

Little Ducks Childcare New Farm

May/June 2021

A note from your Centre Manager

What a busy few months we have had and a busy few months ahead!

Our most exciting news is the progress we are making with the Pathways to Resilience Training. Our educators for the past year have been part of a training and mentoring program with Pathways to Resilience as we come to the end of the program we acknowledge the changes it has made to our educators interactions with children, our increased focus on positive interactions as we recognise the role positive interactions play on the brain development of children and their capacity to show empathy, to regulate their emotions and to support their overall wellbeing. We have also recognised the role music can play in our setting encouraging wellbeing and regulation and have increased the use of music in the service and the programs.

During the past few months I have also been pleased to part of an initiative involving the local schools and Early Learning Services - the Early Years Network Inner Brisbane. We meet each term to reflect on the partnerships between Early Learning and School based learning. As a group we have begun planning a Community Information Session for families in the Inner Brisbane Area. Each Term we present a different topic and the schools and Early Learning Services work together to spread the word about the information sessions held in Week 4 of each term at Community Place, Teneriffe. The sessions are FREE , their purpose to provide information on child development to all members of the community, hoping to in turn improve outcomes for ALL children.

The next session is planned for Thursday 14 May at 6.30pm. Our Presenter for this session is Sonia from Pathways to Resilience. We are very proud to support this workshop and excited to spread the message of Pathways to as many families as possible in the community—building resilience in our children is such an important goal, always but especially now.

WE would love to see everyone there!! You are welcome to contact me if you would like further information or to RSVP your attendance.

Michele Kovchenko

Educational Excellence through the Power of Play based learning and positive interactions with families!

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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

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Educator Spotlight

Mr Jamie

Junior Kindy Lead Educator.



Mr. Jamie joined the team in December of our opening year 2016, helping to open the services first Junior Kindy room at the start of 2017. And has continued to be part of the Junior Kindy classroom since then.

Below is a little insight into Mr Jamie.

What is your country of birth? Australia.

How many years have you worked in childcare for? 7 years.

How many of those years have been with Little Ducks? 4.5 years.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be? Japan.

What is your favorite vacation? Las Vegas.

Who is your favourite superhero and why? Scarlett Witch, as she overcomes a lot of challenges.

Describe yourself in 3 words? Outgoing, witty and fabulous.

Upcoming Events

May



Monday May 3 **- Paskha (Пасха)**
We will celebrate Orthodox Easter Day in Russia

Monday 3rd May – Labour Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY— Centre closed

Friday 7th – **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea**
We will be celebrating our special mums with an afternoon tea starting 2:30pm.

Sunday 9th – **Mother's Day-** Don't forget to spoil your mum today!



Thursday 20th – **Outdoor Classroom Day** – spend time in the outdoors acknowledging the positive impact of learning outdoors.

Wednesday 26th – **National Sorry Day—**We will remember and commemorate the mistreatment of the country's indigenous population. National Sorry day is held on the 26th.

June

Friday June 4th - **World Environment Day—**On this day, we will learn about why it is so important to be inspired to care for and nurture our environment. We will be having a special visitor come to Little Ducks and help us get closer to nature.

Monday June 7th – **Queensland Day—**Come in dressed up as your favourite Queenslander! Queensland Day celebrations are part of Queensland Week, which focuses on the state's history and development, the people of Queensland, and their achievements. (Queensland day is Sunday 6th)

Policy Review's

We value your feedback. Our policies in review are:



- Nappy Changing policy.
- Handwashing policy.
- Immunisation
- Infectious disease.
- Emergency lockdown intruder alert procedure.

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

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 the children to grasp the ability before moving on. The activities have brought delight to the children as their enthusiasm shone as we first began exploring balancing as we explore our new environment. Over the last few months, we focused on Kicking and Side-stepping/sliding. At first, the children 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 Galloping and jumping.

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

Though our Nursery and Senior Nursery friends love music, which brought delight to them, we have used music to help our nursery friends learn the different skills and have begun to see them incorporate them within their play.

