Little Ducks Childcare
May / June 2021

A note from your Centre Manager

Hello to our wonderful families,

We are now in term 2 of our year, we hope that everyone had wonderful time off over Easter and are now enjoying our Public Holidays in April and May! We are settled into our routines and establishing wonderful connections with our educators in our rooms.

As we have had shift with our leadership team at Little Ducks Wilston, we will be focusing on developing stronger relationships with our families here. Kirstee will be stepping up as the Acting Centre Manager with the ongoing support from Alex who has stepped back into her previous role as the Assistant Centre Manager. Melissa, our Centre Support Officer, is also still working closely with Kirstee and Alex to continue on building our Centre and strengthening our relationships with the community and local schools.
So, please we would love all feedback to continuously make improvements to our Centre and incorporate more family values and beliefs into how we operate within our community.

We have had so much fun over the last few weeks celebrating events that important to all of our staff here at Wilston, this has brought out team so much joy sharing their culture with their peers and our families.



As we have moved into Term 2, our wonderful educators are focusing on updating children's goals and reviewing the progress for our wonderful little ones from the previous term. You would have received a feedback form, so please return these as soon as possible for our team to focus on developing plans for the coming weeks.

Please continue to read all of the fun and exciting events that will be happening over the next month and read about what has been happening within our rooms.

Regards,
Kirstee Foyster

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Upcoming Events!

May

Monday, 3rd– **Paskha**
We will celebrate Orthodox Easter Day, which is a celebration in Russia

Tuesday, 4th– **National Play Outdoors Day**
Let's spend the day playing outdoors with our natural resources

Wednesday, 5th– **Kodomo No Hi**
Japan National Children's Day

Friday, 7th– **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea**
You're invited to our Mother's day afternoon tea– let's celebrate you as a mother with some fun filled activities

Don't forget to Spoil mum on Sunday, 9th for Mother's Day

Friday, 14th– **International Family Day**
Let's get crafty and celebrate our family by creating family Portraits

Thursday, 20th– **Outdoor Classroom Day**
Let's take our activities outdoors, and watch the clouds as they flow by

Wednesday, 26th– **National Sorry Day**
We will remember and commemorate the mistreatment of our Countries Indigenous Population

Thursday, 27th– **Australia's Biggest Morning Tea**
We will be hosting a Morning tea and inviting our families to come join.

Thursday, 24th– Reconciliation Week Begins











Policy Reviews

We value your input and feedback
The policies/procedures in review during May and June are...

Incident, injury
Handwashing
Infectious disease
Nappy changing
Fee & holiday

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 ...



Chloe has begun her Child Care journey in January 2021. During this time, she has begun to develop skills to foster children's learning and development, build and maintain relationships with children from 6 weeks to 5 years and having the ability to work collaboratively with the Educators and families within our Centre.

She has impressed her peers and trainer as she completes her assessment with the knowledge she develops as she works to support her studies.

Nursery Notes

Hi Nursery families,

The past few weeks have been very enjoyable and during this time Miss Milly and I have built strong bonds with the children while engaging them in routines and play.

The children in the Nursery are building on their sense of identity and responding positively to our learning activities. We have been using the family pictures to help them to extend their language skills as they now point to their own pictures and say 'Mama 'and 'Dada'. We have also being inviting older siblings for a play in a small yard to build on the children's sense of identity. Besides this we have being engaging in role play during which we have pretended to look after dolls, we have cooked in home corner and we have sung songs using the hand puppets.

The children have also proved that they are connected with and contribute to their world as they have engaged in our cultural celebrations during the past few weeks. We have engaged in art and craft by celebrating St Patrick's Day and Harmony Day and during our celebration of the Indian festival of 'Holi' the children felt the texture of herbal colours and applied the colours to their hands and legs. We also celebrated Easter by decorating Easter egg shapes and during our celebration of Baisakhi the children wore yellow and planted seeds just like they do in India at the start of spring.





