



Little Ducks Childcare New Farm March / April 2021

A note from your Centre Manager

A wonderful start to 2021 at Little Ducks New Farm. We have recognised many special days including Australia Day, Waitangi Day, Lunar New Year and many more. Recognising these important days to many countries. Cultural awareness and tradition play an important role in helping young children develop a positive sense of identity and build self-esteem. Studies show that cultural appreciation and awareness contribute to building a positive self image. Developing a strong foundation of belonging and acceptance through cultural celebration as well as teaching about diversity. As well as recognising these days many classes have been exploring the children's and families' traditional cultures as a way of getting to know each other and creating a sense of belonging.

Miss Suder and Miss Michele have continued to work with the Inner Brisbane Early Learning Years Network. This is a network of Early Years teachers from the Inner Brisbane Schools and Early Learning Services. We meet each term with the purpose of bringing focus and discussion to Early Learning in particular the transition between Early Learning and School. This group have begun an initiative to plan Community Engagement Sessions each Term. Our first Community Engagement Session was held in February at Community Place, Newstead. The topic was Oral Language. The session was popular, attended by parents and teachers from Inner Brisbane. The sessions will be held on Thursdays—week 4 of each Term. Term 2's information session will be held in April—the topic being Building resilience in children—speaker Sonia from Pathways to Resilience. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information.

We have also begun offering some special enrolment offers. February's offer was for our current families who will receive \$250 credit for referring a friend who enrolls at Little Ducks in February. Our March special will be a massive 4 weeks free for families who enrol during March!!

A busy few months and lots of great plans for the months ahead, why not give the service a call if you are interested in joining the fun and learning at Little Ducks New Farm.

Michele Kovchenko

Excellence in education through the power of play based learning.



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Educator Spotlight

Educator Profile—Miss Suchi



What is your country of birth? *“India.”*

How many years have you been in childcare? *“5.5 years.”*

How many of those years have you been with Little Ducks? *“5 years.”*

If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be? *“Australia.”*

What was your favorite vacation? *“When I was younger visiting my relatives over the summer vacation.”*

Who is your favorite Superhero and why? *“My mum. Because she has always inspired and motivated me.”*

Describe yourself in 3 words? *“Fun, caring and organised.”*

Move and Groove

The activities within Move and Groove allow the children to develop fundamental movement skills; these skills help the children control their bodies while performing more complex skills. Also, the children learn and develop these skills together, where they can observe their friends and peers through fun activities. Throughout the year, we focus on one aspect of movement each month, although we have extended some activities to allow them to grasp the ability before moving on. The activities have brought delight to the children as their enthusiasm shone like the sun.

We first began exploring balancing as we explore our new environment; after a few transitions, the children have continued to extend on their own ideas as they build their own balancing obstacle course. At first, the children's seemed to find these a bit of a challenge, but we continued and took each step slowly for the children to understand what to do. Throughout the lessons, the children's confidence grew, and with the help of excellent teachers that have been incorporating these moves into their routine, the children's confidence has improved dramatically. For each month, I have watched the children's confidence grow as they explore and develop an understanding of each movement and skill. We will continue to build on each fundamental skill throughout the next few months as we explore kicking and side-stepping/sliding.



The Kindy children love to challenge themselves and are rapid learners, and their confidence has grown over the different lessons that I need to continue to challenge them. They love to be challenged, and they continue to persist until they have got it right.

Through our nursery friends love of music, we have incorporated music into each lesson, which brought delight to them. Our nursery friends enjoyed learning the different skills as they have begun to incorporate these within their play as they pass the ball to each other or side-stepping on the tyre.

Toddlers and Junior Kindy confidence have grown as they explored a variety of activities. The children's enthusiasm has shone much as they begin to incorporate what they have learnt within their play.

We have also introduced Pilates and stretching; Pilates is from Kids Heart Pilates. This pilates poses a focus on a variety of movement to encourage the children to be active and support the children's refocusing to allow them to relax.

The children have loved exploring these poses, giving them a new name to learn and explore these poses together. The children love the butterfly, flamingo and the chair pose, which they gave a new name, saying it's like sitting on a toilet pose. We have been doing a few other poses: the superhero, spiders web, snake, cat and dog stretching and working on our breathing.

