Little Ducks Childcare

July/ August 2021

A note from your Centre Manager

We're coming up to that time of year again when our children are showing us they are strong, capable learners and are looking to transition to the next stage of their learning. Many of our children are in the process of transitioning to a new room. In early childhood, we believe in following the developmental stages of each individual child. For this reason we do not always follow a calendar year in each room, as some children show signs they are ready for the next environment sooner than other children. It is our aim to ensure all transitions occur gently over a period of time to give children time to adjust to new environments, peers and educators. You can help at home by talking positively about these changes and making a conscious effort to establish a strong relationship with your child's new educators. Children look to us to help them organise their feelings. When they see us happy, confident and engaged they will follow our direction and feel confident, happy and engaged themselves.

Throughout June, the children's Educators have been working hard on completing their assessment of learning. You will receive these shortly. Throughout the letters they will share their highlights and their current development and learning in relation to the 5 learning outcomes of the EYLF and QKLG curriculums. After these letters go out, we would like to invite our families to make a time, for a family conference, with your classroom educators to discuss how your child is going. This is a great opportunity to have some one on one conversations with your room educator away from the distractions of the playground and children. Please watch Storypark for more information about how to book a time.



Warm regards,
Kirsten Evans

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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

Upcoming Events!

July

Monday 5th—9th
NAIDOC Week
This week we celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme is Heal Country!

Wednesday 14th
State of Origin
Come dressed in your maroon and blue to support your team for Game 3



Wednesday 14th
Uncle Boomerang Incursion

Friday 23rd
PJ Day
No need to get dressed today, come along in your PJ's for a cosy, chilled out day.

Friday 30th
National Tree Day
Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature care event.

August

Tuesday 3rd—9th August
Dental Health Week

Wednesday 11th
EKKA Public Holiday
CENTRE CLOSED

Monday 14th —22nd August
National Science Week
A week to celebrate all things science and technology!

Monday 16th – 22nd – August
Keep Australia Beautiful Week
A week to raise awareness about the simple things we can do in our daily lives to reduce our impact on the environment.

Monday 23rd—27th August
Book Week
Bring along your favourite story to share this week and dress up as your favourite book character on **Thursday 26th** The Book Week theme this year is 'Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds'



Policy Reviews

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

Emergency Lockdown or Intruder Alert Procedure
Emergency and Evacuation Policy
Natural Disaster Policy
Emergency and Evacuation Procedure



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 …



We would like to welcome Noah to the Little Ducks Wilston family. Noah has worked in the Education Industry for the past 15 years. Prior to Early Years teaching, Noah taught science and drama in Primary School. Noah discovered his true passion was Early Years education and brings with him a wealth of knowledge. Noah has a particular interest in science, technology and the arts and innovatively threads these skills into his educational program.

Noah has also been very fortunate to be able to work in the entertainment industry in his own time. Through this experience Noah has developed many unique skills, which make his classroom environment ever changing and exciting for the little learners!

Reconciliation Australia

First Nations Bedtime Stories

The centre has been involved in the first nations bedtime stories challenge. This challenge aims to teach children about the history and culture of Australia. Each story contains a meaning for growth. We have had resources and stories sent to us daily to help us learn and explore.

Learn ……

Learn about the cultures of our First Peoples, through watching stories that have been 80,000 years in the making

Connect …….

An opportunity for kids and families to come together and connect through story-telling

Celebrate Language …….

Hear and celebrate languages from Central Australia, in the International Year of Indigenous Languages

Give …….

Play a part in the recording and celebrating treasured stories that are at risk of being lost

Did you know that 80% of Australians believe it's important to know about the cultures of our First Peoples? But how many of us have a good knowledge of these cultures?

At Common Ground they are working hard to fill this knowledge gap; to bring communities together and enrich Australia with the wisdom of the world's oldest cultures. They have travelled the country to capture stories and now with our help, are starting to share them.

FIRST NATIONS BEDTIME STORIES Challenge!

Nursery Notes

Namaste Nursery Families,



The past couple of months have been filled with growth and development for the Nursery children. We have seen their learning in physical, social/emotional, cognitive and language flourish. Miss Milly and I have been following the Early Years Learning Framework Practice of Responsiveness to children. In line with this Practice, we have valued and built on each child's strengths, skills and knowledge to ensure their motivation and engagement in learning.