The Nursery children are doing very well at refining their gross motor skills and we have being encouraging this by setting up simple obstacle course outside, placing books on the top of the table for them to read while standing and holding on to the table and using coupe cars to support them while they try to walk independently. Now that winter is around the corner we have being encouraging them to maintain good hand hygiene by getting them to wash their hands often during the day and especially after transitioning indoor and after meals.

Nursery Notes



We have been encouraging learning of numbers and alphabets by singing the ABC song and using the abacus for counting. We also have been encouraging children to learn numbers by engaging them in some of their favorite songs such as 'Five green and speckled frogs', and 'Three little ducks went out one day'. The children have engaged in activities during which they have learned about colours using coloured felt circles and they extended their learning when they tried to match a felt circle against colours of things they see around room. During our regular painting activities the children have displayed good use of their fine motor skills and its these same motor skills that they use during every day activities like feeding themselves using cutlery. The theorist Jean Piaget stated that in the Sensory-motor stage of their lives (birth to 2 years) children use their physical or motor skills and their senses to explore their world and develop their cognitive understandings. In line with this theory we have engaged the children in a sensory play activities during with they have splashed about in water, modelled play-doh and felt the texture of clay while decorating it.

I believe that the children extending their vocabulary will lead to them becoming more confident during their day as they will be able to express their needs in words. It could be just one word such as "Bottle", "Milk" or "Bed" but it will help Miss Milly and I fulfil their needs better. To achieve this we have been engaging them in conversation during the day, involving them in reading books and encouraging them to repeat easy words such as their names and the names of colours.

Going forward we will still encourage the children to engage in our learning activities because the more they explore, discover and experiment, the more their cognitive development will increase. We will continue fine motor skill play and with those who are showing signs of beginning to walk independently we will facilitate this and help them refine their gross motor skills. If there are any activities that you would like to be done in the Nursery room please come and have a chat with Miss Milly or with me and we will try and implement these in the Nursery Room.

All our dedication
Miss Sunakshi and Miss Milly

Senior Nursery Natter!

April has been a fun month for our Senior Nursery kids! This past month we have been working on building up self-confidence and child autonomy, learning more about nature and animals, and plenty of art to keep up those motor skills and creativity!



The senior nursery room has had a big focus on child autonomy this month, letting the children dictate the amount of outdoor or indoor play, as well as making decisions like what kind of art we should do. Also, we're making a direct effort to tailor the activities we do to child interests, such as sand play with toy diggers and dump trucks, which has been mentioned by a few parents as a special interest. Growing our autonomy and decision-making skills help children feel safe and supported, and some of our newer friends more comfortable here at Little Ducks.

There has been so much art lately! Our little friends have had opportunities to work with paint, stamps, water-colours, pencils, crayons, handprints, and even bubble-wrap! Art is a great way to build up confidence and creativity, as well as fine and gross motor skills, and everyone has been taking great strides in all three of those this past month.

But of course the big one this month was the chickens! Our friends here in Senior Nursery LOVED visiting the baby chicks and petting their soft feathers. Seeing the chickens and learning to be gentle while petting them was a great way to help our little ones with their gentle hands, and helping to better understand taking turns. Many of our senior nursery children have carried their gentle hands and lessons in turn taking through into the room, even now that their chicken friends have gone home.



All in all, this month has been great for working on our self-reliance and our social skills, with all of the kids making great progress in building friendships and trust with one another. Leaning into our creative side as well has been amazing to see; Some of the children have discovered something they really enjoy, as they work on some essential skills as we move forward in the year.

April has been a blast for the educators and kids alike in Senior Nursery, and I think we're all excited to see what kind of fun May and June bring to us!

Miss Madeline & Ms Mel.

Toddler Tales!

Hi Toddler Families,

The months of March and April have been very enjoyable in the Toddler room as the children have actively participated in cultural celebrations and have thus broadened their understanding of the world around them. The children have also been encouraged to achieve their Term 1 goals which were broadly to build leadership skills in the Toddler room or to build a sense of belonging within the room and the big yard. They have each accomplished these goals and in the next week or two we will be setting new goals for them which they will be encouraged to work towards during the next term. Below is a snapshot of the learning that has been planned and implemented in the Toddler room.





