Little Ducks Childcare Annerley

November / December 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.

What a wonderful few months we have had. The end of the year is creeping up on us quickly, so we have utilised this time to make contact with all Primary Schools that our Kindergarten children will be transitioning to next year. Currently we have had visits from St Pius, St Elizabeth's and Junction Park State School. This has been a wonderful learning opportunity for us as we have been able to have lengthy conversations with our locals schools, to ensure the children are prepared for a smooth transition to school next year.

We have welcomed the wonderful Miss Corinne back to our face to face French lessons. We have thoroughly enjoyed our weekly zoom sessions, however welcome Miss Corinne back with open arms. Over the coming weeks, we will also be welcome Mr Phil back on campus for NABEI indigenous games.

2021 enrolments are well underway and positions are filling fast. We have completed our first and second round of offers. Spaces have filled incredibly quickly, with only limited spaces available. If you would like to secure any remaining positions, please feel free to contact me.

Recently, we celebrated book week. We had "Dress up week" with all of the children coming dressed as their favorite book character. Thank you to all of our families for taking the time to create beautiful costumes for their children, it was a fabulous week had by all.

Given the current situation we have faced throughout COVID, it was a timely reminder to reflect on the Children's health and safety. Over the coming weeks, we will begun to delve deeper into our understanding of Quality Area 2.2– Safety, Each child is protected. This will be a time for us to reflect on our current practices and how we are exceeding this element, as well as discussing any areas of improvement.



The planning has begun for our end of year celebrations. Things may look slightly different this year, due to us putting measures in place to be COVID safe. I will keep you posted on specific dates for our upcoming Christmas and Graduation celebrations.

Kind Regards,
Erin Evans
Centre Manager/Nominated Supervisor

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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

November

Monday**- 5th outdoor classroom day –**

Monday 8th – **NAIDOC Week**

Always Was, Always Will Be.
8-15 NOV 2020

Monday 9th – Friday 15th – **National Recycling Week**
We will focus on the environmental benefits of recycling.

NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK
PLANET ARK

December

Thursday 3rd- – **Kindergarten Graduation** 6pm.



Friday 11th- **Christmas Celebration**



Friday 25th - **Christmas Day**
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Easy Art! - Homemade Christmas ornaments

What you need:
4 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup salt
1 ½ cups water



Instructions:
Preheat oven to 150 degrees
Combine the flour, salt and water; mix well and knead for 10 minutes. Roll out on a lightly floured surface.
Cut into desired shapes and make holes for hanging. Bake for 30 minutes; allow to cool.
Decorate with poster paints or tube paints.

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:

- ADDITIONAL NEEDS POLICY
- CODE OF ETHICS
- DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, BULLYING AND OCCUPATIONAL VIOLENCE POLICY
- Medication Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- FOOD, NUTRITION & BEVERAGE POLICY
- SLEEP, REST, RELAXATION & CLOTHING POLICY
- HOLIDAY DISCOUNT POLICY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Illya, Broden, Johannes, Tej, Finn.M, David, Hannah, Lia, Genevieve, Samson, Oscar.W, Alejandra, Abel, Neve, Madeleine, Peggy, Ang, Hineni, Lucy.T, Alessa, Jack and Owen.



Christmas Shortbread Cookies

Ingredients

250g butter, softened

1/3 cup (75g) Coles Caster Sugar

2 cups (300g) plain flour

1/4 cup (45g) rice flour

2 tsp mixed spice

ROYAL ICING

1 Coles Australian Free Range Egg white

1/2 tsp lemon juice

1 1/2 cups (240g) pure icing sugar

Green, blue, pink and yellow liquid food colouring

Coles Australian Free Range Egg white, extra

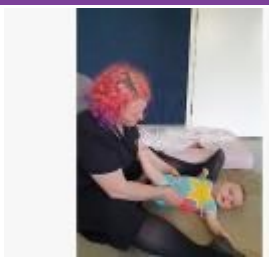
Method

For the Method please visit:

https://www.taste.com.au/recipes/christmas-tree-shortbread-recipe/bkjn7a23?r=recipes/christmascookiesbiscuitrecipes&c=97637660-2883-4625-9831-5448f12564f6/Christmas%20cookies%20%20biscuit%20recipes



Nursery Natter!



