Little Ducks Childcare Annerley

September / October 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.

Whilst 2020 has brought about unprecedent global challenges for us all, I also know how grateful and appreciative we feel because we know that when we stand united, there is nothing we cannot overcome. Therefore, I would like to extend another grand thank you to you all for your support throughout this time. We are fortunate to be a part of this tight-knit community and know Little Ducks we will be back out there, contributing in person to our beloved Annerley in no time.

I am proud to say we had a great turn out this year with our Book Fair. It was lovely to see so many children getting excited about early literacy and choosing books of their choice. As you know, the funds raised will help us in adding more resources for children to engage with within the service. Once again, thank you for all your contributions.
To all our current Kindy families, this month we will be getting in contact with the local primary schools in the area. We will be arranging visits to local schools to meet with teachers as well as arranging meetings for teachers and principals to come visit us here at Little Ducks. We are also in the process of organizing our enrolments for the following year. Thank you to all the families who have completed our Kindy Program Enrolment Form for 2021 to date. We will also be sending out new enrolment forms to current families in our other rooms. We are so thrilled about the future transitions for our current children as well as welcoming new families for the upcoming year.



Not long ago, we also held our Parent Information Night. I hope you found the gathering both informative and purposeful. We appreciate all the feedback regarding next year's curriculum. In saying this we are so excited to have both early childhood teachers, Miss Rupa and Miss Jenny in the Kindy Room supporting your children through our school readiness Kindy Program for 2021. In addition, our new assistant centre manager, Miss Des is also a qualified early childhood and primary school teacher who will also been contributing to our program and mentoring educators in continuing to provide you with the high quality of care you deserve and are accustomed to.

Kind regards,
Erin Evans
Centre Manager/ Nominated supervisor

RATED EXCEEDING NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

35 Waldheim Street
Annerley QLD 4103
Phone (07) 3848 7688
Fax (07) 3848 6533

Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

annerley@littleducks.com.au

Upcoming Events!

September

Wednesday 2nd – **National ECE day**
Celebrating the important role early childhood educators play in educating and caring for tomorrow's leaders.



Thursday 3rd- **Brave hearts**
Come and learn about personal safety Senior Kindy & Kindergarten with Ditto the Bear and the crew from Brave Hearts at 9:45am

Friday 5th - **Father's Day Afternoon Tea**
Come along for a special Afternoon Tea to celebrate our dads. Starting 3:30pm.

Sunday 6th - **Father's Day**

Monday 19-25th - **National Week of Deaf People**
Together, come together and learn some Auslan. (Parent Input)

Wednesday 23rd- **The International Day of Signed Language**
(Parent input)

October

Monday 7th – **Queens Birthday**
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday 26th – Friday 30th - **Grandparents Day**
We welcome any grandparents to come along throughout this week and share a story with the children. Bring along your favourite story to read or we can lend you one to share with the children between 10am - 11am and 2pm – 3pm every day.

Friday 30th - **Halloween**
Dress up with us and enjoy this traditionally Celtic celebration!



Easy Art! - Flying Bats Sun Catcher

What you need:
Paper plates, Black acrylic paint, Tissue Paper, Black and white paper Wax paper, Googly eyes, School glue or glue stick, Hole punch and Black Sharpie

Instructions:
For detailed instructions please visit:

https://thepinterestedparent.com/2017/09/flying-bats-sun-catcher-craft/



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:

- ENROLMENT POLICY
- ACCEPTANCE AND REFUSAL OF AUTHORISATIONS
- FAMILY LAW AND ACCESS
- AUTHORISED PERSONS WHO ARRIVE IN AN UNFIT STATE TO COLLECT CHILDREN POLICY
- CONTINUITY OF CARE POLICY
- EDUCATION, CURRICULUM AND LEARNING POLICY
- TRANSPORT PROCEDURE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Sylvia, Oscar, Emily, Matilde, Olivia, Essie, Lennon, Oscar, Elsie, Luca, Audrey, Ella, Vincent, Jasmine, Hugo, Djuna, Jacob, Katherine, Micah, Archer, Eleanor, Isabelle, Louis, Imogen, Eli, John, Odette, Tobias, Yanick, Oliver, Otis



One Pot Mexican Quinoa

Ingredients



1 tablespoon olive oil

3 cloves garlic

2 cups quinoa, uncooked

2 cups vegetable broth

30 ounce black beans, canned

30 ounce diced tomatoes, canned

2 cups corn, canned

1 teaspoon chili powder

1/2 teaspoon cumin, ground

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon black pepper, ground

1 medium avocado

Method

Instructions:

Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add garlic and cook, stirring frequently until fragrant, about 1 minute.

