

Little Ducks Childcare New Farm

June / July 2021

A note from your Centre Manager

Over the past few months our educator team, management team, children, families and community have been busy reviewing our Centre Philosophy. All stakeholders have taken the time to look at it and to make suggestions for changes. Through this process we have republished our Centre Philosophy with one very important change!

We have included an increased focus on positive parent interactions and a focus on working with parents for better outcomes for children We have recognised mostly through the training we have completed with Pathways to Resilience and self reflection the importance of connection between: **outcomes for children** and **families, educators and children feeling a sense of belonging and connection.**

Our educators work hard to build strong connections with families—we believe that if families feel connected, trust the educators and have a sense of belonging to the service this will be projected to the children. The children will in turn also feel a sense of belonging, making them feel comfortable to explore, be curious and to learn.

This cycle works in the other direction as well— educators work hard to build a strong sense of belonging for children, believing if the child is happy and comfortable parents are happier and trusting and connect with the educator providing opportunities for the children to explore, be curious and to learn.

We do this by placing an importance on greeting families, encouragement of stay and play visits, working with families on goals for children, parent information sessions and parent consultation.

This has also impacted on our Vision statement which we have extended to:
Educational Excellence through the Power of Play based learning and positive interactions with families.

If you are interested in this philosophy and the opportunity to be part of a community putting a focus on positive interactions and working with families and children we would love to tell you more. Just give us a call.

Michele Kovchenko, Centre Manager

55 McLachlan Street
New Farm
Phone (07) 3252 1841

Kindergarten Approved Program
Queensland Government

newfarm@littleducks.com.au

Calling!

All Early Childhood Professionals!

"Nappy-off" challenge!

Looking for the industries best Early Childhood Professionals to join us for a fun evening out!

When: 6:00pm - Friday 17th September 2021
Where: Little Ducks Childcare New Farm
Address: 55 McLachlan Street, New Farm

Enter the inaugural **"Nappy changing challenge"** with great cash prizes for the top 4 placers!

Join us for the very first Little Ducks 'Nappy-Off' Challenge!
Prizes to win!
1st Prize - $1000
2nd Prize - $750
3rd Prize - $300
4th Prize - $200
Trivia - $500

Italian Drinks
"Aperitivo Style"



Get your team ready and register your interest today!
Email: cassie@littleducks.com.au

Proudly sponsored by... Little Ducks Childcare

Educator Spotlight

Miss Shivani

Nursery Educator



Miss Shivani joined the Level 1 Nursery Team one year ago. Although then new to the Early Childhood Education Sector Miss Shivani has quickly settled brilliantly into the role making strong connections will our babies. Even children visiting for a tour seem to gravitate to Miss Shivani who is always approachable and caring. Miss Shivani has two small children of her own so is very much in tune with parents and children in the early years.

What is your country of birth? India

How many years have you worked in childcare for? 2 years

How many of those years have been with Little Ducks? 1 year.

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

What is your favorite vacation? Singapore

Who is your favourite superhero and why? Askay Kumar because he is genuinely a nice person.

Upcoming Events

July



Thursday 1st July—**Canada Day**

4th—11th July—**NAIDOC week**. We will recognise this important event. We are excited to welcome Miss Toni to teach us more about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Tuesday 13th July—**Uncle Boomerang incursion**—Uncle Boomerang will also visit to help us to recognise NAIDOC week.

Friday 23rd July —**PJ Day**—wear your favourite Pyjamas to raise awareness of foster Care.

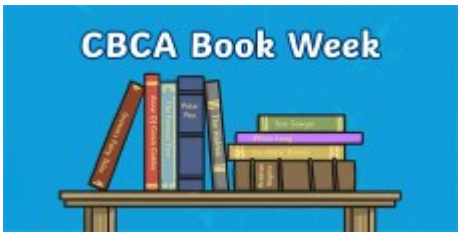
Wednesday 26th – **National Sorry Day—**We will remember and commemorate the mistreatment of the country's indigenous population. National Sorry day is held on the 26th.