Each of the Toddlers has shown that they have a strong sense of identity as they have engaged in role play activities such as being chefs and being the teacher. They are now quite happy to take turns at sitting on a chair and reading their favourite book to their friends. For the most part they look at the pictures and try and make meaning of the story but that is exactly how children start to engage with texts and thereafter start reading. The Toddlers have also warmly welcomed Miss Thuy who is now going to be the Assistant Educator in the Toddler Room. Miss Thuy is quite keen on encouraging the child to participate in our various learning activities during the day because she firmly believes that the more they do, the more they will learn.

During the past few weeks, the children at the centre have immersed themselves in many cultural celebrations. We celebrated St. Patricks Day, Harmony Day and Easter in March and during our celebration of the Indian festival of Holi the children enjoyed feeling the texture of herbal powder colours and colouring themselves with it. On Harmony day we learned that we are all friends and that though we may look different deep inside we are all the same. We discussed and agreed that we should use kind words with each other and use gentle hands with each other and with our resources. The children had a lot of fun wearing their Easter bonnets and walking around in a parade to celebrate Easter. During Baisakh which is the celebration of spring in India the children felt the texture of seeds and planted some seeds in the garden.

And then came the chickens. The Toddlers were quite interested to observe visual representations of the life cycle of a chicken and were intrigued when they could actually observe the eggs hatching into chickens and the chickens growing bigger. We brought a chicken or two over to the room some days and re-visited our conversation of the need to use gentle hands while handling animals and while playing with our friends. The Toddlers were not happy to see the chickens go but were re-assured that since the chickens are now big they will be going to Old MacDonald's farm.

Toddler Tales! Continued





The swings outside have proved to be very popular with the Toddlers and its nice to see many of them now confidently able to sit independently on the swings and kick themselves off. We are extending their sense of balance by encouraging them to make considered risks during play and use the flexible stilts, the tilt board and the stepping stones all of which helps improve their sense of balance.

Each of the Toddlers is a confident and involved learner and to instill an interest in learning we have been engaging them in simple experiments such as 'do items float or sink', 'what items hold more water' and investigating natural things around us such as parts of a plant and parts of flowers.

The theorist Lev Vygotsky saw children as active partners in their own learning, with this participation growing as their ability to interact with others develops. Vygotsky therefore emphasized the importance of language development, learning and teaching to the child's cognitive development. Keeping in mind this theory we continue to engage the children in conversation and book reading to encourage them to extend their vocabulary and we also scaffold their learning by first showing them how something is to be done and then letting them try it for themselves.

During the next few weeks we will be focusing on the Toddlers becoming strong in their social and emotional wellbeing. We will talk about emotions and how to recognise if someone is sad and the things we might be able to do to make someone who is sad feel better. This conversation will be an extension of our current gentle hands, gentle words conversation. We will also continue with the children's learning and experimentation with focus on cause and effect using magnets and forces. Further, we will engage the children in starting to recognize alphabets and numbers especially the important ones such as the first alphabet of their name and the number corresponding to their age. Now that the group is settled in the room we will also be encouraging them to become more confident and express their opinions such as when we ask them "What did you do during the weekend?" or "What song would you like to dance to today?" But I do hope though that the answer to the last question is not ALWAYS "Baby Shark".

All our dedication,
Miss Belmira and Miss Thuy.

Junior Kindy Jumble!

Dear parents,

The year has gone so fast and we are already in May 2021 we would like to let you know what Junior Kindy has been doing for the last couple of months.

During the month of April we had another monthly project called: Animal Project which we brough educational videos, activities, books, photos to share from the families to us. We spoke about animals curiosity, lifestyle. habitats and where the animals come from. The children got highly involved drawing their favourite animal, using sustainable materials. We also increased the communication skills by practicing public speeches in front of their teachers and friends at group time to share their knowledge about their favourite.

