



Little Ducks Childcare

Date March 2021

A note from your Centre Manager

Hello everyone,

Wow March already. I hope you're all having a wonderful year so far. I have been loving my time at Little Ducks, Wilston and am really enjoying meeting all of you and your little ones.

Please see all the relevant centre information for the month of March and April. The next few months we are really going to be focusing on centre events and planning. We are putting a big emphasis on sustainability and environment uplift. Our educators are going to be really getting into reusing and recycling with your children. Mr Mark is going to be our Sustainability Officer. Mark and myself are looking forward to implementing a fabulous sustainability plan with our educators and children. I have included March's plan in our newsletter.

We have been recruiting some fabulous educators as of late. You will begin to see some new faces around the place. Miss Kailah and Miss Abbey have joined our casual pool and we have Miss Janice starting next week as our new Educational Leader! We also have Miss Milly joining us as the secondary educator in Nursery, in a few weeks time.

In our foyer area, you will see relevant information from our community. If you have a business you would like to promote, please bring in your card or flyer and pop it in reception.

I hope you all have a fabulous month of March and please remember to come and see me or get in contact if you need anything!

Regards,
Alex Spring



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Upcoming Events!

March

Monday 8th – Clean-up Australia day

We will hold a 'Little Ducks Clean Up Day' In the lead up to 'Clean up Australia Day.' Talk to your educator to find out how you can help!

Wednesday 17th - St Patrick's Day

Dress in green and come along to learn some fun facts about our Irish friends and families. St Patricks Day is on Saturday the 17th

Monday 22nd - Harmony Day

This is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Dress in orange to support this wonderful day.

Friday 26th – We will celebrate Holi Festival

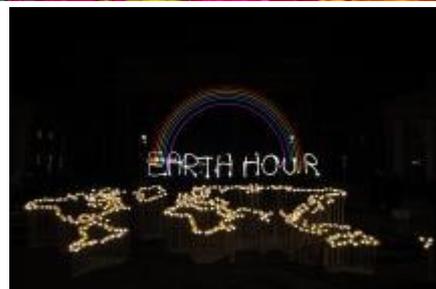
– Celebrate the Indian Festival of colours – this is special day for us each year at Little Ducks, a time to come together and send good wishes and spread colour around to brighten up the year.

Friday 26th – Centre celebration for Earth Hour

Little Ducks will go "electricity free between 10am and 11am" to teach children about being energy conscious.



HARMONY DAY



Policy Reviews

We value your input and feedback The policies/procedures in review during March and April are...

- Aids/HIV
- Health, Hygiene and Safe food
- Excursion
- Sandpit
- Toileting
- Educator and Management
- Grievance

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.

Educator Spotlight ...

Miss Emma has been with us since the end of last year and has become an asset to our team. After being a hairdresser for many years, Miss Emma decided she was going to move into early education. She is loving her time at Little Ducks and has transitioned so nicely into the Junior Kindy educator role.

Alongside Miss Nathy and Miss Fran, she is blossoming. Having a background of hairdressing, Miss Emma is so creative and loves getting involved with the artsy activities with the children. If you see her around—please say hello!



Nursery Notes

Hi everyone,

This month we have had a lot of new children join us within the nursery space. We are so happy to welcome our new friends. We have been establishing a circle of security and sense of belonging to ensure our new friends will be confident and involved learners in the coming months. Relationships are the most important part of the nursery journey and we love to have our bonds grow into reciprocal, respectful and nurturing relationships.

We have been focusing on our emotions and regulation. We have been using verbal language to help the children identify the emotions they're feeling. We have also been making sure to communicate the transitions of the day "time to go inside, time to have some lunch, time to have a sleep." This has become a part of our normal daily interactions and the children have shown how secure and safe they feel with a predictable and communicated routine.

As mentioned we are focusing on feelings and regulation, so books about feelings during our calm time sessions and songs about identifying our feelings. This will hopefully lay the foundations for our small friends to be able to recognise and articulate their feelings in the future.