23 July 8 august— O**lympics** –The Olmpics will take place in Tokyo. AT Little Ducks we will bring the Olympics to Kindy by having our own Olympics as part of our Move and Groove—Physical Development Program.

Aug

Wednesday 11th August—**Ekka Public Holiday**—Centre Closed

3rd—9th August— **Dental Health Week**—our children will learn about the importance of Dental Health through resources borrowed from the Queensland Museum loans program.



21st—27th August—**Book Week**— Bring along your favourite story to share and dress up as your favourite book character on Wednesday 25th . We will also have a visit from New Farm Library.

Policy Review's

We value your feedback. Our policies in review are:

- Parent involvement and participation
- Orientation—children and families
- Environmental and sustainability Strategy
- Child Protection.



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.

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.

Over the last few months, we focused on Hopping and Galloping. At first, the children seemed to find these a bit of a challenge, but we continued and took each step slowly to understand what to do. Throughout the lessons, the children's confidence grew, and with the help of excellent teachers 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 the Olympics are coming up, we will be doing our own Olympics that will consist of three modules we have completed, and in the last week, we will have our own Olympic games.! In August we will also explore a module on Yoga, we tell a story using both verbal and yoga movement to tell the story.

The Kindy children love to challenge themselves and are rapid learners; their confidence has grown over the different lessons I need to continue to challenge them. They love to be challenged, and they continue to persist until they have got it right. The children have enjoyed hopping to the dinosaur prints as we incorporate numeracy and colour recognition to scaffold the children's learning further.

Though our nursery and senior nursery friends love music, which brought delight to them, our nursery friends enjoyed learning the different skills as they began to incorporate them within their play.

Toddlers, Junior Kindy's 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. For example, they have enjoyed exploring various types of hopping, as we hop, like multiple animals.. The children have enjoyed Move and Groove, laughing and giggling as they explore and learn together.
To 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

We are halfway through the year now and so far we have covered a range of topics for Art Immersion that have allowed the children to explore art in different ways. This has included cultural art, patterns, and water art. Throughout May we explored Nature Art, a great follow-up to the use of water in April. It was terrific to see the use of natural resources in everyone's artwork throughout the month, including sand, rocks, wood, leaves, and sticks. This meant using resources we would not normally use and thinking outside the box. Each room came up with different, creative ways to make use of these natural resources.

In June we continued to focus on caring for the environment and using resources other than what we might normally use by tackling recycled art. This allowed the rooms to take a look at what would otherwise go in the bin, such as carboard, paper, and plastic bottles, and instead use them for art projects. We had some rooms use cardboard boxes from new resources, some use old magazines to make collages, and even some rooms reusing water to make water-paint.

Moving into July, our Art Immersion focus will be Product Verses Process, which is all about the difference between assisting the children with their artwork to make it look more neat or how we would like it to look, rather than as educators, letting the children explore their creativity without us encouraging the final product to look a certain way. This encourages the children creativity, helps them to explore their skills autonomously, building a sense of agency and encouraging curiosity. I am looking forward to seeing how each room gives the children an opportunity to complete freestyle artwork and discussing it in the next newsletter.



Nick

Art Immersion Officer





Sustainability Program

Little Ducks New Farm Sustainability's focus for the last month has been about composting. Composting encourages children to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment by developing an increased understanding of enlightening them to reality and considering the amount of food waste and organic matter that becomes landfill. Composting reuses these natural resources and creates a rich support for our soil.

We begin to learn the composting process through a video from YouTube in which the process was demonstrated. It was interesting for children to understand the topic as it was a cartoon and it was explained within the children's level. Next was to print photos that show what foods are acceptable in a compost bin. The children have also identified a variety of fruit through pictures.

