



# Little Ducks Childcare Annerley

January/February 2021

## A note from your Centre Manager

Dear families,

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

I thought I would take the opportunity to introduce myself to you and tell you all a little bit about my journey at Little Ducks Annerley. I began my journey at Little Ducks just over 7 years ago, taking on the position of Nursery Educator. This is where my passion for the Little Ducks philosophy and vision began. After 12 months and completing my studies, I began the role of Lead Educator within the Nursery, fostering the importance of the Circle of Security with each child within the Nursery. It was the following year, that I transitioned into the Senior Nursery room, along with the babies that I had built such a strong connection with.

A very big warm welcome to all of the new families we will be welcoming into the service this year! Our availability for 2021 was snapped up very quickly! It is so wonderful to see so many new smiling faces.

Parent Input is imperative to us here at Little Ducks Annerley, this ensures that our families are active participants within the service and are the foundation of our planning and programming. If there is anything that your child enjoys doing outside of Little Ducks, or there are any celebrations that are meaningful to you as a family, please do let us know. We would love to incorporate this into our planning.



We are looking forward to working with you all very closely and seeing what 2021 has in store for us!

Kind Regards,  
Erin Evans  
Centre Manager/Nominated Supervisor



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# Upcoming Events!

## January

- **26th January**– Australia Day– Centre closed

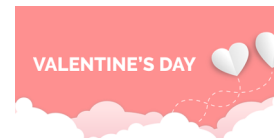


## February

- **2nd February**– Waitangi Day- Recognition of the significance of the Treaty of Waitangi as the nation's founding document will continue to encourage leaders, communities and individuals to mark the day in new ways.
- **12th February**– Chinese New Year– Year of the ox



- **13th February**– Apology Day -This event marks the anniversary of the Apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples in the House of Representatives on 13 February 2008 by former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, apologising for past laws, policies and practices that have impacted on Australia's First Nations Peoples, particularly members of the Stolen Generations
- **14th February**– Valentines Day
- **16th February**– Pancake Tuesday



## Easy Art! - Frozen sensory fun

### What you need:

Shaving foam, Water, glitter, ice cube tray, container and food colouring.

### Instructions:

This fun sensory activity from Learn Play Imagine is so easy – just freeze some coloured water with glitter and pop the frozen cubes in a tray of shaving foam. Kids will love the icy texture and watching the colours swirl into the foam as the cubes melt. A brilliant activity for a hot day!



**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 January and February are:**

- Enrolment
- Death of a Child
- Transitioning Children between Environments
- Centre Presentation
- Smoking, Alcohol & Drugs
- Staffing & Supervision

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Lola, Magnolia, Kabir, Henry, Lucy.C, Evie, Harriet, Henry, Lucy, Emily, Anastasia, Indira, Prisha, Andie, Daniel, Kaitlin, Nina, Lyla, Tayla, Eva, Ari, Zander, Zeke, Lorcan, Finn.B, Isla, Ruhaan, Elise, Camille, Nell, Zoe, Veronica & Zach.



## Easy Recipe:

40g unsweetened coconut flakes or desiccated coconut  
4cm piece fresh ginger, grated  
2 lemongrass sticks, trimmed and finely chopped  
½-1 red chilli, deseeded and chopped  
160g dried udon or egg noodles  
Rapeseed oil for frying  
2 large free-range skinless chicken breasts, sliced widthways into 1cm strips  
450g greens (we used purple sprouting broccoli and brussels sprouts), chopped  
2½ tbsp kecap manis (from the world food section of large supermarkets; or use soy sauce and a pinch of sugar)  
Grated zest and juice 1 lime  
2 tbsp chopped fresh coriander (optional) to serve  
1 tablespoon olive oil   3 clove garlic  
2 cup quinoa, uncooked   2 cup vegetable broth  
30 ounce black beans, canned  
30 ounce fire-roasted tomatoes, canned  
2 cup corn, canned   1 teaspoon chili powder  
1/2 teaspoon cumin, ground  
1/8 teaspoon salt   8 teaspoon black pepper, ground   1 medium avocado  
1 medium lime  
4 tablespoon cilantro