Stir in quinoa, broth, beans, tomatoes, corn and spices. Bring to a boil; cover, reduce heat and simmer until quinoa is cooked through, about 20 minutes.

Mix in lime juice and cilantro. Top each serving with chopped avocado and enjoy

Nursery Natter!

We would like to welcome all of our Nursery families. We hope that you have all been keeping safe.



The last few months has been an exciting experience for all of our children and their families, welcoming new faces in to the Nursery Room and assisting with the transitioning of the newly graduated children into the Senior Nursery Room. Since our last update the children have had keen interest in exploring their physical environment, and exercising their developing physical achievements such as crawling, standing and rolling over. The children have been showing enthusiasm as they have successfully accomplished their term goals.

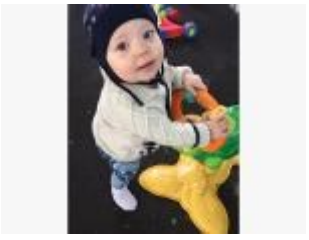
Various gross motor activities were planned for the children, such as climbing, pushing, and balance beams. For the children's fine motor development we planned sensory experiences such as sandpit play, painting and exploring our natural sensory tub. The children also assisted in developing their social interactions through sing-a-longs, group play and listening to stories. For the children's cognitive development they have been participating within large and small block building, navigating the bead board and putting together shape puzzles. In addition to planned activities we also extend around the children's interest and further development milestones and goals.

Miss Krissy and Miss Moutushi have been focusing on building strong relationships with the children through reading stories, playing games of Peekaboo and enjoying interacting through songs and cuddles. We are planning on extending on the children's well-being through several one on one and large group activities.
The children have been enjoying exploring our newly arranged environment, through sensory exploration and finding quiet areas to interact with their peers.

Next month we will be celebrating the arrival of Spring through exploring nature, animals and engaging in several sensory activities. We are also planning on making our own belonging tree, to encourage a feeling of security and belonging to the group.



We welcome parents input in many ways so please feel free to communicate with us about your child, the program or any thing that you would like to share with us. It is important to us that you feel confident and comfortable coming to us to ask questions about your child and how they are feeling. You can also communicate this information through Story park or the communication book that is located next to the sign in and out sheet.



We are looking forward to working as a team with you all to contribute to your child's learning journey.

Thank you Miss Krissy and Miss Moutushi.



Miss Krissy

Miss Moutushi

Senior Nursery Tales!

Warm greetings to our Senior Nursery Families! We hope you are all well and safe during these challenging times.

Supporting all our children in having a smooth transition into care and developing a sense of belonging in their new environment have both been of great focus in the room due to the many changes throughout the past couple of months. We have had many children return back to care after covid-19. Several older children have graduated from our room to Toddler room, a couple of Nursery children to moved up to our room and a few new children joined our Senior Nursery family for the first time. We are truly grateful to receive so much parent input from our families, this has been really helpful to support our little ones settling in the room. A big thank you to our families!



We have also been busy working on our physical environment to make it look more cosy and meet our children's current interests and developments. Our children have shown their enthusiasm in exploring facial features and body parts as you might have seen it on our visible learning displays. Our children were keen in sharing their knowledge with their peers and learning to transfer their knowledge from one context to another through play experiences. Working on supporting our children with their individual goals for term two was our other main focus, our children engaged in a variety of learning opportunities each week to work towards achieving their goals during the past months.





For Sustainability Program, our children were developing a sense of being sustainable through participating in our July sustainability daily challenges with their educators. Such as, using reuse face cloths, learning to repair the books, regrow vegetables from scapes, saving fruit scapes for composting, using recycled materials for building construction play and DIY music instruments etc. We have also been learning about what it means to be waterwise during the month of August. This helps our children to develop respect and a sense of responsibility in taking care of our planet. We increased children's knowledge about the term waterwise practices through a variety of fun learning experiences: we explored how to reuse water through collecting the rain water and water we used for fruit washing to water our plants, DIY a water filter to transfer dirty water to clean water, using reusable cloth to clean our faces and learning to turn off the water tap after using it, etc.



Our children's wellbeing is extremely important throughout this time. Therefore, we have been exploring hopping and running during the past months, our children had lots of fun engaging in games and action songs with their educators and peers to increase their social wellbeing while learning to run and hop.