The Nursery and Senior Nursery children helped in preparing the compost bin, demonstrating how to add the soil and collected fruit scraps to our chosen bin to begin the process. Senior Nursery children took this initiative with confidence and were able to follow the instructions very well. They also assisted the Nursery children in mixing the soil in our compost bin. Kindy extended their learning about composting by getting a bin with a lid on it and taking turns pouring in the soil they had left over from their vegetable garden from last month. Then throughout the month, we have been adding in small scraps of non-citrus fruits and vegetables, such as banana peels and carrots, waiting for them to turn into soil. This is a long process, but when the food scraps have decomposed, It will be use to fertilize the herbs we have growing in our garden.



This month's focus for sustainability is learning about 3 R's (Reuse, Reduce and Recycle). Reusing and recycling things are an exceptional way of helping to reduce waste from the environment.





Ms. Charmel
Sustainability Officer

Snr Nursery—Ground Floor

We love using the newsletter to share all the wonderful learning which has occurred in Senior Nursery for the past two months.

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. Drop-offs are easier and children are working on their self-identity. A strong connection among peers was noticed as they welcomed their new friends from the nursery room wholeheartedly. During our outdoor classroom day, everyone had fun exploring the colourful tunnel and having a lovely sleep in midst of the nature.

Connecting to their world, Senior Nursery children took initiative in sprinkling grass seeds on our garden bed and were amazed to see the fast growing grass. They are excited to touch and feel the texture and care for the plants on a daily basis. We are also learning to use the concept of recycling/reusing on a daily basis and have implemented using an egg carton as a paint palette and milk can for watering the plants. Everyone is enthusiastic to collect the fruit scraps each day to put in our compost bin.



We also celebrated events like Mother's day, Earth Day, National Sorry Day and Philippines Independence Day by coming together in a group and understanding the purpose through colours and art. All were excited to make cards for mums on mother's day, explored natural materials like sand, leaves flowers, ocean animals on eve of Earth day. They also acknowledged the feeling of Aboriginal people by stamping their hands with red, black and blue colours on National sorry day. Also, contributed in making Maruya (Filipino snacks) on the eve of their Independence Day. It was amazing to see each of their enthusiasm in taking part in various planned activities and embracing different cultures.

Our Move and groove program have been a great help towards developing gross motor skills by working on their Galloping and Hopping skills. All of them are quite confident to hop over any obstacles.
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 peers by their name and takes effort in using the words like "Please, Thank you, Stop, Help" to express their feelings.



.
During the week of our Dentist visit we learned on how to rinse our mouth after the meals and read a book on visiting the dentist. We are happy to see our Senior Nursery children enriching their curious minds and taking efforts to learn and refine their knowledge.

Ms. Siji, Ms Soni

Senior Nursery educators

Nursery—Level One

It is wonderful to share all the beautiful learning that happened in the Nursery class for the past two months.

A strong sense of identity was observed within our Nursery children. They seemed to be more comfortable each day and have formed a good relationship and connection with all the educators. Children was able to explore and express their creativity



through variety of art experiences both nature and recycled art which helped them to develop both of their cognitive and fine motor skills. A strong connection among peers were noticed as they interacted with the children from Senior Nursery class enthusiastically. This was noticeable during our outdoor classroom day which everyone was amused exploring the colourful tunnel and having a lovely morning tea in the fresh air.

Connecting to their world, Nursery children took initiative in watering our plants and sweeping the grounds. They were happy to care for the plants. We are currently learning to use the concept of 3 R's (Reuse, Reduce and Recycle). Everyone is enthusiastic to collect recycled materials and reuse it for art and other play activities. We have celebrated important events like Mother's Day, National Sorry Day and Philippines Independence Day by coming together in a group and understanding the purpose through music and creative experiences. The children were delighted to make choco mint cupcakes for their mums on Mother's Day, explored nature by appreciating its beauty on World Environment Day, contributed in making Maruya which is a popular Filipino snack and played tumbang lata in celebration of Philippine Independence Day. It was remarkable to see their eagerness in taking part in diverse planned activities and accepting different cultures.