For sustainability we planted lots of seeds in our terrarium, we did a microbio compost, watered the garden, planted the flowers and seeds using soil and watched them grow with our peers and teachers. We also did a lot of art using a diversity of recycling materials such as making our own collage, making bowling pins out of the plastic bottles that we recycle from morning tea and afternoon tea. We also watched videos about the plant life cycle and we learned a lot by educational videos, images about photosynthesis.

For the STEAM of the month of April we did lots of experiments with magnets, water, parachutes. Where children learnt more about the concept of force and the importance of this.



For Move and Groove we worked a lot on our balance, gross and fine motor skills by walking the wooden plank outside, rolling the ball to our peers on the floor and trying to catch with a little bowl, we walked zigzag on the floor without stepping on the line and we also walked on stepping stool without falling and did some bowling. We had the Delta gymnastics over to our room and we did ballet, stretching with music, danced and learnt some of gymnastic movements.

Junior Kindy Jumble!



Great news and exciting projects coming for the month of May we will be having the health eating habits project of the month because it is essential for your child's good health, growth and development. We will touch bases regarding healthy eating, eating the rainbow, healthy ice cream, fruits, vegetables and leaf green, healthy snacks and lots of other different foods that draw their attention using activities, educational videos, books and making homemade ice cream with them using frozen fruits and water.

The children have been very interested reading stories and sharing with their peers and teachers at Junior Kindy. To improve communication, public speech and creativity we will be encouraging the children to pick a book of their choices and tell the stories to their peers of what they think is happening on it. The idea is to have all of the children involved and finish the story together to encourage them to also have autonomy on their choices.

For the calendar of events right on the beginning starting on the 5th of May we have the Kodomo no hi (Japan national children day) which we will be watching an educational video to understand the cultural diversity. On the 14th we will be celebrating international family day and by celebrating our family creating a portrait, the 20th May we will have a outdoor classroom day which we will be spending time in the outdoor acknowledgment the positive impact of learning outdoors and on the 26th of May its the national sorry day and we will remember and commemorate the mistreatment of the country indigenous population.



Til next times, Fran and Nathy

Preschool Pride!

Room Focus…

During March and April we focused on different types of machines. We explored how inclined planes help us to move heavy loads downhill. We learned that when we use a lever, we can lift loads that may be too heavy for us to pick. We played with toys with wheels, including gears to learn about how they help transport things. We used pulleys to lift and move objects above the ground. We also learned how to tighten and loosen screws and bolts with tools and our hands. In the coming months we are using the interest in machines to help explore forces such as gravity, magnetism and air resistance.





Thank you for encouraging your children to participate in our Show and Tell. I was pleased to see a good range of machines, books about machines and drawings being shared with the class. I feel that reading is important not only for literacy development, but as a platform to start discussions, share opinions and use our evaluation skills and even though our book topic is finishing in April, I enjoy sharing stories any time.

We have been helping the children to develop their social skills by working on conflict resolution and problem solving. When faced with an issue, we are encouraging the children to use their words to express themselves, rather than their hands. We are asking them open ended questions like…What do you need……, How can I help you…What were you trying to say to your friend….. ? We are modelling how to ask another child if they have finished with a resource, before taking it.

During French we have been learning the vocabulary for machines, for example velo (bicycle) and camion (truck). This matched our work on machines very well.

Preschool Pride!

The children enjoyed the science incursion, based on water and colours. Some lucky children got to take part in the experiments by helping out the presenter. They watched as the presenter made new colours by mixing liquids, she made colours appear by spraying water and tricked the children by using absorbent crystals to soak up water. The children enjoyed trying to catch the fog, created by liquid nitrogen at the end of the show.