For the next two months, we have a several children who are turning two in our room, we are going to celebrate their new milestone with their peers to develop their self esteem, a sense of belonging and create enjoyable memories together. We have also set up some new goals for the children for term 3 as many of them have already achieved their goals of term 2. Way to go!

Thank you, Miss Vicky & Miss Abigail



Miss Vicky



Miss Abigail

Toddler Time!

Hi families! We hope you are all keeping safe and well.



We have been busy in the Toddler room with many exciting things happening! We have recently welcomed Mathilda, Ella and Albie into our Toddler family and are excited to share the next part of their learning journey together.

Our main focus over the last few weeks have been Nursery Rhymes as music has been a big interest with all of our children. Through music children are strengthening their social development while improving their communication and language skills. We have had some lovely parent input that listed their child's favourite songs which has helped us get to know our children that little bit extra. Our current focus Nursery Rhyme has been Incy Wincy Spider where we have extended this into exploring the spider and its characteristics.

Another current interest has been Sensory Play where we have had a variety of sensory activities for our children to engage in and explore. These activities include coloured rice, calming bottles, finger painting, rainbow pasta, making sensory plates, pasta construction tray and a surprise sensory box. You can find a sensory shelf in our room with a few of these items to explore. Sensory play supports language development, cognitive growth, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving skills and social interaction.



Miss Di has worked closely with our children to revamp our garden again. Children have since been showing pride and responsibility by asking to water the garden with our watering cans that we made from recycling old plastic bottles. We are all excited to watch the garden grow.

After adding plants to our garden we have noticed that a possum has returned with an appetite. To resolve this we to added a possum feeder to hang in our tree outside to hopefully deter her from eating our new plants! Each day with the children we collect fruit and vegetable scraps from their meal times to add to our "Possum bowl" So far we have found out that the possum doesn't like cucumber!

We have continued to incorporate cooking into our programme and have made Jam Drops, Vegetable pancakes, Banana muffins and Raspberry jelly with the children being actively involved in the process. Cooking is always a fun way to promote turn taking, strengthen the muscles in children's hands through stirring and mashing and introduce early mathematical concepts.

Over the next few weeks in addition to Nursery Rhymes we will focus on learning about body parts as our children have been beginning to bring them up in conversation and have shown a keen interest. We will incorporate this into our programme through reading books, singing action songs, activities and conversations with the children. Being able to identify body parts and being intentional about using them is a cognitive, physical and language-enriching process.



Until next time!
Miss Di and Miss Lauren



Miss Di



Miss Lauren

Junior Kindy Column!

Dear Families,



Our Junior Kindy children were so engaged in various learning experiences over the past couple of months. They were able to explore various topics by participating in many planned and spontaneous experiences.



Extending on children's interest, we created an interest area called Winter season where children further explored about weather changes. They learned about 'surviving' the cold weather by wearing warm jumpers, long socks and gloves. We also had all these types of clothes displayed on our wall to prompt children to think about what's in their closet. Children also engaged in experiences using cotton and ice to fulfill arts and craft experiences as well as sensory play. They also explored a variety of herbs that are easy to grow in the winter season. We also talked about polar bears and penguins and what they eat.

Gardening

Children were busy looking after our worm farm, helping to feed them. Children helped to produce worm tea from the worm farm for families to fertilise their gardens. We planted some herbs in our garden, children demonstrated an increasing knowledge and respect for natural environment through watering them. Children showed a growing appreciation toward the natural environment.

Sustainability

Children focused on learning about sustainability as they participated in our plastic free July challenge, air pollution and water-wise in the past couple of weeks. Children participated in group discussions about how plastic is harmful for our environment and developed an awareness of the impact of human activity on the environment.

Move and groove



We focused on children's physical wellbeing. This months we focused on our running skills. These fundamental movement skills assist children to control their bodies and form more complex skills and movement patterns for many recreational and daily task. The objective of this activity is to assist the children in developing stronger leg muscles and to increase their spatial awareness.

Auslan

Every Thursday and Friday, Miss Di comes to visit us to teach us about basic Auslan. Children have been engaged in learning some words such as "Good morning ,hello, bye, day, play, sandpit, water, hungry, yummy" and many more.

*Last, as you all already know, it is with a very heavy heart that I say good bye to my second home (Little Ducks). I am going to miss all my beautiful children and the relationships we have built together. I have learnt so much from these little hearts.
Thank you so much for all your support. I will miss you all very much.
– Miss Savita

Junior kindy team.
Miss Luana, Mr. Peter and Miss Sarah



Miss Savita



Miss Luana



Mr Peter

Senior Kindy Catch Up!