The children have demonstrated they each feel safe, secure and supported and have a strong sense of identity as they actively participate in our learning experiences. They have looked into a mirror and drawn themselves and eagerly join in with words and actions when their favourite songs are sung throughout the day. The children have started singing to their favourite songs such as 'The Wheels on the Bus' and 'Row, row, row your boat' and perform the actions to songs such as "Open, shut them" and "Heads, shoulders, knees and toes".



We have built on the children's sense of connectedness through marking cultural events such as the Indian festival of Baisakh Sikh, celebrating Mother's Day and marking National Reconciliation Week. The children eagerly used their creativity to make presents for their loved ones to share at our Mother's Day Afternoon Tea. At the Mother's Day afternoon tea, the children joined their loved ones outdoors for playdoh modelling and drawing.

Nursery Notes

To encourage the Nursery children's sense of wellbeing we have focussed on developing and refining their fine motor skills. We have done this by planning activities such as painting using brushes, decorating playdough with coloured sticks, self - portrait on a mirror by using sketch pens, poking straws into a colander, colouring recycled boxes with crayons, exploring stickers on a felt board, sensory writing and feeding themselves using cutlery. We have also been working developing and refining their gross motor skills by encouraging them to negotiate simple obstacle courses outside, climb in and out of stacked tyres, climb up the fort and slide down the ramp and throw or kick a ball. We have encouraged the children to take responsibility of their own health by role modelling how to wash their hands before and after food and after toileting.

During the past two months our big focus has been to encourage the Nursery children to develop their communication skills. We have fostered this by reading different picture books and having open-ended conversations with them.







To prepare the older children to transition to Senior Nursery we have been implementing a one sleep routine - the children have been having one long sleep after lunch and they have been sleeping on floor mattresses like they do in Senior Nursery. Their increased communication skills will also help them express their needs using two to three words such as "Water", "Food", "Bed", "Cuddle" and this will help the Senior Nursery educators better provide for these needs.

All my dedication,
Miss Sunakshi



Senior Nursery Natter!

Hi Families,

What a month June has been for us! The Senior Nursery room has seen a lot of change in the last month, and we're so excited for more in July.



First and foremost, we are excited to welcome all the children coming up from Nursery to our room, and to start building relationships and learning with all of you! We've already seen some new faces this month and we're looking forward to seeing even more.

We have been playing and learning this month with a special focus on our first and second learning outcomes: Identity and Connectedness.

We have been engaging in activities in the last few weeks that build on the children's own interests, including their love of cars and trucks, and passion for building with blocks. These have been fun and exciting experiences our little ones have asked to do again and again. Building an environment for our children to feel safe, secure and welcome is so important, and has helped many of them open up more, build confidence in themselves, and help them better understand themselves and their wants and needs.

We have also been playing together in groups a lot! Learning to play with or alongside others is a great milestone for children this age, and our Senior Nursery children are having so much fun engaging with one another. Parallel play – playing individually alongside others – is great for building comfort and relationships between children.



Senior Nursery Natter!

We've seen quite a few budding friendships this past month, and it's clear that the children are building important social skills and learning to understand each other and building our own little community.



Recently, we have seen leaps and bounds in the senior nursery children's verbal skills. Many of our little ones are meeting important language milestones with gusto: repeating words they've heard, knowing the names of their belongings and their friends, and even constructing small sentences. We've been doing more group story times and singing songs to encourage their confidence and growing vocabularies.

This has been an exciting time, and we're going into July with excitement for the month ahead. With new friends to meet and play with, we are looking to continue our community and relationship building, as well as focus anew on our well-being. In the coming month, we are hoping to help the children start learning to manage their own physical and emotional wellbeing by getting them more involved in healthy habits, by learning the importance of applying sunscreen in the afternoon, and building a love of exercise and outdoor play.



As we build routines and encourage exploration and engagement, the coming months promise to offer new and exciting opportunities for our friends to grow and learn. It has been a great month, and we can't wait to see how the next one goes!

Warm regards,

Mel, Madeline, Hayath







Toddler Tales!

Hi Toddler Families,

It is the middle of the year which means some of our precious Toddlers will be transitioning to Junior Kindy in the next few weeks. While it will be sad to see them go I can assure you that each of them is ready to move onto higher level learning. I know this because of the high degree of participation I observe in our learning activities and conversations during the day.