Hello families and welcome to another nursery news edition. We do hope you have been keeping well and safe in these times.

Over the last eight weeks as you may have noticed we have been continuing to work on our environment, relationships and creating a calm, loving environment that encourages play, exploration and connection.

We have been working on exploring who we are, what we like and continuing to reach our developmental milestones. Together as a community of learners we have started to build, love, connection and space for us to embrace the new and unknown as we become adaptable with every changing day. We have started to build concepts of play, object permanence, cause and effect and the significance to have a sense of belonging as we grow in concept of self identity and community.



We celebrated some special birthdays and welcomed some new friends. Over the last few weeks we have been exploring our physical abilities and have seen some wonderful leaps as we lean to crawl, climb and walk. We have been working on our physical environment to accommodate our ever changing needs, providing a calm and connected environment that also embodies the children's interests and who they are. We have introduced group time, some prime times to continue to meet the needs of the children, and indeed meet the needs of every child.

We have been exploring our interests in drawing, climbing, crawling, walking and exploring our senses. This made us think lots about our environmental setups as we continue to create environment that the children can continue to thrive and grow. We have added a physical area, sensory, area where we can relax and research our own interests and play.

We recently celebrated Book week! We explored some old and new books that explore the concept of early literacy and how we may experience early literacy. We explored through reading, group time and audio books and rhymes. This was a great opportunity to explore other concepts as we continue to explore our own learn through play and experiences.

We will continue to work on establishing relationships and building a sense of belonging amongst our wonderful nursery community. We will continue to explore our physical explorations through rotating our physical areas and exploring our outdoor area where we have more challenging areas for the children to continue to take there learning into their own hands. We will also be working on our individual goals and continue to encourage growing relationships and exploration of play concepts



Thank you for your continued support over the last two months it has been wonderful to build a environment that reflects our vision as a community.



Miss Jenny



Miss Yuka

Senior Nursery Tales!

G'day, Kia Ora, Salam and Bula!



We have been quite busy with various projects that our amazing educators have been providing for the little learners on a daily basis as part of our curriculum. Our curriculum reflects what we believe in, which is that learning and teaching is always happening from the care moments (nappy changes, meal times etc) to the more exciting projects that we do with our children. The teachable moments are cumulative experiences from intentional teaching of different concepts of (but is not limited)

Play dough making like temperatures, solvents, measuring, mixing, changing the states of solids and liquids, calculating, hypothesising.

Literacy experiences where our little discoverers are learning about the beauty of words and its rich context and connotations, learning to relate to various characters, learning empathy, different styles of narratives and most importantly the valuable skill of imagination and wonder!Singing songs from various ethnic backgrounds like Aboriginal song; "Taba Naba", Maori song; "I Saw A Taniwha", Fijian song; "Bula Maleya" not only introduce children to the wonderful diversity in their communities but also endorses a love for learning new concepts and being open to accepting different ways of thinking



To more spontaneous and child initiated learning taking place like playing in the home corner, playing with dolls, interacting with the natural elements around them, physically active play through obstacle courses and move and groove based play.

The focus of our room has been quite diverse as we have three educators who bring in a wealth of knowledge, experiences and child initiated interests that highlight the age appropriate developmental and learning curriculum we are providing for our young learners.

We are focusing on nature sensory art activities which ignite a love for natural elements, the concepts of using nature as a source of inspiration and employing their cognitive, physical, emotional, linguistic and social skills.We are also focusing on emotions; how to manage them in a more appropriate and respectful way, how to identify and categorise our emotions as our young learners are learning about themselves, how to empathise with their peers, how emotions cause a certain reaction in them and also how to make their emotions known to their peers and educators Our other focus is cause and effect which is a great opportunity for our children to learn about action and reaction; activities such as rolling different sized balls up and down the slide and ramps, riding bikes up and down the ramps, blowing bubbles, swinging on the see-saw, pulling car/train toys, playing in the water through with floating and sinking materials and a lot more experiences





Miss Sidra



Miss Vicky



Miss Abigail

Toddler Time!