To challenge our mind we have been exploring our loose parts within the room. The children love to use the kitchen utensils and you'll find them throughout the day just walking about with them and making music with the utensils and series of pots and pans we have. Music has definitely been one of our bigger interests and we are very eager to explore the world of music in different languages in the month of March. We have also been investigating volumes and capacities by inquiring into more Schemas play, by pouring liquid matter and other matter into different sized containers. We endeavour to investigate more Schemas in play in the coming months to expand our minds and understand more about how things work in the room around us.

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.

Miss Jess & Miss Harriet



Senior Nursery Natter!

This month we have been building our connection with the world, doing co-operative play with our friends, making a mess with our sensory play and learning important lessons for our education future.

February has been a busy month for our little friends in the Senior nursery; celebrating Valentine's day, Waitangi day and the New year of the Ox. We celebrated the signing of the Waitangi treaty with New Zealand animal games and songs, Valentines day with red and pink activities, and activities like Chinese stories and lantern painting for the Chinese new year. Connecting with the greater world and finding our place in it is important even for the youngest participants.

Inside and playing outside we have been working with our friends to build our socio-emotional skills. Participating in group activities helps us learn about fairness and builds our friendships between peers. We've built roads and towns in construction, played music together on the mat, had an exciting time running an obstacle course in the playground, sneaking through a mirrored tunnel under the tables and joined our friends making a mess at the table.

At the table and outside we have started a focused look at sensory play like slime and sand. We have worked on the slimy and smooth textures of cornflour slime and slippery (psyllium) goo, as well as the more course textures of sand and natural resources. Sensory play can assist with physical self realisation, physical growth and individualism development.

We have all become strong independent players in the Senior nursery, with more accessible activities and a strong routine that the children can grow into. With moving to Senior nursery a lot of our friends have begun their education journey and started to have meals and activities at their height to increase independent thought. This has been easier for others as we all learn to eat from our plates by ourselves and stay sitting at the table until we've finished eating.

It has been a fun month and I look forward to watching out friends grow in the coming months.

Mr Kim & Ms Madeline.



Toddler Tales!

Hello Toddler Families! The months of Jan and Feb have been very enjoyable and it's special to see that each of the Toddlers has been actively participating in all our learning activities. During the first two months of the year we had focused on building their sense of identity and building their sense of connectedness to the world around them.

Role play has been a favourite learning activity among the Toddlers as the children have demonstrated an interest in being doctors and learning about instruments used by doctors, being a teacher and reading their favourite book to their friends, telling stories using hand puppets, cooking in home corner and such. Through engaging in role play the children build on their confidence, creativity, communication and it enhances use of their imagination and use of vocabulary.

We have been focusing on broadening the children's understanding of the world around them. We have been engaging them in tidying up which is a learning activity in itself in the Toddler room and a very enjoyable one at that. We sing the song "Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere. Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share" and we go from one resource to the next packing it away as a team. Throughout these learning activities the Toddlers were asked for their ideas on how they thought things looked, felt, tasted, smelled and sounded.

Going forward among other things we will be focusing on building on the Toddlers strong sense of wellbeing, being confident and involved learners. We will continue to encourage them to talk, engage with texts and express their opinions.

The Toddlers are already displaying good sense of balance and good gross motor skill development and to encourage this still further we will involve them in activities such as jumping from the fort onto the Softfall mats or independently negotiating the obstacle courses outside. As we move into the cooler months we will have the option of indoor / outdoor play during the day which will give the Toddlers the chance to enjoy some fresh air outdoors and explore the yard and its activities.

Each of the Toddlers has proved that they are confident and involved learners and to support their learning we will be introducing inquiry based learning such as cause and effect using resources such as magnets, ramps built with blocks and will it float or sink items. This will allow the Toddlers to hypothesize and experiment and question 'Why?' and 'What if?'