We have also introduced Pilates and stretching to our routine as a warm up and cool down before the Move and Groove Sessions. Our knowledge of Pilates was gained from training with Kids Heart Pilates. This Pilates poses a focus on a variety of movement to encourage the children to be active and support the refocusing of the children 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 chair pose. We have also been doing a few other poses: the superhero, spiders web, snake, cat and dog stretching as well as working on our breathing. In the beginning, the children find the activities a bit of a challenge but continue to persist until they overcome the challenges.



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".

I can't wait to see where our Move and Groove journey will take us.

Move and Groove

Officer,

Megan.





Art Immersion

Our Art Immersion modules have seen some beautiful results and very creative works of art over the past few weeks. In March we focused on art using patterns, seeing lots of shapes and colours being used to teach children about patterns through art.

In April we shifted to water based art. Using spray bottles and water paint was a popular choice to create beautiful blends of colour. Moving into May we will be focusing on art using nature and we are looking forward to seeing the children's creations.







Sustainability Program

Little Ducks New Farm Sustainability's focus for the last month has been about gardening. Gardening encourages children to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment by developing an increased understanding of the interdependence between land, people and plants. It all started with weeding, planting and then caring of our gardens.

We begin with weeding as our children were keen on cleaning up our garden to provide spaces for the new plants. They helped pulling the dead plants out, digging, watering and adding fresh dirt in the garden.

The children enjoyed making their own plant pots with used papers and then had the opportunity to decorate them. Paper pots entrench the idea of sustainability. We used scrap paper to make pots that will completely break down and minimise waste while helping us to experience plant growth. The pots were used in planting new seeds. The steps for planning seeds were role modelled for the children then the children followed the steps beautifully. They took care of their seeds until they grew into seedlings. It is a perfect timing to start gardening too because Woolworths has brought back their "Discovery Garden" seedling kits which most of our children used to grow their own seedlings.

Our beautiful gardens were looked after well by watering promptly and encouraging children to use their gentle touch to explore.

For the coming months we will continue to look after our garden, measuring how much our plants have grown and to use these for a lot of experiences with gardening to encourage children to explore relationships with living and nonliving things and observe, notice and respond to changes in our environment.

Ms. Charmel
Sustainability Officer







Snr Nursery—Ground Floor

We have experienced so much learning, growing and development in all areas of the Senior nursery room so far this year. Senior nursery children never stop exploring new experiences and we constantly watch their capabilities improve.



A strong sense of identity was seen within our Senior nursery children. They seem to be more and more comfortable each day and have formed a good bond with all the educators. Every day we hear lots of giggles and laughter and see the children sharing and playing in our outdoor area. Children worked on various art experiences such as making patterns, water art using different materials which allowed them to express their creativity while incorporating their sensory abilities and fine motor skills. A strong connection among peers is noticed as they understand emotions and takes steps in building up care, empathy and respect towards each other.



Connecting to their world, senior nursery children takes initiative in watering the plants daily and getting closer to the nature through various activities. They enjoyed planting various seeds to understand the process of gardening and even had fun to taste them through our garden to plate experience by making a mint watermelon lemonade as well as mixed salads during meals.

We also celebrated events like Harmony day, Waitangi, Easter, Holi, Anzac day and enjoyed coming together as a group to enrich their knowledge. Senior nursery children did their handprint tracing and cut outs to make a big flower for the harmony day to show the unity. They also enjoyed playing an egg hunt with nursery friends and making an Easter card using chicks and egg stamps. Sticking cotton balls on the giant bunny in the room was fun. Children also showed great excitement in decorating the Holi Banner with their colourful handprints. It was amazing to see each of their enthusiasm in taking part in various planned activities and embracing different cultures.

A great sense of wellbeing was observed among our senior nursery children in past months. They showed great interest in learning the Road rules and personal hygiene topics.