The children have enjoyed Move and Groove, laughing and giggling as they explore and learn together.

We also have a few sayings that end our fantastic session. We all stand together, placing our hands together and raise them, saying "We Did It" or "Go Team".



Upcoming Events



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March

Monday 8th – Clean-up Australia day

Wednesday 17th - St Patrick's Day

Monday 22nd - Harmony Day

Friday 26th – We will celebrate Holi Festival

Friday 26th – Centre celebration for Earth Hour

April

Wednesday 7th - World Health Day

April 12th – Henny Penny incursion

Friday 2nd – Good Friday

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday 5th - Easter Monday

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

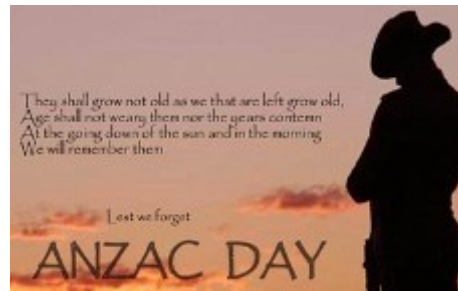
Sunday 25th - ANZAC Day

Monday 26th – ANZAC Day Public holiday

Leading up to this day, we will pay our respect to diggers.

Wednesday 28th Super Hero Day

Come dressed as your favourite super hero



the

Policy Review's

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

- **Centre Philosophy**
- **Educator and Management Policy**
- **Sandpit procedure**
- **Toileting policy**
- **Health Hygiene and Safe Food Policy**



Ways to provide feed back are:

Policies are available in the office and by the Level 1 lifts you can give feedback by conversation with Centre Manager, email or via suggestion box located on by the Level 1 lifts.

Sustainability Program

Hi, My name is Charmel and I am the sustainability officer at Little Ducks New Farm.

I believe in Mahatma Gandhi's saying that **"Be the change you wish to see the world"** and that change should begin with each one of us.

We all know that at Little Ducks, we are committed to protecting our environment to ensure a sustainable future for our children and through continuous improvement, we strive to be better tomorrow than we are today. Our centre actively participates in caring for our environment and promotes sustainable practices through educating and working with the children, families and the wider community.



The focus of planning programs for sustainability will begin with everyday practice. Babies and toddlers can begin by watching adults model these behaviours. We will learn through songs or rhymes as educators verbalise what they are doing. Children over three can begin to reason why practices are needed and to understand the impact that their actions have on our environment.

For the month of March, our focus would be gardening. Gardening is a great focus to encourage children to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment by developing an increased understanding of the interdependence between land, people, and plants. We will begin with weeding, planting and then continuing caring for our garden..



Nursery—Level One

It's been a busy start to the year with our senior nursery friends moving to their own room and some of our new friends starting in the nursery, Ms. Suchi, Ms. Charmel, and Ms. Shivani have been working very closely with our new families to help our new friends settling in their new environment. And it's great to see how they settled in and happy to explore their physical and social environment displaying their sense of belonging here. Our old friends in the nursery have been very welcoming towards their new friends as we modelled care, empathy, and respect towards establishing a strong relationship between all our babies.

Our babies have been expanding their knowledge about the world around participating in different planned experiences towards cultural diversity, nature-based played experience, engaging with the community around them. We celebrated Australia Day, Waitangi Day, Lunar New year over the past two months to incorporate learning about diversity and came together to celebrate Little Ducks' 5th birthday together as a community. We have been incorporating a variety of nature-based play to provide opportunities to our babies to connect with their natural surroundings and being respectful of them too. Gardening and outdoor playtime have been very engaging for our nursery babies to support them towards these learning.

