle, Singing, Movies, books, were added to the program throughout Reconciliation Week. Children love the Yarning Circle time as they can talk and express themselves. It's lovely to see that they have developed a sense of belonging and are able to contribute their ideas and experiences with each other as part of a group.



Hygiene has been a big focus with our Toddlers, they have practised washing their hands following steps outlined in our bathroom posters, while singing along with a the song like Happy Birthday or a version of the Baby Shark song. Coughing and Sneezing are encouraged into the elbow. These practises have been addressed through fun experiences and books, embedding them into the program: Experiences including washing a glove full of frozen water, this has shown the children how important it is to rub soap on all parts of the hand to remove the germs.

Over the coming months we will focus on enhancing our Toddlers' social skills and physical wellbeing through lots of outside play as we continue to tend our gardens as well as enjoy our outdoor playground riding bikes, digging in the sand and enjoying the fresh air.

Miss Ganga and Miss Louise

Toddler Lead Educators





Level Three—Jnr Kindy

Our learning Journey here in Junior Kindy has been taking us down many paths and into exciting new areas of exploration, it's been amazing watching the children explore and discover new interests and ideas within the world around them.

Music has become a focus within our learning environment here in Junior Kindy, we began by exploring music from the different cultures that make up our classroom. The children were able to share music and songs from their own culture, while also getting to listen, dance and attempt to sing along to the music and songs from the cultures of the other children around them. There has been such a positive response to this, the children have enjoyed being able to explore and learn about music, language and culture and how it all connects. We've also been learning new songs to sing during group times, the two main songs that have become very popular amongst the children are "Agadoo" and "Down by the Bay". Watching as the children have been learning the lyrics and actions for these songs, to now where they can start singing the song without any assistance. Music and song not only connects us to cultures but also develops children's language and communication skills as they are introduced to new words and concepts communication. Music is also a great tool for cusing on our wellbeing, Music connects us to happy memories, creates suitable environments that can enhance your mood and outlook—making you feel happier, more relaxed, energised etc.



of fo-

Junior Kindy has also been exploring simple machines a project being led by Miss Suder our Kindergarten children, developing an understanding of how these machines work, where they can find them in the world around them and of course building a connection with Miss Suder. Miss Ganga has also been leading our Gardening project, which the Junior Kindy children have been enjoying and excited to be a part of. When we head down to the outside yard, one of the children will always rush to get the watering can as they all understand it's an important part of our day to care for our gardens.

Through our time on level two the Junior Kindy children have developed and strengthened their ability to build connections and assist other children in joining in on social groups, building strong friendships with children who are in the toddler program who will one day move into Junior Kindy and share a level with them on three when they move to kindergarten. Watching as the Junior Kindy children offer a hand in support when one of the younger children are climbing the obstacle course, helping the younger children back away, put things in their bag, put shoes on or find a toy or item they have miss placed. This has begun to extend into times when the children are in the same space as Nursery children, seeking out moments they can help and engage with the Nursery children and begin building connects with our youngest members of Little Ducks.

Level Three—Jnr Kindy

These interactions have begun to make their way into the children's dramatic play as well, we often see the children now playing Little Ducks the game. Were the children will take on the roles of being a little duck's educator, while others take on roles of parents and children and they explore what these different identities mean and how they can replicate what they have observed here.

As we move forward in the year we will be returning to level three which all the children are very excited about, and with that our level will begin to take shape once again and become alive and filled with new learning journeys and voices of excitement.

Mr Jamie
Jnr Kindy Lead Educator









Level Three—Kindy

Dear Families,

I hope you are all doing well in these crazy times!… Here at Little Ducks Childcare, this has allowed us, educators and children, to learn more about each other and build our relationships with each other. Nothing stopped us from what we were doing, we were as busy as ever forming friendships with multi age groups, involving in play and learning experiences. Managing routines by organising self and belongings has been a great focus where children are encouraged to place their bags in the lockers, drink bottles in the basket and wash their hands-on arrival. It is great to see all parents encouraging them as they transition from home into Child Care, thank you. Hand washing has become an important part of our day as we understand how germs could be spread. We have learned this through various experiments and demonstrations. We used flour and toys to experiment how germs could be passed to others and the importance of hand washing.



On Sorry Day and Reconciliation week, Children explored the three Flags of Australia- The Australian Flag, The Aboriginal flag and The Torres-Strait Islanders Flag. Children participated in making a poster that said, "Sorry" using the colours on the Aboriginal Flag. While painting their hands they learnt what each colour represents. Children participated in cooking Damper and explored numeracy having conversations about the ingredients needed and the measurements tools. DOT and THE KANGAROO movie was played on the week, one of the best movies where children could connect with the bush culture watching the Aboriginal Corroboree dance, Cave paintings, and the Bunyip and the Australia bush animals. Children explored the Aboriginal signs and symbols and used the visual aid to draw the symbols.



Celebrating World Environment Day by having a fantastic day in our outdoor area on Ground Floor gave children an opportunity connecting with mother nature. Children spent time working on our outdoor garden, having an outdoor rest time and outdoor mealtimes. Talking about this year's theme for World Environment Day, "Celebrate Biodiversity", we reflected on the Eco- System we learned a month ago and how living things on the planet depend on one another. World Environment Day, children learned a new song "Let's see what we can do, to save the Planet for me and you".

