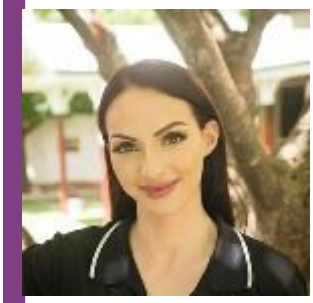
Little Ducks Childcare

September/October 2020

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to the second last newsletter for 2020!
I would like to start by thanking the families for such a warm welcome in my short time at the service so far. I am excited for my journey here and look forward to building meaningful relationships with the educators, families and children.



A little about me…. I have come from our Little Ducks Annerley service, where I was the Assistant Centre Manager. I'm very excited to be given this opportunity to work at Little Ducks Wilston with all the wonderful children, families and staff I have heard so much about from my colleagues.
I have worked in the Childcare Industry for over 4 years, enjoying various roles, which has provided me with a great understanding and knowledge of learning and development, and experience. I have worked with children aged birth to 12 years throughout this time. Prior to entering the Childcare Industry, I worked with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women as a Child Safety Officer.
I am currently studying a Master of Teaching degree and am about to complete my final placement. This means I will be away from the Centre from 25 August to 21 September. However, one of our other wonderful Centre Managers will be at Wilston during this time to support our educators, children and families.
I also hold a Bachelor of Psychological Science and Master of Criminology which has influenced my personal philosophy towards the teaching and caring for children. I have a strong interest in developing a child's social-emotional wellbeing and creating inclusive and equitable environments where all children feel valued, accepted and encouraged to reach their full potential. I believe each child has a unique and individual learning journey which should be valued and respected. Furthermore, I believe each child's strengths, interests, skills, abilities and knowledge should be at the forefront of their educator's mind when implementing the Early Years teaching curriculum.
I am very excited about my new role at Little Ducks Wilston and am looking forward to working in this wonderful community. Thank you to all the children, families and staff for making me feel welcome over the past few weeks. I can't wait to learn more about each of you and be a part of your child's learning, care and development.

This is a busy time of year for us as we approach the 2021 enrolment period. Shortly you will receive and email of placement offer for your currently attending children and any siblings you wish to gain a placement for in the new year. Please ensure that you read this email carefully and complete and documents required. If you have not received this email by Friday 11th September, please let me know so I can follow this up.

Did you know we offer a refer a friend incentive? If you a friend or family member enrolls their child, and uses your name in the referral, you will have a $100 credit added to your account once they have attended for a month. Enquire in the office for the T's & C's.

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Kindergarten Approved Program
Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

September

Wednesday 2nd_ **ECE Day**
Celebrate Early Childhood Educators and the important role they play in the development of children.



Friday 4th _ **Ditto's keep safe adventure program**
first steps towards empowering the children in your care with lifelong personal safety skills.

Sunday 6th - **Father's day**
Send in photos of the special things you have done together as a family over the weekend for the children to share with their peers. There will sadly be no fathers day afternoon tea this year.

October

Monday 7th - **Queens Birthday**
PUBLIC HOLIDAY—CENTRE CLOSED

Sunday 25th _ **Grandparents day**
If restrictions are lifted
We welcome any grandparents to come along throughout the week commencing 26th 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!

Policy Reviews

We value your input and feedback .....



Enrolment Policy
Acceptance and Refusal of authorisations Policy
Education, Curriculum and Learning Policy
Transport Procedure
Temperature Policy

Ways that you can provide feedback are:
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.

Quick and Healthy ...

Taco Lettuce Wraps



Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 pound ground turkey
1 cup salsa
1 (4-ounce) can diced green chiles
1 tablespoon taco seasoning
1 (15-ounce) can corn kernels, drained
1 (15-ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro leaves
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
1 head butter lettuce
1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese, optional
1/4 cup reduced-fat sour cream, optional

Directions

* Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium high heat. Add ground turkey and cook until browned, about 3-5 minutes, making sure to crumble the turkey as it cooks; drain excess fat.
* Stir in salsa, green chiles and taco seasoning until heated through, about 2-3 minutes. Stir in corn, beans and cilantro until well combined; season with salt and pepper, to taste.
* To serve, spoon several tablespoons of the turkey mixture into the centre of a lettuce leaf, taco-style, garnished with cheese and sour cream, if desired.

Why is reading to children so important?

There is no more important activity for preparing your child to succeed as a reader than reading aloud together. Fill your story times with a variety of books. Be consistent, be patient, and watch the magic work.