We have been observing a great sense of wellbeing in our babies' evidence by how settled in they are being in the nursery as they demonstrate a great sense of trust and confidence with their primary educators. Our babies in the nursery are enjoying moments of solitude play and also are keen to remain accessible to others around them. They can show their developing ability to make choices, accept challenges, take considered risks, manage change and cope with frustrations and the unexpected. We have observed a lot of our babies in the nursery achieving their physical milestones towards crawling, standing up, and walking and hence displaying evidence towards their skill's physical wellbeing through constant encouragement, support, and role modelling. Our focus for the last two months has been to build on spatial awareness and the orientation of our babies to enable them to move around and through their environments confidently and safely through our Move and Groove module. Each week our Move and Groove had a specific planned experience towards building upon these skills. Our well-being module from the past two months has also been a great opportunity as well to incorporate learning for our babies for their emotional well-being and personal safety. A variety of rich and meaningful experience are planned each week to support on their learning.

It's wonderful to see our babies developing confidence in their communication abilities. While little infants enjoy making eye contact and responding to the communication happening with them, our older babies are showing their developing interest and abilities to listen, comprehend, and respond to information they get to hear all through the day based on our interaction during group times, routines and normal communication.

We are having a great time in the nursery is very busy supporting the learning and development of our babies and we are really looking forward to the coming months with so many exciting plans to continue with our fun-based learning.



Snr Nursery—Ground Floor

Our Senior Nursery children are loving their new classroom for 2021, this is the perfect age to have direct access to our garden space, The excitement on their faces when we mention we are heading to our classroom in their mornings show just how much they love their environment. The Snr Nursery children are really displaying a lovely sense of belonging, they clearly enjoy each others company and it is lovely to see them at such a young age greet each other with a wave and a hug, they even seem to understand each others Toddler babble.



The children mostly love the opportunities to be in the outdoors



along with all of its challenges. Climbing on the rocks and digging in the gardens pose so many opportunities for learning, Not only building gross motor skills but opportunities to meet challenges which creates confidence and resilience, opportunities to discover nature which creates sensory experiences so important for this age and stage.

We have also been enjoying experiencing creative art experiences, getting messy with paint and practising manipulating crayons. Painting is a great way for children to start expressing their creativity. While painting, children are developing their concentration, eye-hand coordination and motor planning (i.e. planning what to do and how to do it). It also helps in building their self-esteem as they are free to explore without fear of mistakes, or bad results. It allows them to exercise their creativity freely, which also helps to develop brain functions.

Over the coming weeks we are looking forward to exploring lots of new concepts through the lens of some special cultural days from around the world, including Harmony Day and Holi Festival. We can't wait to see the children grow and learn with each other.



Toddlers—Level Two

Our Toddler Children have settled into the new level with ease this year, building strong friendships with each other but also with their Jnr Kindy friends.

We have loved our Art immersion experiences in particular using loose parts to create Art pieces. The recyclable materials allowed the to be open-minded and it provided more learning opportunities rather than using the commercially made toys. This Learning experience allowed children to be creative and use their imagination. It also helps to encourage children to recycle and reuse everyday objects, which will help them become more aware of the need to protect our planet. The most exciting part of the experience was when the children became scientists, as they each continued to try new ways to make colours and to then change the colours they had made into something new. So many learning opportunities.



The Toddlers have also been busy building their gross motor skills through our move and groove program. We have been focusing on balancing and spatial awareness.. Practising balance helps children develop better concentration needed for learning now and in the future. Balancing uses mechanical principles and helps children understand concepts such as gravity, equilibrium, counterbalance, and other sports skills. The children have practised balancing and spatial awareness during their move and groove sessions with Miss Megan by balancing on planks as part of obstacle course, balancing as they learnt yoga poses even working toward balancing on one leg.

We have also had a lot of fun with some sensory ice play. It is such an easy learning experience to set up, yet so effective. The children were so excited when the ice came out of the freezer. Some coloured sticks had been put in the frozen water so that the children were challenged to take the sticks out of the ice. We popped out the ice onto the trays and the children quickly put their hands on the ice and started to feel around it. Sensory play encourages children to manipulate and mould materials, building up their fine motor skills and coordination. Sensory play uses all 5 sense, which is what toddlers use to process information. The ice activity was unstructured, open-ended, not product-oriented and was the purest sense of exploratory learning.

It is so exciting to see the Toddlers grow and develop I can't wait to see where our fun takes us.