Communication skills have been developing among the nursery children as they begin to learn new words each day through singing songs, and reading books. Most of the babies recognise their friends when named and are making beginning language sounds by using words like "TA", "Uh oh", "Oh no", "bye" to express themselves. They are also familiar with animals and the sound they make.





We are blissful to witness our Nursery children developing their curious little minds.



Ms. Charmel, Ms. Shivani and Ms. Suchi

Nursery Educators

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. I have observed the children's interest grow as we continue to explore the world around us while observing them come out of their shell, building many beautiful memories together. We also have gained a few new friends to build bonds with.

Art has been of considerable interest to the children as we explore various techniques and ways to explore and express Art. We have incorporated the children's interest with the Art as we made some rainbow art using various colours. The children enjoyed exploring this, as they explored the colours. We have also created a Spaceship using recycled objects to create something new.



The children have grown and learned about the natural environment as we grew and learned about various plants. We have grown our very own tiny plants within our room, the children are excited to water and watch them grow. We also explored healthy eating as we learnt about the types of vegetables and fruit that grow within the garden, as we used items produced within a garden to create something new. For the biggest morning tea, where the children made some cookies to sell.

The children interests have continued to grow as we continue explore the acknowledgement of country; The children have grown more confident in verbalizing the acknowledgement and doing the actions to the acknowledgment. We have also incorporated Taba Naba. The children's excitement grows as they learn the songs and moves.

Every month we have been exploring four new breathing cards that the children have picked. The children are excited to pick the cards each day. We have also used this interest to explore the breathing image; we created a rainbow using various colours, the children co-operated together to complete the rainbow and are very excited to show everyone their achievement**.**

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 moved from side-stepping/sliding and kicking to Hopping and the Olympic games. The children's excitement shines like the sun as they practice the side-stepping and

It has been wonderful getting to know our new friends and observing our friends grow and expand their interest as we explore the world around us and learn about each other.

Love Miss Megan

Junior Kindy—Level Two

We are now half-way through 2021 already, and here in Junior Kindy we have continued to explore, investigate and enjoy play within our learning environment. The children have all made great strives in their development, along with beginning to understand how they as the older children of level two can assist the younger children within play and learning.



The children have been developing their fine motor abilities through an array of different activities, developing their ability to manipulate tools for a range of purposes with a focus on grip and investigating which is their dominate hand. This is prominent in their exploration of the arts as they've been drawing, painting and using different art tools. Using tweezers and tongs within sorting activities, as they've explored pressure within grip and how certain materials require us to adjust the way we manipulate these tools to accomplish the tasks at hand. It's been wonderful watching the children become more confident in their approach to these activities and celebrating their accomplishments within the classroom.



Here in Junior Kindy we celebrated Pride month, were over a period we explored the many different aspects of diversity that make up society and how we should celebrate these in our selves and others. This allowed the children to explore different points of view and broaden their understanding of the world around them, this also provided moments for children to begin investigating the differences, similarities and connections between people. We explore culture, family structures, physical features, hobbies/interests and an array of other topics, investigating how within our society all these aspects are part of the people around us and that by celebrating these things with people we create positive environments for ourselves and those around us.

We have also been focusing on including the children's ideas into our weeks, taking a moment each week to reflect on our previous week of learning and discuss what things the children want to explore further or re-visit. This has fostered the development of the children's ability to make choices, reflect on their learning and voice their ideas about their learning environment, from these discussions areas in the classroom have taken shape in the room. Our small world mat has seen regular changes as the children have been interested in aquatic animals, this interest has began to take shape in other areas of the room as the children have wanted to create their own recycled fish and sea animals and have been seeking out stories set under the sea.



Moving into the second half of the year, here in Junior Kindy we will continue to investigate new ideas and interests as they form in the classroom. We also welcome input from parents and families to include in our program. This can be a wonderful influence on the children's learning for example by introducing new cultural experiences.

Mr. Jamie

Kindergarten—Level Three



It has been a great couple of months here in Kindergarten welcoming new families and children into our Kindergarten community. It is wonderful to see children introducing themselves and taking responsibility ensuring their new peers are comfortable in their new setting. They are being more social by initiating, interacting, communicating, and collaborating with each other. Children are now confident to approach new educators as they are aware that they are there to support them.