Hello Families, we hope you have been well and staying safe in this difficult time. Following our children's interests, we created a Hairdressing Salon in our home corner area. Children were deeply engaged in this area through dramatic play, either taking on the role of being a Hairdresser or the role of the customer. This was a strong interest for quite some time as we incorporated many different activities within this area. Children showed confidence in sharing their thoughts and ideas while strengthening their social and emotional skills. They also extended their self-help skills through brushing their own hair.



Deaf awareness week was on the 21st - 25th of September. We introduced a couple of basic AUSLAN signs to the children and role modelled using them in conversation. These signs included "Hello/Bye, How are you, Good, Eat, Drink." Since then we have been continuing to use these signs throughout our day and have seen some children also participate in using them.

Our focus for the Move and Groove programme has been Kicking where the children have broadened their kicking skills through different activities with balls and balloons. We also practiced kicking at a target, kicking with a run start and kicking to our peers. Our new focus for the Move and Groove programme is Leaping.



For our Sustainability programme we have been focusing on being Waterwise and what this means to us. Through reading books children have begun to build an awareness and understanding of this sustainable practice. Activities included ensuring that our taps were turned off fully and that we were not running it too fast while washing our hands. We checked our taps for any leaks and used leftover water from any water play to water our garden. Our new focus for our Sustainability programme is Recycling.'

A current interest in the Toddler room has been Body parts. Children have been bringing them up in conversation and sharing their current knowledge. We regularly sing the action song "Head, shoulders, knees, and toes" and children are eager to participate. As a group we also have conversations about the other body part names that are not included in the song. We are working on adding a Body Part puzzle activity to our wall. Being able to identify body parts is a cognitive, physical and language-enriching process.
Extending on our Sensory Play Miss Di worked closely with our children to create a Sensory Garden in our courtyard. This allows children to use their sense of touch, smell, taste and sight. It is our goal to create a sustainable courtyard incorporating gardening using recycled materials for planting, these include rain boots and large saucepans, using our worm tea and compost bin materials.
If you have anything we can use please feel free to bring it in. This is a fantastic way for children to be create awareness and be involved in recycling and thinking outside of the box.
We have also noticed there is a lot of play experiences encompassing being a fire fighter, we plan to extend on this child's interest by creating a fire station and other relevant ideas, to extend their understanding of the work a fire-fighter plays in their daily role, as well as scaffolding their understanding of what to do in an emergency.
As we are all aware, the end of the year is fast approaching, we will use this time to build your child's self help skills, this will include looking after their own belongings, gathering their drink bottles at meal times, putting on their shoes. We will be there to guide and help them along the way, offering support where needed.



Miss Di



Miss Lauren

Junior Kindy Column!

Dear Families,

Our Junior Kindy children have been very busy in the past months engaging in a number of different activities. Extending on child interest they engaged in making our own surf boards that we could surf some giant waves, after one of our families visited the beach. It was really nice to see our children engaging in collaborative and shared play. We also took this opportunity to talk about water safety measures we can take while going to the pool or beach. There were lots of experimentations, our children used their senses to explore different materials and fragrances, cooking and playdough. We have also participated in a number of show and tell opportunities they are always so excited to participate and show their peers what they had to share.



Gardening/ sustainability:

Our children are now garden experts, they are able to tell when the plants should and should not be watered. We have also been looking after our worms, sometimes, we have Mr. Big Apple coming for a visit and the children love to hold him.



We have some spring onions and mint ready to be collected, if you would like some to cook with, please let us know.

We have created a recycling bin for our room and the children have been helping us to recycle every day!

Move n' groove:

For our Move 'n Groove program our children have been working on their balance.
Balance is a stability skill and starts developing soon after birth as children start acquiring skills such as rolling, sitting and walking. It is very important to give young children plenty of opportunities to develop this skill as it is an essential part of everything we do and it affects the development of locomotor and object control skills.
We have been focusing on static balance - the balance while you are still, for example, standing on one leg. Dynamic balance - the balance whilst on the move, for example, walking along a balance beam.