It's no secret that activities at home are an important supplement to the classroom, but there's more to it than that. There are things that parents can give children at home that the classrooms cannot give.

Start young and stay with it!

At just a few months of age, an infant can look at pictures, listen to your voice, and point to objects on cardboard pages. Guide your child by pointing to the pictures, and say the names of the various objects. By drawing attention to pictures and associating the words with both pictures and the real-world objects, your child will learn the importance of language.

Children learn to love the sound of language before they even notice the existence of printed words on a page. Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. When the rhythm and melody of language become a part of a child's life, learning to read will be as natural as learning to walk and talk.

Even after children learn to read by themselves, it's still important for you to read aloud together. By reading stories that are on their interest level, but beyond their reading level, you can stretch young readers' understanding and motivate them to improve their skills.

It’s a part of life!

Although the life of a parent is often hectic, you should try to read with your child at least once a day at a regularly scheduled time. But don't be discouraged if you skip a day or don't always keep to your schedule. Just read to your child as often as you possibly can.

If you have more than one child, try to spend some time reading alone with each child, especially if they're more than 2 years apart. However, it's also fine to read to children at different stages and ages at the same time. Most children enjoy listening to many types of stories. When stories are complex, children can still get the idea and can be encouraged to ask questions. When stories are easy or familiar, youngsters enjoy these "old friends" and may even help in the reading.

Taking the time to read with your children on a regular basis sends an important message: Reading is worthwhile.

One more time!

You may go through a period when your child favours one book and wants it read night after night. It is not unusual for children to favour a particular story, and this can be boring for parents. Keep in mind, however, that a favourite story may speak to your child's interests or emotional needs. Be patient. Continue to expose your children to a wealth of books and eventually they will be ready for more stories.

Why is reading to children so important?

Talking about stories

It's often a good idea to talk about a story you are reading, but you need not feel compelled to talk about every story. Good stories will encourage a love for reading, with or without conversation. And sometimes children need time to think about stories they have read. A day or so later, don't be surprised if your child mentions something from a story you've read together.

Remember when you were young?

It will help, however, if we open our eyes to some things adult readers tend to take for granted. It's easier to be patient when we remember how much children do not know. Here are a few concepts we adults know so well we forget sometimes we ever learned them.

- There's a difference between words and pictures. Point to the print as you read aloud.
- Words on a page have meaning, and that is what we learn to read.
- Words go across the page from left to right. Follow with your finger as you read.
- Words on a page are made up of letters and are separated by a space.
- Each letter has at least two forms: one for capital letters and and one for small letters.

These are examples of hieroglyphics.

Imagine how you would feel if you were trying to interpret a book full of such symbols. That's how young readers feel. But, a little patience (maybe by turning it into a puzzle you can solve together) is certain to build confidence.

Advertise the joy of reading.

Our goal is to motivate children to want to read so they will practice reading independently and, thus, become fluent readers. That happens when children enjoy reading. We parents can do for reading what fast food chains do for hamburgers? ADVERTISE! And we advertise by reading great stories and poems to children.

We can help our children find the tools they need to succeed in life. Having access to information through the printed word is an absolute necessity. Knowledge is power, and books are full of it. But reading is more than just a practical tool. Through books we can enrich our minds; we can also relax and enjoy some precious leisure moments.



With your help, your children can begin a lifelong relationship with the printed word, so they grow into adults who read easily and frequently whether for business, knowledge, or pleasure.

Nursery Natter!

A big hello from the Nursery :)
A lot has been happening in the Nursery since our last newsletter. We have welcomed some new friends into the room. All the children are settling in well and are developing to have a sense of belonging to their new environment. Also, we welcome Miss Sarah to the Nursery as she will be supporting the children and Miss Brenda in the room.



We are working on routines and transitions for the children at the moment, we are in the middle of redeveloping each individual child's routines and making them visual with in the room for the parents and the educators to see, to ensure the needs of each child are carried out and their daily information document.



In the room we are working on developing the children's gross and fine motor skills with a variety of activities such as tummy time for the little ones to strengthen and begin to left up their head, roll around. Grasping a variety of objects to help develop fine motor skills. Lots of assistant walking holding the child hands as they walk along, they are loving this. Encouraging the children to hold onto furniture to guide them along, and pushing the walker. Also, we have been creating small obstacle courses to practice crawling and climbing.



The children are developing and learning new skills everyday with the support of the educators. Please let the staff know if you would like to have any input into the program, update your child's routine or just want to have a chat and let the staff know any important information.

Thank you for all your support and your wonderful children! Take care,
Miss Sarah and Miss Brenda

Senior Nursery News!