One of the things I would encourage in the Toddlers is an interest in reading because as the saying goes 'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more than you learn, the more places you will go' (Dr. Seuss). We will keep our book of the day on the top of the lockers, feel free to read the book with



your child when you pick them up, even better, ask them if they would like to look at the pictures and tell you the story in their own words.

Painting seems to be one of the other favourites of the Toddlers and their artwork is very creative. If there are any learning activities you would like to see done in the Toddler room leave us a note in the 'Parent Communication Book' and we will endeavor to blend these into our learning activities.

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Miss Belmira and Miss Sunakshi.

Junior Kindy Jumble!

Welcome families!!

We are so pleased to share with you all the exciting things we have already achieved this past few months and touch base with what is to follow in the coming month. First of all, a big welcome to all our new families who have just joined us, thank you for entrusting us with the care of your children and a big welcome back to the families that have been with us since last year.

We have been working on knowing each child and what their interests are through experiences and strategies that help us to set up their goals and help them to achieve it.

We also have been working on building a sense of belonging to their new environment by creating a "we are all different and that is beautiful wall" so they tell us about their interest like what they like such as food, colours, activities etc.

We have created the days of the week wall right next to our home corner so the children can learn the days of the week and have autonomy to display them, themselves. Additionally, we have been working on building promoting self-help placing water bottles on the trolley, packing away their dishes and helping to make their beds and pack it away.

Home corner has been a popular space where the children love to gather and engage in positive social interactions while exploring role play such as cooking, hair-dressing, doctors, feeding their baby dolls and dressing up. Because of their interest in role-playing we decided to have our first project called My dream profession. Through this project the children broaden their horizons and learned about different professions and why they are important. They were also able to learn more about their own talents and abilities and establish greater confidence.

In addition we have been talking to the children about emotions/feelings and we all together made the "how I feel wall" with coloured emotions monsters so the children can express how they feel putting the designated pom-pom colour according how are they feeling on that particular day. Children who learn how to understand emotions in themselves and others are better able to regulate their own responses to strong emotions. Helping children to identify and label emotions is an important first step. For the following months we are going to keep working on our emotions wall to help the children to develop even further how to express their feelings.



Junior Kindy Jumble!

Our communication has been another important learning outcome as we have been encouraging the children to expand their vocabulary and knowledge through books, songs and lots of verbal communication. This past two months we have created a Spanish learning lessons to encourage children's appreciation of linguistic diversity and build their awareness of connection, similarities and differences between people. Through this experience and many others to come they will be able to learn new words in another language.

Because of the children's interest in learning other languages we are going to start a new project called "Language diversity project". We are going to talk about diversity and different languages and countries.

We will keep going with our sustainability and Move and Groove program.

For sustainability where we are going to plant some different seeds so children can learn more about the plant cycle.

For move and groove we will keep working on fine and gross motor skills.

Thank you for letting us be part of your children's journey during this time. We are looking forward to creating wonderful moments and to keep building a beautiful bond with children and families.

Miss Nathy, Miss Fran and Miss Emma.



Preschool Pride!

Kindergarten Newsletter March April 2021

Room Happenings

Over the past few weeks we have been focusing on developing empathy and acceptance with the children. With the loss of our Prep children and the some new arrivals, we are trying to forge new connections to build our sense of belonging. In fact some of the children have this as their goal this term. As part of this we are supporting the children to realize that although we are all different, some of us like the same things and could be good friends.

We have been exploring the people who help us in our community, through discussions, roleplay and stories. We demonstrated that we know some of the work that our Community Helpers do for us, for example the police catch bad guys and the nurse looks after you in hospital. We shared some of our first hand experiences of these helpers, for example some of the children have seen the garbage man collect their rubbish. It was great to see our knowledge coming out in our roleplay scenarios where animals were bandaged and fires extinguished.

We are developing our fine motor skills by using a range of tools to build strength, coordination and range of motion. We used scissors to cut a range of materials and found fabric quite difficult. We picked up a range of objects with tongs. Grasping hammers to smash ice and hit nails helped us to sense how firmly to hold objects. We are also developing twisting motions with screwdrivers, keys and bolts.