Auslan:

Our children have been gaining so much knowledge from Miss Di's visits every Thursday and Friday. To celebrate The International Day of Sign Language they learned some basic expressions such as: 'I love you', and 'I am so proud of you'.



Last, I would like to welcome Miss Noo and Miss Sarah that joined us recently making our Junior Kindy room complete!



Miss Sarah



Miss Noo



Miss Luana



Mr Peter

Senior Kindy Catch Up!



Can you believe that it is almost the end of the year already, how fast has this year been going. As you would have noticed in our room, we have been making a lot of changes to our environment, which have been aimed at catering for the interests of the children in the Senior Kindy room and they are working really well.

As you will know , the senior Kindy children are very passionate about art and crafts so to extend on this interest we have set up a large art station in our room, including easels, tough tray for sensory play, and a variety of different art mediums for them to choose from each day. The children have been displaying so much imagination and creativity with their craft experiences as you will see on our art wall located in the art area.



Another area whereby the Senior Kindy children are passionate about is Sustainability from the use of recycled items in our play (as well as our art and craft experiences), becoming water monitors to ensure that we are not wasting water, and displaying much disappointment when they find rubbish in the playground, often having an emu parade in the playground to keep our environment clean. You will also notice on our Art wall some of the wonderful Reduce, Reuse and Recycle "creations" that the children have been making it has been wonderful to see them come up with innovative ways in which to use our recycled items.



Our home corner area has also been a hive of activity with the children learning about their body through their role play in our Doctor Office area. The children are becoming very knowledgeable about their bodies, recognising different body parts and also through this play they are engaging in caring and compassionate play with their peers which has been great to see.

We have also been working on our Mental wellbeing through our Pilates, yoga, relaxation stories and our Mindfulness Minute and Appreciation time with the use of Kindness Jar (little acts of kindness throughout the day) to promote positive self esteem and kindness towards others. This in combination with our focus on Feelings, emotions and respect for other to help the children to understand that we all feel a variety of different emotions, and learning ways in which we can regulate these emotions/feelings in a positive way. This will be an ongoing focus in our room over the coming weeks.

We would like to ask all families if you could either bring in a family photo for our Belonging wall, or alternatively email one to the centre – as the children are displaying an interest in looking at the different pictures on the wall and it would be a great for all children to have their family's photos on the wall – establishing children's well being, belonging and identity within the room and the community. We would like to say a big thank you to the families who have been bringing in Story books which are in relation to the topics we are discussing in our program – these have been a great teaching tool for us to utilise in the children's learning – thank you for taking the time out to find these books and share them with us. If there are any other areas which you would like to see us incorporate in our program – please do not hesitate to come and see us.



Miss Kasia



Miss Leighanne



Miss Mitaly

Kindergarten Program!



Kia Ora to all Kindy Families

Wow, time flies. We are now approaching the final stretch of our kindy year, but we still have number of exciting and fun activities lined up for our children as usual.

Summer is here and our focus is sun safety. This requires us to have a sunhat for outdoors, sunscreen every two hours and covering our bodies in weather appropriate attire and shady area to play in.



Over the last few months, kindy children have been "visiting" lots of countries as part of our Travel around the World learning focus. This focus acknowledges our diverse cultures in the room. Our starting point was Australia for which "Possum Magic" story book was our travel guide. We have discussed what animals we saw, the cities that grandma Poss and Hush visited and what foods made Hush visible again. The Children got a chance to taste the lamington and make their vegemite sandwich similar to the one in the book.

Next was a quick visit to England by watching a learning video about Buckingham Palace where we witnessed the change of guard ceremony. Then we travelled to Italy and explored the foods and the architecture which our children then adopted quickly in their play. Following Italy was Vanuatu which our kindy children enjoyed visiting and were attracted to beaches, learnt about active volcanos and caves. Children did playdough cutter stamping art which were the colours of the Vanuatu flag. Our Taiwan visit coincided with Moon Festival and this was a good experience to learn about the Taiwanese culture. We then made moon cakes using coloured playdough, making lanterns and reading stories about why we celebrate Moon Festival.