Over the past few months we have been busy building our knowledge and understanding of each child's needs and providing a nurturing and welcoming environment for them to grow and build relationships with educators and fellow children. We are so proud of how far they have come in such a short period of time and are excited to be apart of their early years journey .

We focused a lot of intentional teaching towards personal hygiene, wellbeing and sense of belonging, learning how to wash hands with soap and water, catch our cough and taking care of our belongings. We engaged in many discussions about caring for ourselves and used books and role play with babies to build our sense of understanding and connectedness to the real world. Though these experiences we are able to build a sense of wellbeing and when we look back, we can see just how far the children have come as they put their new found skills to use in everyday practice, growing more independent by the day.



We have such a diverse and multi-cultural group of children this year and to celebrate our heritage and cultural backgrounds we took a trip around the world enriching our learning with music, food and language. Miss Marcela and Miss Sue were kind enough to teach words in Spanish and Hindi with some of our friends began using the language in their vocabulary. As we developed our language and communication skills, we engaged the children in learning "Acknowledgment of country" and shared meaningful words, connecting with the land, sky and traditional land owners. We continue to expand our knowledge and understanding as a group, exploring Aboriginal dot and hand paintings using colours red, black and yellow with purpose and capturing the children imaginations with dream time stories. Language is a powerful tool for building inclusion and together we can share the value of Diversity, big or small!.



During the cooler months we utilised the outdoor environment more frequently and spent many opportunities strengthening bonds with one another and exploring ways to challenge balance co-ordination, body awareness, physical strength and reaction time. When planning for the outdoors, we created spaces and obstacles that encouraged our friends to develop their skills at their own pace, setting up climbing frames, tyres, balance beams and ball skills to promote learning through play and captured children's achievements to share with their families on story park and in our program. For more details and pictures, make sure to check out your child's development in their online portfolio and look out for our weekly program with filled with fun learning experiences.



These are just some of the many things Senior Nursery have been busy implementing into their learning, as we move forward we will continue to work with children to become more effective communicators and build on their oral and language skills with songs, books and group interactions and use role play experiences to promote interaction and home language through play, something our little ones express interest in regularly. Senior Nursery values parent input please let us know if there is anything you would anything like to be added into our weekly plan for learning. You can let Miss Mel or Miss Marcela or post on Storypark some of the things you do on the weekend.



As always it is both a pleasure and privilege to be included in your child's learning journey and we look forward to more engaging interactions in the coming months

All our dedication

Miss Mel & Miss Marcela

Toddler Time

Welcome to Toddler news, these last few months have been very eventful from new teachers in the room to new challenges. Some of our Toddler friends have just moved up from our Senior Nursery room and to help them feel safe, secure and supported, we have been focusing on building a sense of belonging within their new environment and with their new educators. This is linking to Outcome 1; Children have a strong sense of identity, children feel safe, secure and supported. As the children explore the new areas within the room Miss Kayla, Miss Bel and Miss Carla spend one-on-one meaningful interactions with the children to help them develop secure attachments with educators. To add to this sense of belonging we have added children's family photos up on the wall, this will encourage the children to reflect and to have a conversation with peers and educators about who is in their family.

We have embedded the practice of acknowledging the traditional owners of the land which we learn and play on, these practices increase the children's awareness of the history of the land and how we can pay respect to the Turrbal people. We have explored the culture of the Turrbal people through performing arts, creative arts, storytelling, and role play. Outcome 2; Children are connected with and contribute to their word; children respond to diversity with respect. This is implemented as we explore the diversity of culture, heritage, background and tradition and that diversity presents opportunities for choice and new understandings.

Within the Toddler environment Miss Kayla, Miss Bel and Miss Carla have been focusing on developing the children's social and emotional learning, we have done this through a play-based experiences such as role play, painting and the use of ICT resources. Some children are responding very well to this as we ask them to identify the emotions and discuss ways on how we can work through these emotions. Emotions can be very difficult for young children to understand and regulate, this is why we strive to embed this skill at a young age.

As life has been a little strange for the children this year, we are taking the opportunity to focus on hygiene practices as they are more important now than ever. We extend on this learning as we add visual cues to the bathroom sinks prompting the children to correctly wash their hands while transitioning from one environment to another, after nappy change/toileting and before and after meal times.

Most of the children have a large interest in developing their gross motor skills and exploring the outdoor environment, as we observe this interest we have changed the routine a little to cater for the interest of the outdoor area by adding an outdoor play/experience before lunch. During this time the children have been challenging their balance skills, coordination, testing their limits and strengths.