Level Three—Kindy

When we transition downstairs for outside play, we have been focusing on the back stairs to foster the development of the children's confidence with these stairs. This has developed our children's confidence in exiting the building through the back stairs during Emergency Evacuations.

Music around the world, Mr. Jamie played some music from different countries, exploring music from France, Spain, Serbia and Thailand. The children were able to explore the music and language of other countries while enjoy their play and learning.

To foster play and exploration, children were offered an array of experiences like interacting with a bubbling rainbow made from mixing oil and water and demonstrating the chemical reaction, Pendulum art experiences, Bubble makers that is homemade from recycled materials, Air experiments, exploring air and air pressure using bottle and balloon, Volcano experiment and Jelly Bath slime. This exploration really challenges the children to explore concepts and extend their thinking and understanding.







We have begun and will continue over the coming months our Simply Machines Project. We have learned about the six types of Simple Machines and are planning to use all these simple machines in our Final project, 'Goldberg Machine'. You will hear more about our exciting project in the next newsletter. WE are hoping to submit this project to the 2020 Little Scientists Awards! Stay posted.

Miss Suder, Early Childhood Teacher, Kindergarten Program

Move and Grove

While we did our unit on catching earlier in the year, we moved onto throwing as the two skills come together and are an important part of each other. Strengthening the children's ability to throw includes focusing on their ability balance while throwing, holding and letting go of the ball and aiming. Bringing hand eye coordination into this gross motor skill and with this we were able to break down throwing into taking stance, looking where you're going to throw the ball and letting go to get the right high or distance.

The children were able to focus on each one of these different steps and allowed us as educators to better support each child in the step that brought a challenge into the mixture. We practiced the motions and stance of an underarm throw and when to let go of the ball during the first stages, gaining that understanding of the importance of letting go at the right time to cause the ball to move along with how to stay balance while going through these actions. From there we began to include aiming, using buckets and tires as focal points for this so the children had a large target, they were able to focus on. Scaling it further to include a net so the children were able to face a new challenge, as they would bring all those skills to get the ball over the net and close to another child, they were aiming the ball. This then allowed us to bring catching into the mixture as the other children could catch the ball before making their attempt.

For our Nursery children they also focused on picking up, holding and letting go of the balls or bean bag, an important part of their development as they begin to developing there gross motor skills and developing their ability to lift and hold items and began exploring throwing and how they can accomplish this skill as well. Exploring through an array of different objects and items such as paper balls, bean bags and balls of different sizes this allowed for each of our Nursery children to explore and foster the development of this gross motor skill based on their own development stages and their strengths.

Move forward with Move and Groove we will begin exploring and developing our ability to balance, through research we have seen this is a foundation gross motor skill for many other of the skills our move and groove program explores. And by strengthening this skill we will be able to move forward through the year, exploring new topics with confidence and strength.

Mr Jamie—Physical Development Officer





Art Immersion

ART IMMERSION

For the past month we have been exploring Art made from recycled materials. Using recycled materials encourages the children to become environmentally responsible. Thinking of ways that items can be reused in a creative way encourages the skills of reuse and recycle. Using materials that are compostable or easy to breakdown encourages the concept of limiting waste.

It is amazing how beautiful creativity mixed with Sustainability can be!

The Nursery Children have made beautiful mobiles out of discarded plastic bottles paper and material. These mobiles hang above the nappy change mats creating opportunities for connection during these routine times.

Other opportunities for recycled Art has been creating vases out of yoghurt containers and using recycled materials as mediums for the creativity. Here is an example of the children using wool to create their masterpieces.

Miss Joey—Art Immersion







Policy Review's

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

- CHILD PROTECTION POLICY & PROCEDURE
- 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

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.

Sustainability

Little Ducks New Farm Sustainability project has been 'Gardening' . Gardening is a great focus to encourage children to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment by developing an increased understanding of the interdependence between land, people and plants. It all started with weeing, planting and then caring of our gardens.

Weeding – Children of all the ages were so keen on cleaning up our gardens giving space for the new plants. They helped pulling the dead plants out, digging, watering and adding fresh dirt and mulch in the garden.



Planting – The children enjoyed making their own plant pots with Paper Mache and then had the opportunity to decorate them. Paper Mache pots really embed the idea of sustainability. We used scrap paper to make pots that will completely break down and not create waste while helping us to experience plant growth. The pots were used in planting seeds. The steps for planning seeds were role modelled for the children then the children followed the steps beautifully. They took care of their seeds until they grew into seedlings.



Caring for our garden – Our freshly grown gardens were looked after very well by watering promptly, and gentle touches. Children even did a scavenger hunt on 'World Environment Day' during our outdoor day. The scavenger hunt encouraged the children to explore the outdoor environment looking for natural materials.



Seed View – Children learnt the life cycle of a plant via the seed view experiment. They basically left a bean seed on a cotton bed and watered it until it sprouted to a little seedling. Apart from that children observed a carrot and onion grow their roots over the week.

Composting – Learning about composting was an extension to our gardening project. The compost container has been added to the room for the children to put their food scraps and then to make compost. We talked about what we can and cannot be put in the compost bin and how it works. A fun sorting game introduced the children to the concept of sorting the rubbish into correct bin.

Over the coming months we will continue looking after our gardens, measuring how much our plants have grown, we will start the worm farm and many more experiences around gardening to encourage children to explore relationships with living and nonliving things and observe, notice and respond to changes in our environment.

Miss Ganga, Sustainability Officer