Communication among the senior nursery children is a growing strength and they are learning many new words each day through their educators, singing songs, and reading books. Most of the children call out peers by their name and takes efforts in using the words like “Please, Thank you, Stop, Help” to express their feelings.
Our children have enthusiastically been involved learner towards many different experiences. Making castle & various shapes in sandpit, constructing using recyclable materials as well as blocks and pretend cooking has been of a great interest. We are happy to see our senior nursery children enriching their learning through their curiosity.



Ms. Siji, Ms Soni

Nursery—Level One

We had a great time in the past months with the Nursery babies showing a great participation towards their learning and development.

All our Nursery babies have been displaying a strong sense of identity as they all have built a very strong connection with their educators and peers across the centre. It has been wonderful to see how all our Nursery babies have the sense of belonging and respond towards their social and physical environment. They also have been developing skills towards interacting with others with care, empathy and respect. We have been observing this when the children greet each other on arrival in the morning. It is lovely to see all the children even the non-verbal children move toward each other smile, play and babble with each other as they arrive each day. This shows that they have made strong connections with each other.

Connecting to their world, our babies are exploring this topic in all different ways with their educators. Understanding and acknowledging diversity, we continue to learn each day through songs, stories, music and greetings from different parts of the world. Celebrating different festivals from around the world like Waitangi, Easter, Holi and others. Over the week, our babies participated in several experiences to enhance and extend their learning about cultural diversity. Our babies did piupiu skirt and sand art for Waitangi Day, egg hunting, potato egg prints for Easter and we smeared each other with colourful powders and water balloons and made “ladoo” for Holi. It was amazing to see how stunningly all our babies have shown a great interest to embrace the diversity and participate in different learning experiences around this topic.

For wellbeing of our babies, it is our pleasure to share with you all how all the babies have shown a great sense of wellbeing through the past months. Our Move and Groove program have been a great help towards different physical movements skills (both gross and fine motor). Our Move and Groove focus for the month has been kicking, the babies have been exploring this skill by using balloons and soft balls.



Babies are budding when it comes to their emotional wellbeing as well which is reflected in how brilliantly they share humour, joy and fulfillment. They have shown a great interest to accept new challenges, make new discoveries, and celebrate their own efforts and achievements as most of our babies have unlocked new milestones like walking, crawling and rolling over.



Our babies have enthusiastically been involved learner towards many different experiences. Music has been a great interest. Each week, we ensure that at group times we have been adding new songs to learn and stories to read. Singing is a wonderful way to encourage babies’ language and communication skills as evident by imitating and responding when given prompts to continue singing.

We are delighted to see all our babies learning and developing to the best of their abilities, interest and skills and we are looking forward to the coming days to support and encourage our babies’ curious little minds.

Ms. Charmel, Ms. Suchi and Ms Shivani

Toddlers—Level Two

We have had a blast over the last month getting to know each other and build bonds with each other and the children within the room. The children are building a strong and secure bond with the educators and children within the room. I have observed the children's interest grow as we continue to explore the world around us while observing as they come out of their shell, building many beautiful memories together.

Art has been of considerable interest for the children as we explore various techniques and ways to explore and express Art, Water within Art has led to playful moments that brightened the children's faces. Exploring water through Art created many sensory experiences for the children. Helps to build neural connections in the brain, encourages the development of motor skills and supports language development , and is a way of the children expressing their creativity but most of all it is fun and engaging something that goes a long way to increasing the capabilities of our Toddlers.

The children have grown and learned about the natural environment as we grew and learned about various plants. The children have enjoyed growing and learning about plants and how they grow, in the process we also explored healthy eating as we learnt about the types of vegetables and fruit that grow within the garden, and we used items produced within a garden to create something new.
he children have had a blast as they celebrated Holi with everyone in the centre; the children enjoyed learning about the festival of lights and how they say "Happy Holi "every time we placed coloured powder on each other. The celebration of Holi has become a tradition at Little Ducks and is a time of year that we come together as a community and strengthen our sense of belonging and therefore creating a feeling of security for the children.