## Method

- Heat a large frying pan or wok over a medium-high heat and, when hot, briefly toast the coconut flakes, then set aside.
- In a food processor (or using a pestle and mortar), whizz/grind two thirds of the coconut flakes with the ginger, lemongrass, chilli and a splash of water to make a thick paste.
- Boil a pan of water and cook the noodles according to the pack instructions (about 5 minutes). Rinse under cold water, drain, then set aside.
- Heat 1½ tbsp rapeseed oil in a frying pan or wok over a medium-high heat. Add the chicken and fry for 1-2 minutes on each side to brown, then turn the heat down to medium. Add the curry paste and mix well, then fry for 1 minute before adding the greens. Cook the broccoli for 1 minute, then add the sprouts and noodles, toss well and stir-fry until heated through. Stir in the kecap manis, lime zest and juice, then serve with the remaining toasted coconut and the coriander.

# Nursery Natter!

I am Manoja Premadasa a friendly and cheerful Lead Educator in the Nursery at Little Ducks Annerley. I was born in Sri Lanka. In 2011, I migrated to Australia with my husband and the two sons who are now 17 and 20 years old. My professional carriers have been in medicine as a GP and as a counselling psychologist whilst in Sri Lanka. In Australia I changed my career to explore my passion - THE CHILDREN!

Being a Diploma qualified Early Childhood Educator, I have 10 years experience in the industry in Brisbane; with 7.5 years with Lady Gowrie Inc and also 21 months with Pod Early School in Mt Gravatt. I am well known as a "Nursery Specialist" in the sector especially with my previous experiences as a medical doctor and as a counselling psychologist. My philosophy is based on unconditional positive regard and my practice in brief, is to stay calm, listen, observe and intervene at necessity whilst maintaining a well balanced professional and ethical practice.

I regard the mind of the little people as a sponge! The babies observe, they absorb, they learn as they discover, they explore curiously whilst enjoying acknowledgement from us and in return they give to the world the joy and the laughter! As an Educator I nurture, provide, care and celebrate all the children under my care with unconditional acceptance! During my practice I am thankful for what I learn new from each baby every day.

As a Nursery Lead Educator I follow Dr Emmi Pikler, a Hungarian Paediatrician who introduced new Theories for Infant Education, appreciate her statement 'world peace starts on the changing table' and value her explanation on how the carers need to stay in tune 'with' the babies not 'to' the babies! "What is important is that we learn what is essential; what is essential is to observe! Get to know your child; If you really recognise what your child needs, if you feel what is causing him grief, feel what she really needs, then you will respect in the right way, you will guide and bring up your child well." (Dr Emmi Pikler)

Hence as a nursery specialist, I celebrate the babies being the most competent learners once their basic needs are met; their feeding and sleep routines are respected.

I promote play based learning, nurturing through nature and value partnerships with families; I respect the parents as the first and the far most educators of the babies and emphasis on their contributions to curriculum decisions. EYLF - Principles) I value your inputs to carry out continuity of care to babies and would encourage community participation in the nursery programmes. My goal at Little Ducks is to provide all babies a home away from home with open ended stimulating environments in the Nursery. Whilst making use of my creative skills I am looking forward to providing your babies at Little Ducks Annerley, inviting environments to open up their lateral thinking skills, scaffolding their interests, promoting self regulation and self help skills and also challenging them to reach higher milestones whilst embracing all cultures. Through Music and movement, art and craft, baby sport and baby science adventures, together we can encourage the efforts of the 'tiny ducklings' helping them grow, flapping their wings to explore the wider world as happy, confident and capable little learner ducks.

Please feel free to have a chat with me at the drop offs/ pick ups. Hoping to use Storypark as the platform to bring the families and extended families together celebrating the little people. Looking forward to having exciting adventures at Little Ducks Annerley.

Ms Manoja Premadasa



Miss Manoja

# Nursery Natter!

It's so exciting to see you all in the new year, hope you all had a lovely break. The babies continuing from 2020 are already displaying their new milestones reached during the holidays. Well done!

With so many interesting plans ahead, we have started welcoming new families and for those who were already with us, welcome back!

Mainly focusing on providing a safe secure base for the babies to begin with, this term we are gathering information on their routines for continuity of care in their new exciting environments at Little Ducks, their new home away from home. We have displayed the individual routines provided by families in the room and are observing the babies reading their cues and readily attending to their needs. The drop off "bye-byes" have been absolutely "no tears" and easy so far, also the routines seem to be working well, the reason why we see smiling babies; great work little people! (EYLF Learning Outcome 1.1) We also focus on promoting Circle of Security, also encourage self help skills and self regulation scaffolding on their interests. (EYLF - Principles - High Expectations and Equity) We will set individual goals and share the information with the families.