Teddy Bears picnic is one of the events held in kindy room during our "visit" to Switzerland. This event was inspired from the book Heidi which we read together. On the day of the event, kindy children had spent time with their teddy bears by having morning tea together, meeting other new teddy bear friends and through this experience, children make connections between home and kindy setting.



Miss Rupa



Miss Jenny

Kindergarten Program!

Continuing with our ongoing community superheroes, our focus was on firefighters which was a decision and choice by the children. Kindy children and teachers collaborated to make a learning set up in the room. We had all the gear for role play such as fire uniform costume, helmet, fire trucks, books, pictures and hose. The Children had engaged in role play which support their growing language and vocabulary. The growing interest about firefighters, led to further discussion about saving animals which has now led to our current focus which is Vets. To enhance kindy children learning, we have invited RSPCA to visit our kindy room on the 22nd of October and share with us: Responsible pet ownership and preventing a dog bite

As most of our kindy children are preparing for school next year, we have been fortunate to have prep teacher from our neighbouring school – Junction Park to talk about school life and kindy children were able to ask questions. We look forward to having some more visits with neighboruing schools, to create a smooth transiting to school next year.



Our upcoming events:

- Book week: we will be focusing on some classic stories
- Continuing with Vet learning focus
- Readiness for school and transition statements



Feel free to approach kindy teachers should you have any questions.



Miss Rupa



Miss Jenny

Sustainability Program!

Here at Little Ducks Annerley we are really excited about our Sustainability program and love to see what our budding sustainability leaders can teach both us and their peers about what they are learning. Remember they are leading us into the future of a cleaner and greener environment.

You may have noticed I have not been sending out our monthly focus with you all and the reason for this is that we believe that the focus should be based on the individual need or interests of the children within each group, so each of your child's educators have been using our existing plans and incorporating them into their program based on what the children in their group have shown an interest in.



Over the past few months the focus for the groups have been
Nursery – recycled goods
Senior nursery – waterwise
Toddler – Recycling and waterwise
Junior kindy – gardening and compost
Senior Kindy – gardening and compost, waterwise and recycling
Kindy – gardening

We believe that your child's learning is best nurtured by following on their current interests and this is why we have made this change to our program. We will continue to provide new plans to our sustainability program each month so that the educators have the resources available to them to extend on the children's interests.

If you have any questions about this new program – please come and see myself or one of your child's educators and we will answer any questions.





Miss Leighanne

Move & Groove Program!

Move and Groove Newsletter – October 2020
Over the past few months we have made some changes to our Move and Groove program, which is why you have not been getting the monthly plan shared with you. We believed that the program should be more tailored to the individual interests and needs of the children – so we have been working on creating more programs to be used within the service so that the educators can incorporate these plans according to the current interests of the children within their own group. Each educator has been working on the skills that they feel are best suited to their group.

In Senior Nursery they have been focusing on kicking and jumping, toddlers have been focusing on Leaping, Junior Kindy have been focusing on Striking a stationary objects and also jumping and balancing. Senior Kindy has been focusing on hopping, jumping and Pilates -whilst Kindy has been focusing on Running, Climbing and kicking.

With the educators sharing their children's current interests, we are able to create more challenging obstacle courses and experiences each day – which work on each of the skill sets that they are focusing on – and providing more opportunities for the children to work on these fundamental motor skills in a fun and engaging environment.

As mentioned we are also creating more plans to add to this program - which include

- Mental health
- Hygiene
- Sun safety
- Oral health
- Nutrition
- Special needs
- Sedentary behaviour and screen time
- Food safety
- Food hygiene
- Fundamental motor skills



Should you have any questions about this please come and see myself or one of your child's educators we will keep you updated of the progress of this new program – and any feedback you have would be greatly appreciated.





Miss Leighanne