The last month we have had a visit from Henny Penny, we received a few eggs to observe for two weeks this gave us the opportunity to explore the life cycle of chickens. The children were so excited to see them hatch and grow bigger every day.



The children's confidence is continually growing as we add and build on their fine and gross motor skills within the move and groove program as we go into galloping from side-stepping/sliding and kicking. Each Friday all children are invited to participate in a Move and Groove class with a particular focus to build our large muscles, encourage coordination and have fun in our small community.





It has been wonderful getting to know and explore the world around us with the children.

Love Miss Megan

Junior Kindy—Level Two



It's been a busy couple of months here in Junior Kindy, the children have been engaging in an array of different activities and discovering new interests as the weeks have gone on. Our Henny Penny hatching program was hosted on level two this year, which the Junior Kindy have enjoyed as it has allowed them to observe the hatching progress closely. It's been wonderful watching the children taking on the initiative to check on the chickens throughout the day.

Here in Junior Kindy the children have been investigating the STEM topic of Optics, this covers light, colour, shadows and reflections. We have started with the colour and light aspects of this topic as these two links together in a lot of ways, the children have been investigating colours through experiments and investigation play. As we acquired a set of UV torches here in Junior Kindy the children have been exploring light in new and exciting ways, having created an investigation wall that has UV activated paint the children have been investigating what colours, shapes and letters they can find on the wall by shining the light on areas of the discovery wall.

The children have also been provided with opportunities to include more of their own thoughts, ideas and opinions into their environment, at the end of the week we have began to have a reflection group time where the children are asked about the weeks learning journey. This is a great time for the children to voice what activities they enjoyed, which ones they found challenging and any activities that they wanted to have been involved in but had missed . This has become part of our planning cycle for the coming week, the children have been excited to hear or later discover that those activities that asked for are happening within the classroom.

The marble run play set has also become a very popular activity here in Junior Kindy, Being able to construct, take apart and investigate how all the pieces work individually and when combined, discovering new ways to combine these pieces and observing as children around them use the same pieces yet in different ways. These aspects began to become part of all the construction play within the room, the children are becoming more interest in combing multiple different resources together into one piece. Discovering how to combine natural and man-made material toys, it's been amazing watching as the children have taken what excited them about the marble run set and transferring it into other activities. Being able to make new discoveries, as well as finding new ways to play and experiment with resources that they know an have used many times before.



As we move forward into the year and continuing our learning journey here in Junior Kindy, the children have been sharing new interests from the world around them that will begin to take shape in the classroom as some of our environments will change.



We can't wait to see where the coming months will take us on our learning Journey.

Mr. Jamie

Kindergarten—Level Three

It is a great moment to share all the wonderful learning which has occurred in the Kindergarten classroom for the past two months.



We have welcomed many new families and children to Kindy in 2021 as well as inviting new incursions and extra curricular activities to the program, giving all children the opportunity to experience meeting new faces and making new friends and connections. The children have been more confident in approaching familiar and unfamiliar people in their environment as we introduce and explain why new people have joined us and what children might do or expect from these people. We have also been working along side of children modelling ways to seek help, interact with new people, engage in new play or group situations. Other than planned experiences, children are free to express their ideas and we provide them with resources based on their ideas which helps them engage in new learning experiences further encouraging their sense of belonging. Building relationships with educators and peers has been our focus recently, we have encouraged and supported the children intentionally through interactions and routine activities. On a daily basis, we are witnessing children showing empathy and care towards other children and sharing their learning experiences with others and help and attempt to solve problems.



Children are given ample opportunities to be physically active. To keep our children engaged and motivated towards their physical development, on a regular basis we provide a range of simple to complex activities to build their fine motor skills as well as their cognitive development. Children have demonstrated their gross motor skills climbing up and down the obstacle course, and the challenging experiences planned for them. We also venture to our outdoor space on ground floor to spend some time connecting with nature and breathing fresh air.