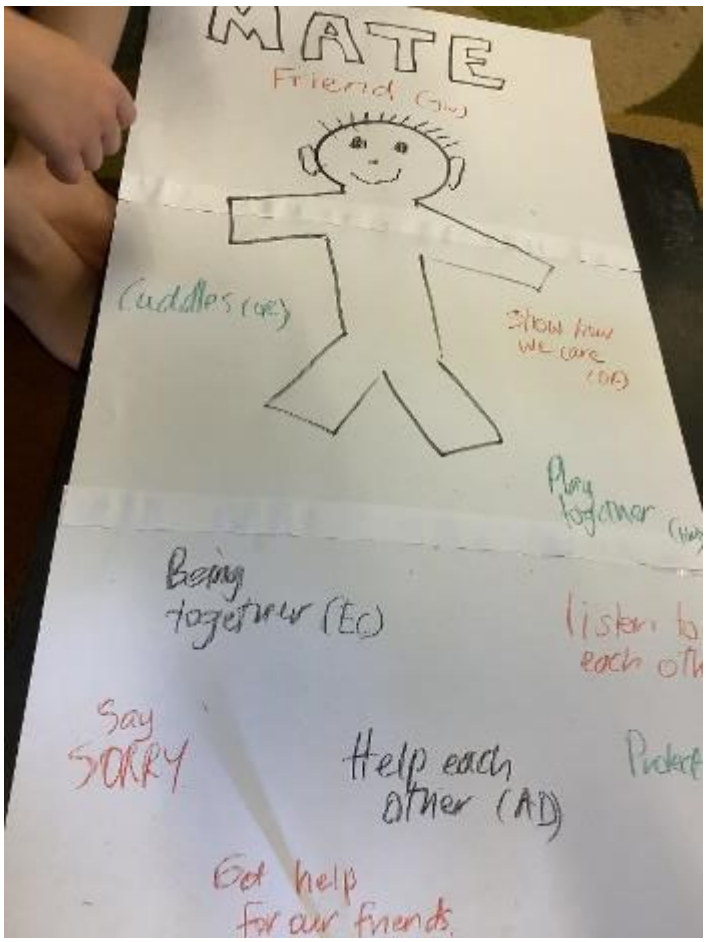


Librarian Kat from the Grange Library came to share some stories and songs with the children. They joined in enthusiastically with calling out PLOP each time they heard it one story. During Old MacDonald they made the animal noises for each of the farm animals.

The Henny Penny Chicken hatching program visited us again this year. The children demonstrated how they can care for other creatures by handling them gently and being keen to help with maintaining the food and water. While handling the chickens the children engaged in discussions about the chickens, for example how they were moving, what they sounded like, felt like.



Preschool Pride!



To commemorate Anzac Day we read a beautiful story called Anzac Ted and focused on how mateship was important for those who had to go to war.

Coming up……

We are looking forward to welcoming the Mums for some fun activities for Mother's Day this year, so please look out for more information coming soon.
We are setting new goals for Term 2 and the forms have been sent home with your children. Please return them as soon as possible.

Regards, Natasha

Lunch Box Ideas

Here are some simple ideas to add top you little ones Lunch Box

Mini Banana Muffins

Ingredients

2 Smashed Bananas
180g (2/3 cup) thick and creamy vanilla yoghurt
150g (1 cup) self-raising flour

Method

Step 1: Preheat oven to 180C/160C fan forced. Grease a 24-hole mini muffin pan.
Step 2: Combine yoghurt and banana in a large bowl. Gradually stir in flour until just combined.
Step 3: Spoon mixture into muffin holes. Bake for 15 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Set aside in the pan for 2 minutes to cool slightly before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.





Mini Sweet Potato Pizza Bites

Ingredients

4 medium sweet potatoes, sliced to ¼ inch thick rounds
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1 jar pizza sauce
Bag mozzarella cheese

Add any additional toppings

Method

Step 1: Preheat the oven to 200c
Step 2: Arrange the sweet potato slices on a baking sheet and drizzle with olive oil
Step 3: Roast them for 10 minutes before flipping and roasting on the other side for 5 minutes
Step 4: After the 15 minutes is up, spoon about 1-2 teaspoons of sauce on each round and top with mozzarella cheese
Step 5: Slide the baking sheet back into the oven and bake for an additional 5 minutes, or until the cheese melts.