Wow, hasn't the past few months gone by so fast. It has been wonderful to have all our friends back at Little Ducks, to see how well all our friends have settled back into the routine here in the Senior Kindy room as well as being warmly welcomed back by their peers.



As most of you would know, the senior kindy children are very passionate about arts and craft, always displaying much imagination and creativity in their experiences, and are particularly interested in using our recycled items in their play and craft experiences. We have seen some amazing creations made by our children who always showcase such pride in their achievements. The children were all eager to talk about what they were making and what they were going to use their creations for. Some children even had to use our bigger boxes just to transfer them all home and used them in their own rooms as "homes for their animals/toys". What a great way to repurpose our recyclables.

This led to our project whereby we made our very own puppet theatre in the senior kindy room. The children have been eager to take on the role of 'puppeteer' and put on a show for their friends, which has been a great confidence builder for some of the children who are that little bit shy. Also a great way for them to boost their language development. Therefore we will continue to keep this home-made resource in the room whilst children continue displaying such great interest in this.



Another focus area we have had in our room has been our discussions about manners. The children are getting so good at saying their "Please" and "Thank you" and an added bonus was that they were given a special stamp each time they used their manners. This was great motive for them, during the learning process. Extending from this, we also discussed table manners and to make our meal times more inviting we started setting up our meal tables with table cloths and a centrepiece (flowers) which the children have really enjoyed and are eager to help each day with setting up the tables.

We have also been working on our self help skills and independence by giving the children responsibilities in relation to different tasks within the room including being our "water monitor", taking care of their own belongings, putting away their dishes, water bottles and chairs after each meals, etc. We have also introduced some special tongs so at meal times the children serve their own fruit/sandwiches which is great for their independence, self esteem and also a sense of care as they wait for their friends to finished. The Senior Kindy Children are getting so responsible and independent!



Currently we are working on several new projects which you will see in the room, including our small world play, Peggy's hairdressing salon and our Sleepover at the beach. These are areas which we will continue extending on over the coming weeks – branching from the interests of the children.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish all our Amazing Daddy's a very Happy Father's Day. The children have been working hard on making a special gift for you. I am sure you will love them.

We look forward to any input, ideas, or projects that you are doing at home and that you think the children would enjoy here as well. The Senior Kindy Group are very inquisitive and eager to learn new and exciting things, which I am sure you see every day…



Miss Leighanne



Miss Mitaly

Please come and see one of our wonderful educators if there is anything you need to discuss at any time. Miss Leighanne, Miss Kasia, Miss Mitaly



Kindergarten Program!

Kia Ora to all Kindy Families



Welcome to yet another enticing newsletter from kindy room. We are hoping you all are back into your routines and some form of normalcy in your daily lives during this pandemic. Spring is here and keeping that in mind, we are accommodating more outdoor exploration opportunities for our kindy children. Interaction through more play provides a rich social learning environment for children to make sense of and gives opportunities for them to learn by trying out their ideas with their peers. As usual we are working together addressing the child's whole context which are the physical surroundings, the emotional context, relationships with others, and the immediate needs at any moment which will affect and modify how an experience contributes to your child's development.



Over the past few months, our learning focuses have been Healthy Eating and Body Health which led to setting up a vegetable garden in kindy and Penguin World which is our extension from the Bird focus.

Healthy Eating and Body Health, a learning focus in kindy room, coincidently links well with our Queensland kindergarten guidelines under Wellbeing. Through this, children and families are protecting and nurturing health and wellbeing while paying attention to aspects of physical care such as healthy eating and nutrition and opportunity for physical activity in a safe, stable, and responsive environment. This supports the development of self-worth, identity, confidence, and enjoyment together with emotional regulation and self-control. Keeping this in mind, the kindy teachers and children have set up a learning area where they can explore and inquire how their body works, studying their major internal organs and its functions. This was supported by parent's input, interactive board and learning videos. Further to this, kindy children expressed their interest in setting up our kindy garden where they decided what plants they wanted to grow such Bok choy, lettuce, tomatoes, and parsley. It was encouraging to note the children were showing their responsibility and care for the garden. Harvesting vegetables and utilizing them for our meals at kindy further reinforce the use of fresh produce for healthy body.





Miss Rupa



Miss Jenny

Kindergarten Program!