Kindergarten children have been busy involving in various experiences evolving around their interest and been extended in our plans and programs. The favourite topic's of interest were Bees and Fairy Tales, both took shape of projects in our classroom! Children participated in making beehives, honeycombs, creating bees with air dry playdough, bee puppets, drawing, wax painting and much more. Fairy Tales took shape as fairy Gardens and Castles.













We have been doing a lot of different activities incorporating natural materials and recycled resources for our children to explore in their learning environment.

On a regular basis, we provide a range of experiences for children to practise their fine motor skills, therefore we have added lots of resources to our learning area such as Legos, shapes, Stick connectors, nesting cups, and magnets. Cut and paste, Play dough, goop and slime were few sensory experiences that children involved with much interest.

Kindergarten—Level Three

The past few weeks has seen us develop a focus on communication in the room. During group time, reading books of children's interest, engaging in conversation with educators and peers relating the story to their personal experience and addressing their favourite page and characters in the story is the best part so far. This exploration of books builds a strong foundations for children's literacy and reading skills. Understanding and being familiar with how a book works and how words tell a story a essential for children to be able to learn to read and write when they get to school.

We have also been exploring literacy in purposeful ways as we have implemented a scrap book where children are free to make marks or print their names on arrival or after transition to Level 3. This book is always available to the children to practise their writing skills. On the other hand, we have been encouraging children to recognise their letters in their name by sounding it out. Children have listened and responded to story telling skills by contributing to the Fairy Tale project book.

This term children have been actively participating in Raw Art. Raw Art is run by an art teacher Miss. Katie. This extracurricular experience is included in our Kindy Program. Children always look forward to this every Wednesday. It has been a huge hit as all the children participate as a whole class with great concentration adding details to their creative art under the guidance of Miss Katie.

Currently the children's interests is in Volcano's over the next term much of our learning will focus around the volcano. We will start with exploring some STEM concepts such as cause and effect and increasing our literacy skills by becoming familiar with new words related to the volcano so adding to our vocabulary. Will continue to move forward in the direction our interest takes us as we continue to work toward being life long learners.

Miss Suder and Mr Nicholas







Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

Recipe of the Month



Ingredients

- 500 g chicken breast fillet (cut into strips,skin off)
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tbs honey
- 2 tsp garlic (minced)
- 2 carrots (cut into strips,medium)
- 1 onion (cut into wedges)
- 1/2 red capsicum (cut into strips)
- 2 x 200 g udon noodles
- canned corn (*optional)
- bok choy (*optional)
- zucchini (*optional)
- green beans (*optional)

HONEY SOY CHICKEN NOODLE STIR FRY

Method

- Combine chicken with soy sauce, honey and garlic. Set aside for five minutes to marinate.
- Heat oil in a wok over high heat. Drain chicken from marinade and stir fry in batches until just cooked through. Remove from wok and set aside.
- Add vegetables to wok and cook lightly, stirring constantly.
- Return chicken and reserved marinade to wok with noodles and toss until heated through

Community Events

Whats on in July?

2 July —Kids Collective Circus Fun
Fri, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Roma Street Parkland, 1 Parkland Blvd
Brisbane City QLD



2 July—First 5 Forever children's storytime - Grange Library
Fri, 10:30 – 11:00 am
79 Evelyn St



3 July—Grange KIDS YOGA PLAYSHOPS
Sat, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Brisbane Yoga Space, 18 Nash St
Paddington QLD



3 July- School holiday live performance: Lucas Proudfoot
Sat, 12:00 – 1:00 am
Brisbane Square, 266 George St
Brisbane City QLD



8 July—Kids Collective
Thu, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
South Bank



2 3 July—Connecting Kids Symposium
Fri 23 – Sat 24 July
Brisbane Marriott Hotel, 515 Queen St23 July
Brisbane City QLD