Children are building on their vocabulary skills as we read to them daily, reading is the most valuable way to encourage vocabulary, reading and comprehension skills. Group time has been a great place for this where children listen and contribute to conversations and a many of the children are showing wonderful comprehension skills by retelling the story in complex sentences . It is amazing to see this happening when we read the books that children bring in to share. We have been engaging children in pre literacy and pre numeracy experiences whenever the opportunity arises and extend their learning through play activities. We have also intentionally modelled how to hold a pencil, encouraged the children to make marks on their art works and explained how reading and writing begins from left to right through reading story books and marking from one end and moving towards the other end



Kindergarten—Level Three

To encourage their markings, a note book will be added near the parents sign in and out sheet for the children to write their names on arrival. Parents, please encourage and appreciate you child when children attempt to make marks. For numeracy, children have been recognising and naming numbers. They have been demonstrating understanding that when counting each number relates to one specific thing being count

We also had fun celebrating various events in the last month which gave us an opportunity to teach our children cultural diversity. We celebrated one famous Indian festival, Holi, the festival of colours and sharing love. We celebrated this event on ground floor where all the classes were able to join together in the messy play experience playing with water and colours wishing each other “Happy Holi”

We celebrated World Health Day to celebrate our community helpers, especially those who are in medical field by profession. We explored how to keep ourselves healthy. We got a day filled with lot of experiences like group time, pretend doctors play set up, cooking activity, and learning about the Food pyramid.

Henny Penny Chickens currently have given children an opportunity to learn, witness and connect to the natural world around and how to treat with respect and care. The Life cycle of the Chicken has taken a part in out Farm animal exploration in our classroom. We have learned the part of an egg and the embryo where the new life of a chick begins. We also used technology to visualise the growth of an embryo into a chick before hatching.



Included in our Kindergarten program is a different extracurricular program aimed specifically at the Kindergarten developmental stage and linked to the Education Queensland Kindergarten Guidelines. In term One the Children have been attending Lab science kids program every Monday. This involved the children in hands on experiences thinking, testing and evaluating. This program will end in mid-May. For term 2, Raw Art has just begun, Raw Art encourages the children’s creativity, each week creating a new masterpiece and investigating a new skill. The children are required to listen to the instructions from the art teacher, follow these instructions all designed to encourage them to build their creative skills.



We look forward to continuing the learning and connections that have begun in Term One through the remainder of the year as we enjoy our last year of early learning before formal schooling begins!

Miss Suder and Mr Nicholas

Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

Recipe of the Month

Healthier Anzac biscuits

Ingredients:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup plain flour
- 1/4 cup wholemeal flour
- 1/2 cup dessicated coconut
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons golden syrup
- 1/4 cup canola or rice bran oil
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
  2 tablespoons water



Method:

- Preheat oven to 180°C and line a baking tray with baking paper.
- Combine oats, flours, coconut and sugar in a bowl.
- Combine golden syrup, oil and water in a microwave-proof bowl and stir to combine. Microwave on HIGH for 25–30 seconds. Whisk in baking soda until well combined (it might foam up a little).
- Add syrup mixture to dry ingredients and mix well. Drop teaspoonfuls of mixture onto baking tray, leaving space between them (they will spread). Flatten with your fingers or a fork.
- Bake for 10–15 minutes, until golden. Remove to a wire rack to cool.

Community Connections

We would like to invite all families and friends to—

Early Years Community Connections Event
Term 2 2021

PRACTICAL INFO SERIES

EARLY YEARS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Connecting community, supporting children and family wellbeing.

PARENT WITH THE BRAIN IN MIND WORKSHOP

FREE

From our first interactions with a child, we help them build capacity and resilience to help manage the ups and downs of life.

This workshop will focus on:

- how we can support healthy brain development
- what is happening in the brain when a child experiences stress
- supporting children to manage big emotions
- finding calm within

When: Thursday 13th May 2021
Time: 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Where: Community Place: 17b Skyring Terrace, Newstead (parking at rear of building)
Cost: FREE

Register Here

LIMITED SPACES AVAILBLE - BOOK TODAY

SCAN ME

Hope to see you there!