What's next for Toddlers?
We will continue to develop the relationship with children who are transitioning or who are still building their sense of belonging within the room. We will explore their interest in learning about colours in the world around them. We will keep encouraging them to refine their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination while they engage in learning activities. We will add more outdoor experiences to address the children's interest in the outdoor and we will work at capturing the children's voices in all our learning experiences. As the children have been interest in arts and craft we will continue to explore different ways to create art.

Thank you,
Miss Kayla, Miss Bel and Miss Carla
Toddler educators.

Junior Kindy News!

Jingeri! (Hello) in Yugambeh Language.



Welcome to the fifth edition of the Junior Kindy newsletter. Before we delve into the children's learning and amazing experiences, we would like to welcome our new children and families in the Junior Kindy room - Archipelago, Sophie, Grace and Shivay. We are also delighted to see the children and families that were away for a few months due to the pandemic back in the centre.

The month of July was jam packed with learning activities that mainly focused on building the children's sense of belonging and connection to their social and physical environment. The success of our curriculum was made possible by the collaborative effort of the families through family goal form and sharing of information during morning and afternoon transitions (thank you families for the continued support!) With valuable information from families, we began exploring the children's interests in order to help them feel safe, secure, supported and comfortable to learn and make friends. This led us to create numerous meaningful learning experiences.



From the parent input, we explored the solar system. This learning experience ignites the children's curious minds. They posed questions with wonder and interest and shared ideas and knowledge about the different planets, the moon, and the sun. To answer their questions, we organised different sensory experiences such as creating the crater of the moon using bicarb and vinegar, explore the asteroid belt using pebbles and rocks, reading books about the solar system, learning the eight planets and dwarf planets through songs and subsequently creating a solar system learning wall.

Relationships are the foundations for the constructions of identity, and we aim for children to create sustained relationships that is based on respect not just with their peers but their educators as well. The parachute game, ball games, tea party and dice game were arranged for children to feel connection with one another. With our environment as our third teacher, our belonging wall had been instrumental in the development of sense of belonging within our community. This was where we learn our friend's names, families and understand that we belong in the room. Learning about belonging and having the right to be part of the group was also extended in our routines and transitions. The children were encouraged to take leadership roles and direct their play experiences through having a designated person to show the visual cues and junior teacher to lead the transition.



Towards the end of July, we celebrated the National Tree Day and immersed the minds of the future stewards of the land about the importance of caring for our natural environment. We had a sustained discussion about the importance of the trees for us, the animals and how things are interconnected. We planted some seeds in the back garden to commemorate the event and with some care the seeds began to sprout. Connecting with our environment offers plenty of learning opportunities for children and this led us to revisit our insect and bug investigation. The children were ecstatic to join the bug hunt in the

Junior Kindy News!

Imaginative play is an important aspect in children's learning. It is during the pretend play that children make sense of their world and at the same time learn to navigate social sphere. Through children's interest, we transformed our home corner into a supermarket area complete with baskets and bags for shopping, aprons, cash and grocery items and extended the play through incorporating numeracy, co-operative behaviour and learning about manners. From supermarket pretend play, we created the bike rental play in the yard where children actively participate in creating the rules for the activity. This learning experience provide children opportunities to practice their ability to negotiate and take turns during play.

Children's social and emotional wellbeing is a key component for mental health and wellbeing. To start with, we incorporated feelings and emotions on our learning wall and engaged children in discussions about how we feel and how to deal with emotions positively. Using the mirrors, we explored our own facial expressions and encouraged everyone to be aware of the different facial expressions. We made faces using playdough and read books about emotions to further scaffold children's learning and reminded them that emotions do not stay. The 7-minute exercise for self-regulation, dance freeze and stop and go are ways that we support the development of children's self-regulation and resilience.

We had our first incursion towards the end of August. The Street Science came to visit us with their array of tubes, apparatus and equipment to conduct exciting experiments about the wonder of human body. The children actively engaged in the experience through participating in experiments and expressing their knowledge confidently.

Moving forward…

- September is approaching and we will be celebrating Father's Day. We will be sending a form for father and child to fill together.
- Big machineries, construction and hand tools.
- Gardening

Moreover, we will continue to create learning opportunities for children to help them with their journey in achieving their term 3 goal and self-help skills. The weather is getting warmer as spring approaches, so please remember to pack some lighter weight clothes to enable children to change if required during the day. If you have any question or would like to share any input? Please do not hesitate to approach your Educators, send an email on write a post on storypark.