We have been exploring the solar system and its various planets, through experiments, art and song. We discovered how objects can make craters by dropping them into flour trays.



On Earth, we created atmospheres and learned how the water cycle functions. We recreated the Olympus Mons volcano on Mars and made it erupt in coloured bubbles. When we discussed asteroids and comets we used our fingers to create the swooshing tail of the comet. The planet song continues to be a favourite and some can now recite the names of the planets. We are now moving on to investigating machines and how they work, using the 6 basic machines: lever, inclined plane, wheel/axle, pulley, wedge, screw.

Preschool Pride!

The children are developing their letter and number recognition skills through small group games and activities. We have made letters in dough and traced them with pencils. We have been counting objects using one to one correspondence and linking the quantity to the numeral.

Some of the children have been interested in retelling some of their favourite stories. We created Gingerbread man in playdough or using cubes and re-enacted the story, adding our own characters. Big boxes provided excellent straw, wood and brick houses to retell the Three Little Pigs story.

Looking Forward ...

We will be shifting focus to big machines in the coming month and hope to engage the children with a range of hands on activities. Our social and emotional focus will continue to be developing our friendships with others and appreciating our differences.

We are lucky to have a science incursion visiting the center in March.

You may notice some new staff around the center, Miss Abby has just joined us as a casual educator, so you may see them in the yard or covering lunches.



Sustainability Corner!

Focus for Month of March

Sustainability program

Focus – Reusing Materials 01.03.21

Program Goals this Lesson: Exploring different materials and reusing them in different ways.	Links to the Curriculum and National Quality Framework QA3 Standard, element 3.2.3 The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.
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Resources:

Bubble Wrap

Cardboard boxes

Children's imagination

The 6 Rs

-Reduce

-reuse

-recycle

-repair

-respect

-reflect

Materials that are around in the rooms, depending on the children's choice of use for the bubble wrap

For Planned experiences –

Sand

Water

Paint.

Lesson Guide:

Exploring different uses of the same material

Presenting the children with a material, and reusing it in as many different ways as possible.

Focus this week - Bubble Wrap

How many different uses for bubble wrap?

- Water proof.*
- Soft*
- Flexible*

Asking the children to come up with ideas with what bubble wrap could be reused for, and the features of it.*

Expand on the interests on the children in the room groups, using bubble wrap as the main factor in the activity.

Discuss why it's important to reuse materials when possible, and how/why bubble wrap can be reused. Creatively, emotionally, and practically.

Nursery – expand on the babies sensory, and their prime focus in their actions, standing up themselves. Using other materials such as cardboard boxes for babies to crawl in to and stand up in. Also using bubble wrap for cubbies and hide spots in the boxes. Encouraging the babies to practice their walking – sensory walking over the bubble wrap – both sides.



Healthy Habits!

Healthy Fruit Pizza Recipe

Ingredients

4 medium tortilla, whole wheat
1/2 cup Greek yogurt, plain
1 teaspoon honey
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
3/4 tablespoon orange juice

Toppings

1/4 cup strawberries
1/4 cup kiwi
1/4 cup mandarin oranges, canned in juice
1/4 cup blackberries
1/4 cup grapes, green

Instructions

Using a small cookie cutter or drinking glass, cut circles into tortillas. Set aside.

In a small mixing bowl, blend together yogurt, honey, vanilla and orange juice until fully blended. Slice strawberries; peel kiwi and slice; drain oranges and slice into smaller pieces; slice blackberries and grapes into quarters.

Spread yogurt mixture onto tortillas and top with fruit.

Nutrition

Calories: 130kcal | Carbohydrates: 21g | Protein: 5g | Fat: 3g | Saturated Fat: 2g | Cholesterol: 2mg | Sodium: 148mg | Fiber: 4g | Sugar: 7g