Please find the Daily Observations in Storypark and interesting individual learning stories will follow through. We appreciate family inputs on emerging interests, milestones, cultural events and holidays and from all of you, further more from extended families all around the world. Storypark is a great platform to boast and share the joy of the development of your baby with your extended families also, especially in a current situation of not having to visit them often as it used to be. (EYLF - Principles - Partnerships)

This term we are planning to celebrate physical development by offering the babies challenges one step ahead of their existing milestones, aiming higher to reach higher. Baby gyms, balancing frames, tunnels and simple obstacles courses are in our program.

The babies are already showcasing great interest in the sensory resources hence we created a sensory wall. This wall is planned to offer them fine motor exercise and a beginning to their creative world. The Velcro displays offer them great resources as a massive 'canvas' for open ended collage. To further the sensory exploration the babies will offered messy finger painting activities. (EYLF- Practices - Responsive to Children, Learning through Play)

Planning for heaps of fun learning in the coming months,



Miss Manoja



# Senior Nursery Tales!

Hi Families,

It's very exciting for our first newsletter of 2021. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break with your love ones.

Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and tell you a bit about our Senior Nursery room. Our room is consisting of 12 children with 3 educators in this room. Miss Sidra and Miss Vicky are our lead educators and Miss Abigail is our educator.



Miss Sidra is a mother of two young children, she has been an early childhood educator for almost 8 years. She strongly believes in the notion of giving children the time, space and unadulterated understanding to let them blossom into their own unique self. She is passionate about child psychology and the pedagogies underpinning their learning and development.

This is coming up to Miss Vicky's sixth year here at Little Ducks. She has completed her Diploma in Early childhood education and care, and has worked in the Toddler room for past five years. She has a passion for working with the younger age group, she likes spending time to enjoy music and movement with the children.

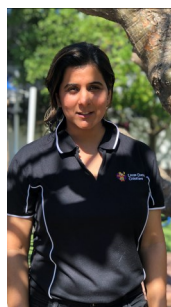
This year is Miss Abigail's second year to be apart of the senior nursery family. She is very excited to get to know all the children and families, and have a fun year together. She is currently Certificate III qualified in Early Childhood Education and care and studying towards her Diploma. She likes doing gardening and engage in sensory explorations with the children.



For the next few weeks, we will be focusing on getting to know our new children, their interests and supporting them to all to have a smooth transition into their new environment. We will set up fun learning opportunities for children to engage in experiences and activities within the room to extend on children's interests and learning. Through the year, the goal of our Senior Nursery team will be to build a strong, respectful and trusting relationship with the children as well as the families. And each term we will set up individual goals for each children to encourage and support them to build relationships with others, achieve their new milestones and develop new skills.

We understand it is not easy for both the parents and the children to go through the transition period of drop off, so you're more than welcome to call us anytime to find out how your little one is doing, as we want you to feel comfortable in leaving your child with us. We are here to support you and your child in any way that we can, please feel free to come and see us if you have any concerns or questions. So we can work closely together to ensure that we can provide the best possible care and support for you and your child a smooth transition process into child care.

We are very excited to be able to share in your children's journey of 2021, and look forward to spending our year having fun in exploring and learning together!



Miss Sidra



Miss Vicky



Miss Abigail

# Toddler Time!

Hi families!

We hope you had a lovely break and have come back all refreshed - ready for the year ahead!

Firstly, we would like to introduce you to our Toddler educators:

Miss Di (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) - Lead educator

Miss Di has been working at Little Ducks for 14 years and is our Reconciliation Action Plan coordinator. She strives to embed the Indigenous culture within the service through all avenues of programme and practice.

Miss Lauren (Monday - Friday) - Educator

Miss Lauren is in her second year at Little Ducks and holds her Diploma. She values creating a warm and welcoming environment for all children to build their sense of belonging - a home away from home.

Mr Tim (Wednesday) - Educator

Mr Tim has been at Little Ducks for several months and is busy working towards his Diploma. He is excited to be a part of the Toddler team and getting to know all of your children individually.

Our main focus at this time is building secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships with our Toddler children and learning about their individual needs. We are also focusing on learning what your children's interests and abilities are and would appreciate any parent input or feedback in order to make the settling in process as smooth as possible.