Until next time,
Ms Nabia, Ms Sawsan & Ms Sue



Kindy Catch Up!

We officially welcomed children transitioning from Junior Kindy into our room. We also welcomed back some of our staff and friends who stayed at home due to COVID 19 concerns.



NAIDOC Week gave us the chance to investigate how the Indigenous people were some of our first engineers and architects. We learned about fish traps created in the Barwon River to provide food for several tribes. Some of the children then created their own traps using our channel. We also discovered that the Indigenous peoples build different types of shelter, from simple hides to stone huts. We explored how to build some shelters of our own using cardboard and palm fronds.



Caring for the community
We supported children in foster care by wearing our pyjamas to kindy on PJ Day this July. We threaded nutrigrain on string for necklaces and had a teddy bear's picnic on the rug. It was great to see so many of the class in their pyjamas.

Project Work— Into Space
During July we completed our project work on space. I was very impressed with how engaged the children were with this topic. We had great discussions about the different planets and represented our knowledge in our constructions, drawings and play. We ventured off in pretend rockets to every known part of space, including black holes. We created some amazing rovers from mobilo. The children communicated their knowledge of the planets by drawing the solar system.







Kindy Catch Up!

Marine Life

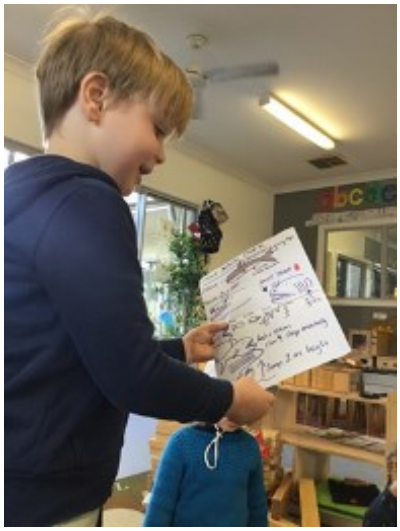
The children started to involve fish and marine life into their play, so we have started a Sealife project. Our Show and Tell topic for August has been to bring in a marine object and an amazing fact about that object. Harvey and Oliver have brought in some amazing research about the octopus, great white shark, sea turtle and spinosaurus. We have also discussed shells, penguins, leopard seals and mermaids. We have also included various experiments about the marine environment, including the density of salt water and how a squid propels itself through the water.



As part of our marine work, we have been exploring and recording shells. We grouped and sorted them based on size, colours and stripes. The poisonous nature of the beautiful cone shell interested most of the class and we learned about their hunting habits from video clips.

Being crafty

Tara and Sora showed an interest in creating clothing items, using scraps of material. They used their design skills to sketch out the item, then the material to suit. To extend this interest we created some bags by stitching in craft foam.



Thank you

Miss Natasha

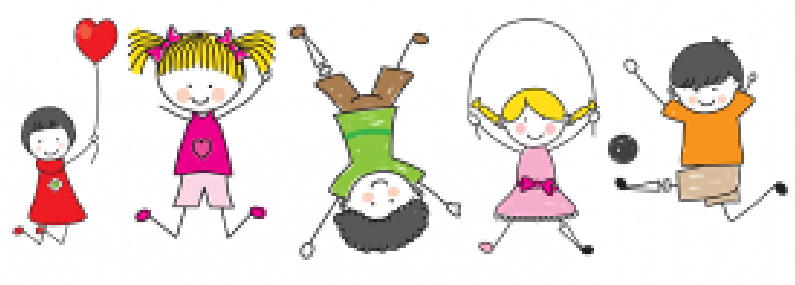


Move and Groove

Hello Families and Friends,

All our friends have pushed ourselves through another month of Move and Groove! Over the last few weeks we have been pulling, pushing, twisting and rolling. We have seen the rooms using our warm weather and nice sun for their physical activity over the past month and some rooms have developed rolling, pushing and other improvements into their program.

After we finish throwing and striking with racquet and bat next month we will be focusing on our fundamental motor skills like crawling and walking. Crawling and other fundamental skills are important for all ages and I look forward to working with everyone for another fun month.



Sustainability

What is sustainability? What does it mean? What are the principles and pillars behind sustainability? What examples of sustainability are there in technology, food, workplace, business, or transportation areas? How is sustainability connected to supply and demand? Find the answers to these and further questions with us at Little Ducks

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Sustainability is development that satisfies the needs of the present without compromising the capacity of future generations, guaranteeing the balance between economic growth, care for the environment and social well-being.