Junior Kindy—Level Two

It has been a busy start to 2021 here in Junior Kindy, the children have settled into their new learning environment and begun building connections with Mr. Jamie and Miss. Nicole as their new educators for this year. Starting the year, we have been introducing the children to new self-help skills, such as putting their own belongings in their bag, looking after their own belongings, unpacking and packing up their own bedding and setting up simple activities of their choosing at a table. The children have developed their understanding of this in such a short time, I already observe them reminding each other to put their shoes away or reminding one of their friends that they forgot their drink bottle.



Emotions have been an ongoing topic here in Junior Kindy, we have been exploring our emotions and developing our understanding of each emotion. We began this by exploring a single emotion during group times, the children were able to be engaging in conversations about moments they felt that certain emotion or what they do or how they express that emotion. Being able to hear and observe how those around them express their emotions has helped begin developing the children's ability to recognise emotions in others, while the children here in Junior Kindy have also been able to recognise that those around them express emotions in both similar and different ways to themselves. This exploration has been ongoing and has continued to remain part of our room learning, even during valentine's day we explored the emotion of love and the different ways people express love to the people they care about.

Our small world area has remained a popular part of the children's day as they regular seek out moments of play there, this is one of the areas of play the children have excelled in at setting up their own activities and moments of play. We've created a small world box with interchangeable mats that allows the children to swap the eco-system in the box to those of their choosing, the Dinosaurs have been the most requested animal set for the mat as the children have shown a keen interest in engaging in dramatic small world play with the Dinosaurs. We have been looking into what other animals or other small world sets we might want to explore next, the children have been expressing an interest in adding in a fairy garden set to our small world area and we will begin looking into what we would need to create our own fairy garden set in the room.

The children have been requesting more messy based play in our classroom throughout the start of the year as well, including their requests and voice is an important part of our program and we have been making sure to include these requested moments of play and learning into the room. Throughout the last couple of months, we have been exploring a range of different messy based play activities and games each week, introducing the children to a range of different textures through different types of slimes, natural mixtures and man-made materials like play dough etc. The children have enjoyed this moments of sensory exploration and have expressed a sense of joy knowing that we are listening to them when they seek out these moments, as I have observed children inviting others to come join in as one of the educators have made or gotten the activity they were all seeking out for them to now investigate and explore. their understanding of themselves and those around them.



Jamie

Kindergarten—Level Three

Welcome to our Kindergarten news.

Greetings to all families of Kindergarten children. Here in Kindergarten, we have had a great start to the year getting to know each other and developing our sense of belonging in Kindergarten environment. All the children have settled well into the routine and expectations of our classroom, which is great. Children are developing their organising skills by keeping all their belongings in their own lockers and being responsible.



We have been exploring different cultures and have celebrated Australia Day, New Zealand - Waitangi day, The Chinese New year and Valentine's day. Children have participated in variety of experiences such as cultural art, cooking experiences, dancing to music, and exploring loaned Cultural resources from Queensland Museum. We have been visiting ground floor to explore the nature playground, breathe some fresh air and check on our garden herbs. Making mint juice, tasting different herbs and pretend cooking with natural resources like, water, sand and leaves lead us to explore traditional food from different cultures.

For the past two months, we have been training our gross skills by balancing and involving in challenging activities. Children have participated in fine motor activities, developing their small muscles ready for future writing. More experiences will be planned throughout the term.

For well- being, children have been learning about different emotions and how to deal with these emotions when they feel that way. We have made few class rules and calming strategies that children could follow as a guide to bounce back from certain feelings.

Children have participated in fire evacuations where they are confident enough to exit the building and to the assembly area with all the other peers and educators. It is important that the children feel confident in these situations and understand the process.



Kindy

Children have been actively participating in Science experiences. So far as a class we have been exploring water experiments - sink and float; water displacement, Force- Ramp and Friction. Science club visit us every Monday with new STEAM experiences—theme based activities. Children have participated in activities based on Air pressure, Rocket and Slime. WE can't wait to see what they explore further.