Over the coming weeks there will be an emphasis on child-lead activities. We will provide open-ended choices for the children to make discoveries where we can learn their strengths and areas that may need extra support. This will allow us to set the children's Goals for Term 1.

Reminders: Please ensure that water bottles are going home daily and are washed in between uses. Bedding (including sheets, blankets, comfort items) need to be with a bag and taken home at the end of your child's week. We also would love for you to bring in a family photo to add to our gallery on our wall as this aids children building their sense of belonging to the room.

We are eager to work in partnership with you, the parents and caregivers, in order to achieve the best outcome for your child at Little Ducks. Feel free to have a chat with one of our educators when you see them.



Until next time!



Miss Di



Miss Lauren



# Junior Kindy Column!

## Welcome to our Junior Kindy class of 2020!

We are so excited to have you all this year with us!

First, we would like to introduce you to our team: Luana and Noo are your lead educators and Sarah and Peter your educators. The Four of us have been working together and, we love to be in JK!

A bit about ourselves...

Luana:

I am from Brazil and have been living different cities in Australia for the past 10 years. I joined Little Ducks in 2017 and have worked for over a year in the Senior Nursery room and the past 12 months, here in JK. Last year I fell in love with the 2-3 year old's. I love to see our little ones becoming independent and building their own personalities. I enjoy working around the garden, reading books, practicing yoga and also have a special passion for Auslan which I hope to practice with the children throughout the year. I am diploma qualified and soon will begin to study a Masters of Teaching at QUT.

Noo:

Noo is short for Nooroobunda which is Aboriginal for 'early morning'. I am from Yeppoon and have lived in Brisbane for two years. I am in my final year of a Bachelor of education (Early childhood) and have worked at Little Ducks since September. I am so excited to be a part of this journey with you and your children. It is so fulfilling watching and growing with them! I believe the focus of learning at this stage should be social and emotional learning and so I try to create activities that foster relationships, communication, expression and interactions, based on their interests and values. I can't wait to see what this year holds and look forward to building strong relationships with you and your child.

Sarah:

I was born in Kenya and I moved to Australia in 2011. I always wanted to work with children so I completed my certificate III in 2016 which I loved every minute. Working with children I see each child as an individual and have a unique personality. As an educator, I value each child's interest, abilities and knowledge to extend their learning. I believe that children learn through play and, I believe that the environment around the children plays a big role in the early learning program. I am currently studying diploma in early childhood education.

Peter:

I have been in the early childhood industry for more than two years now. I hold my Diploma of Early Childhood Education, which I completed in mid-2019.

I aim to provide a welcoming, nurturing, engaging and stimulating environment which provides each child with the opportunity to learn, play and grow, no matter their age or skill level. I actively work to support the full inclusion of all children.



Miss Sarah



Miss Noo



Miss Luana



Mr Peter

# Junior Kindy Column!

Our Junior Kindy room is a vibrant and energetic room. Our main goal is to make sure our children become independent little beings. During the year we will be delighted to learn with you children ways to be active participants of our community, we will encourage your children to be curious, to investigate and enquire. We will also encourage your child to understand and feel that they belong to our group, they will be given voice and that will be heard and taken into consideration at all times. Our program will be child lead and family's input will be welcome, please feel free to come see, message through StoryPark, or call us. We would love to hear about your child's weekends, holidays and special moments.

This year we plan to do lots of messy and water play, celebrate many multicultural important dates, learn new songs and games, play sports, etc.

For this first couple of months, we will be focusing in getting to know you and your child better, making sure the children are settled and feeling confident and comfortable in their new environments. Soon we will be focusing on individual and group's goals making our days even more exiting!

Thanks for walking along us in this journey!



Miss Sarah



Miss Noo



Miss Luana



Mr Peter

# Senior Kindy Catch Up!

We would like to welcome back all our existing families into the Senior Kindy room and give a warm welcome to all of the new families who have joined us this year. We are so excited to be a part of your child's learning journey and eager to get to know all of our wonderful families over the coming months.

This year has started off really well with all of the children settling very well in the Senior Kindy room they are so proud of being "in the big room" now and eager to explore their new environment. As with every year there are some moments when the children want to be with their old educators but that is perfectly understandable and we are encouraging the parents if their child wants to go to their more known educators, do this their sense of security and belonging is very important and as we have noticed, they settle very soon into the new room.