Penguin World emerged as a learning focus from our topic on Birds. Through this learning, the kindy children were developing consciousness of one's place in the environment fostering curiosity and scientific understanding of penguins, their life cycle, and adaptation features. To support children's interest in Penguin World, the kindy children and teachers had created an environment together where they had a variety of activities for exploring, planning, reasoning, and learning. There were opportunities to explore art and craft such as molding clay and using collage, for creating penguins as well as using foam to create an igloo. Fishing was another activity which kindy children enjoyed exploring as they had a boat added as a prop in their learning world.



Our local Annerley library supported us by letting us borrow books on Antarctica and penguins.

Real-life experiences

It was amazing to see children making connection between home and early childhood setting. Last month, some kindy children initiated camping experiences with teachers and peers. This showed that a connecting links between families and wider world been affirmed. Children shared their camping experiences with their families and participated in planning to set up camp by organizing their own needs such as sleeping bag, towel, and activities they would like to explore. This was such a fun experience that the teachers had to extend it.



Bush walk is another experience initiated by kindy children where they participated in entire planning. From drawing a map, getting their backpack ready, having proper walking gear to compass. Through this experience, the teachers have observed that children are confident to make choices and decisions and carrying out their plans for exploration.

Through such valuable and life learning experiences, children are developing self-reliance, problem-solving skills and working collaboratively with other children.

Our upcoming learning projects are "Travel Around the World" which helps children experience the stories and symbols of their own and other cultures, and developing awareness of the richness of communication. We will also continue with our community superheroes – Firefighters. We will appreciate your input in these learning projects. Lastly, the most important is School Readiness preparation for children who are going to school next year whereby Erin has invited prep teachers for visit and sharing about school life. With regards kindy teachers: Miss Rupa & Miss Jenny

Miss Rupa and Miss Jenny



Miss Rupa



Miss Jenny

Sustainability Program!

What a very busy few months we have been having! A big thank you to all the parents who have donated loose parts for the service. These have been put into great use and the children have really enjoyed exploring and creating with them, and there have been some amazing results. For example, the Puppet theatre that the Senior Kindy room made using recycled boxes, old material, and collage items. As well as special puppets that they made using recycled items – if you have not seen it make sure you go to Senior kindy and have a look.



Over the past few months we have had a 25 day sustainability challenge, which was a general overview of different areas in which we can work at both at home and within the service to improve our own sustainable practices. Each day we also discussed a different topic with the children, e.g. use a reusable bag, turn off lights when not in use, etc. It was amazing to hear the children remind us at times when we were not being sustainable, so not only were the children learning, but also the educators.

Over the past month our focus was on being Waterwise and really working on teaching the children how "not to waste water" and ways in which we can reuse our water. Some of the children took turns at being a "water monitor" and watched as their friends washed their hands, reminding them to turn off the tap and "not waste water". This gave the children a sense of responsibility in caring for the environment.

Over the next few months each individual room will focus on which area suits their environment, be it talking about air pollution, recycling, etc – so please make sure you check your individual child's room's program to see what their focus is.

If there are any particular areas in which you feel the children would benefit in learning from, please do not hesitate to come and contact myself or your child's educators as together we can work to create a greener and cleaner environment.

Thank you



Miss Leighanne

Move & Groove Program!

Move and Groove – September & October 2020

Over the past few months in our Move and Groove program we have been focusing on hopping and running. The purpose of these is for the children to learn their fundamental Motor skills to help them to successfully participate in a range of sports and movement activities and maintain involvement during childhood and adolescence.

The best way we found for the children to practice their hopping skills was to draw hopscotch pads throughout the playground, and we witnessed many children attempt these – including the educators. It was rewarding to see some of the children who struggled at first with their hopping, become proficient at this by the end of the month. We have continued to encourage this by having a permanent hopscotch pitch around the side of the playground which the children will often use to improve their skills.



Running has been the other skill we have been working on and as most children are able to run, we were working mostly on children learning some of the ways to perform this skill – to promote their balance, coordination and learning how to control their body – e.g. arm moving back and forth instead of across their body. We have also been working on running around obstacles and also engaged in a game of 'Freeze', whereby the children have to stop suddenly, using their whole body to control their movement.

Over the next few months we are working on a new Move and Groove program – so over the next month the educators in the room will be choosing what they feel benefits the children in their group the most. This will enable the educators to focus on the individual child's interest and level of development….we will update you of our new program in the near future.









Miss Leighanne