In the past few weeks, I have been amazed at how much progress the children have already made in recognizing their own name. One of the best places to start literacy is to begin with their name as children are highly interested in their own name. It has meaning and value to them – it is personal... So I printed each child's name on a strip and have them laminated. It is intentionally done for the children to interact with their name by looking for it, moving it and using it in an array of experiences.

It is wonderful to see children bringing books to class to share with the peers. It is a great opportunity to read different books for the children throughout the day and engage in conversation based on the book and review the story. Children are engaged in recognising numbers and their relationship, sorting and matching.



Our next focus will be on building on friendship through planned activities, stories and group play experiences with a blend of developing their literacy and numeracy skills. The friendship focus will be helped by the introduction of our new pet/puppet, Pete the Mouse. Pete was introduced to us by our Professional Development partners, Pathways to Resilience. Pete helps the children to learn about feelings, have a friend that can help them to be calm and regulate their emotions and be a voice for them to make friends with other children when connection is difficult. Building friendship and a sense of belonging is the foundation for learning and Pete is a big part of that process in the Kindy room. The children have even built Pete a house to live in to ensure he feels comfortable but also so that Pete is always available for a chat, to tell a story and to help when needed.



Miss Suder

Art Immersion

Hello everyone! My name is Nicholas and I have taken over from Joey as Art Immersion officer for this year. Art Immersion is all about encouraging art to be a big part of our programming, and to make sure as a centre we are covering different forms of art that nourish the children's creativity. Our focus in January was for each room to choose their favourite topic from 2020 and cover that for their art immersion on the program. In February we moved on to exploring cultural art. This tied in well to events in February such as Waitangi Day and Lunar New Year. We saw some great artwork including New Zealand / Maori art and arts and crafts in the spirit of the Ox as well as paper lanterns for Lunar New Year.

Moving forward into March our topic will be patterns. Learning patterns and exploring them through creativity is important for early childhood learning because it can make it easier for them to understand and learn mathematics later in their education.

Nicholas



Community Events

We are so lucky living and working in this community with so much to do and so many places to visit. Here is a couple of free events we found on the Brisbane Kids website and a link to their calendar of events.

<https://www.brisbanekids.com.au/whats-on-brisbane-kids-events-calendar/>

Big Voices: Children's Art Matters Exhibition



Big Voices celebrates the power of children to express themselves through art and features paintings and drawings from the renowned Dr Barbara Piscitelli AM Children's Art Archive. Showcasing beautiful and thought-provoking artwork by children from Queensland, Vietnam and China, Big Voices takes you on a journey into these young artist's worlds, to see how they view themselves, their lives, their rights and their futures.

This very human exhibition explores a child's right to be heard and to share what they think with others. We invite you to learn more around how children express themselves through art, and for those who wish to grow their own understanding of the power of children's art to visit.

There are two sessions daily to visit Philip Bacon Heritage Gallery, 10 am-1 pm and 2 pm-5 pm. Book your free entry ticket to the date and session of your choice.

Walk-ups are welcome; however, may be subject to the session's capacity limit at the time of entry.

Miffy and Friends



miffy & friends pairs original Bruna drawings and illustrations with early book covers and posters, through to the iconic figure of Miffy. The exhibition celebrates Bruna's underlying philosophy of allowing room for the imagination, and introduces the influence of Miffy on the work of seven contemporary Australian artists. It teases out concepts that Bruna and other artists have grappled with over the ages, including colour, line and form, and brings these ideas to audiences to instil a love of art, as Bruna did over his lifetime.

Miffy, or nijntje (little bunny) has captivated children and adults alike for 65 years. First conceived by illustrator Dick Bruna (1927–2017) as a bedtime story for his son, Miffy has evolved into a globally recognised and much-loved character. A deceptively unassuming figure, Miffy's outward simplicity belies a legacy grounded in the 20th century avant-garde—abstractionism, colour theory and De Stijl—and owes a debt of influence to the likes of Matisse, Léger and Mondrian. Miffy embodies a universal language of minimalism, expressing a myriad of emotions and subtle nuances that can be understood across generations and cultural milieus.

Featuring Dick Bruna, Stephen Bird, Sadie Chandler, Nadia Hernández, Carla McRae, Nell, Brian Robinson, and Vipoo Srivilasa.