That being said by the time we go indoors for group time they are all eager to join the "big room" and there is much laughter and fun as we do the roll call and share our ideas for the day's experiences.

As I have had conversations with most of the parents on drop off and I apologise if I have not got to talk to you individually yet, but there are a few differences in the senior kindy room to the junior kindy room. Firstly we are all about independence in this room, we encourage the children to do more things for themselves, dress themselves, care for their own belongings, tidy up and make their own choices in play.

But if you are concerned about anything, please do not hesitate to see myself or Vanessa, we are always welcoming any feedback from families, as we only want what is the best for the children, they are what is most important to us.

Another big change is rest time, many children are getting to the stage where they are no longer wanting their midday sleep. The children are given the choice if they want to have a sleep or not, however I know you parents are the best judge of what is best for your child. Please let us know your wishes when we send out an storypark message to you about your child's interests, sleep patterns and any events which are important to you. Your input is valuable to us as we want to work in collaboration with you for your child's learning.

We also ask for nappies to stay in the children's bags and we will get these out at each nappy change, if you have any queries about this, once again do not hesitate to contact us. Notifications about meals, sleep times and nappy change/wet clothes are recorded on a clip board near the sign in sheets – so please check this daily to see your child has travelled throughout the day.



Miss Leighanne



Miss Vanessa

# Senior Kindy Catch Up!

Show and share, we do encourage children to bring in items that they wish to share with the group, but we do ask for toys etc not to be brought in. Often this can lead to upset if they get lost or other children try to play with them. Books, photos, or other items of interest are more than welcome, if you could please give them to the educator on arrival and we will ensure they are kept safe for the day.

We also would like for all families to bring in a family photo for us to display on the wall, this is important for the children to feel a sense of belonging in the room. We will also be taking photos of each child to go on our "Who is here today wall" so the children can "sign themselves in" on arrival at kindy, which in the past the children have loved doing.

If there are any concerns or questions about our routine, program or any other issues – please do not hesitate to come and see us or alternatively send us a message on Storypark – as your input is valuable to us

Looking forward to an exciting year with all our children and families.



Miss Leighanne



Miss Vanessa

# Kindergarten Program!

Dear Families

Happy New Year and welcome to the Kindergarten Program for 2021! It is going to be yet another vibrant year with lots to explore and learn together. To begin with, let's introduce the teachers for this year in the kindy room.

Miss Rupa joined kindy as the ECT in February last year and thrives on building positive and trusting relationships with the children and their families, while maintaining play-based learning and building on strengths for holistic development. Miss Rupa has more than 15 years of early years learning experience in a daycare and family group learning experience in New Zealand.

Miss Jenny has been here at Little Ducks for 6 years now and in the kindy room since mid of 2019. Miss Jenny has acquired a Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies and comes with a wealth of knowledge and passion for creating a learning environment with children.

Throughout the year, our goal will be to build competent and confident learners and communicators, secure in their sense of belonging and in the knowledge that they make a valued contribution to society by basing this on the rapidly changing and increasingly connected globalization world we are living in where our children need to be adaptive, creative, and resilient which will support lifelong learning.

## What is the learning program based on?

Our Kindergarten Program is based on the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guide which focuses on the areas below:

- Strengthening their strong sense of identity
- Building their connections with and contribute to their world
- Developing their strong sense of wellbeing
- Building their confidence and be involved learners
- Building their language to be effective communicators

The guideline gives advice on how to deliver a Kindergarten Program that meets National and State Quality Standards and Regulations.



## Establishing Routines for transition

To begin building a relationship with kindy children and the families, we will be discussing where our families come from and the cultural heritage. This enables children to build their identity and belongings in the environment.

Show and tell: We encourage children to bring in meaningful books or mementoes to share or the items that we focus on for the learning projects. Show and tell allows children to continuously develop their oral language skills, confidence, communication, active listening skills and relationships.

We are looking forward to building positive relationships with children and families. Please do not hesitate to speak with us regarding any questions or concerns that you may have. The kindy teachers will be updating the kindergarten community post or a noticeboard which is next to the sign in register for any updates on a regular basis.

Additional Incursions:

Monday (am): French lesson with Miss Corrine

Story time from local library once a term

NAIBEI Indigenous games



Miss Rupa



Miss Jenny