The Toddlers have all achieved their Term 2 goals of developing their cognitive abilities and their vocabulary by engaging in age-appropriate inquiry-based learning. During these activities I start with a question to ascertain how much each child knows about a situation and we then build on this knowledge together. During some of these inquiry-based learning activities we have learned about habitats and we have sorted creatures into animals seen in a jungle or zoo, animals seen on a farm and animals found under water. We have also explored the concept of 'extinct' when we have dug for dinosaur bones in the sandpit. The idea behind these activities was to encourage the Toddlers to broaden their understanding of the world around them.







A big part of increasing their knowledge about the world around them, was learning about a different culture and in Term 2 the focus was on Aboriginal culture. We have embedded many aspects of Indigenous literature in our day and this is to attempt to 'Walk Together' with Aboriginal people. We have endeavoured to teach the Toddlers more about Aboriginal people so that the more they know the more they will come to appreciate the culture. The Toddlers now lead the 'Acknowledgement to Country' at the start of the day and follow the words and actions of Indigenous songs such as 'Taba Naba' and 'Innany gupu wana'. During Reconciliation week they also looked at symbols, such as the Australian Aboriginal flag and learned the meaning behind each of the colours – black representing people, yellow representing sun and red representing earth. We looked at some Aboriginal symbols such as boomerang, meeting place and star, together and learned how they were used in everyday life. The Toddlers really enjoyed looking at dreamtime story books because of the vibrant colours of the pictures. But in doing so they have come to appreciate the story behind the pictures and can now predict what happens next when we read dreamtime stories such as 'How the birds got their colours' and 'The echidna and the shade tree'.

Toddler Tales! Continued



One of the big reasons why I say that some of the older Toddlers are ready to move up to Junior Kindy is because each of them is showing an increasing capacity to understand , self-regulate and manage their emotions.

They are starting to use their words more during play and are using strategies such as turn taking or asking for resources if another child is playing with something they want to play with. During the past few weeks we have been role modeling putting on socks and shoes before outdoor play and encouraging the children to serve themselves fruit at morning tea and afternoon tea time using food tongs. Separately, they enjoy the outdoors and are often seen running along the path while balancing on some of the big trucks or trying to swing from the monkey bars independently.



Painting is one of the big interests and to facilitate creativity in Term 2, I undertook a project of teaching the children that 'We don't always need a paintbrush to paint'. We used things such as rolling a ball in a container, cars, branches, spray bottles, chopsticks, cut vegetables, cotton buds and paint popsicles. Each of the Toddlers followed their interest in painting with enthusiasm, energy and concentration and also showed that they are open to new challenges and discoveries as they used unconventional things while painting.



The finished product of many of these painting experiences adorn the walls of the Toddler room and a project book will be made available for families to peruse. The other benefit of these painting activities was that the Toddlers enjoyed working alongside one another and engaging in a group experience. This was in line with the theory of Mildred Parten's stages of play, which states that children gradually move on from parallel play to more cooperative play. We facilitated this stage of play by encouraging children to interact with each other in a group setting as they took turns with resources or used a common canvas to paint a group painting.

Finally, our conversations at group time and our book readings were not only enjoyable but also demonstrated each Toddler is becoming an effective communicator. While we still have our favourite books such as 'Room on the broom' and 'We're going on a bear hunt', the children were attentive when every book was read and pointed out to items that interested them in the pictures. They have also started to recognize some letters and each of them knows that they are 2 and will turn 3 on their next birthday.

Moving forward we will continue to have high expectations of each child and we will continue to value and build on each child's strengths, skills and knowledge to ensure their motivation and engagement in learning.

All our dedication
Miss Belmira and Miss Thuy.





Junior Kindy Jumble!

Dear Parents

We recently had Mr Noah join the team at Little Ducks Wilston. In his first week in the Junior Kindy, Mr Noah spent time building meaningful relationships and planning, alongside the children, how he could be apart of their learning journey. As a team they came up with some wonderful ideas to explore together.

The children started BIG with their cubby house and indoor beach. There are a number of other experiences they will commence in the coming weeks, including cooking experiences and large-scale group projects.

The Cubby House – The brainchild of Stephanie, this group construction project provides the children with opportunities to play and learn together and share experiences. One child's idea of how to build something may differ from another's, so they learn to respect different ideas and learn from each other. As children build together, they solve problems and enjoy the benefits of co-operation.





The Indoor Beach – The brainchild of Ellen and Stephanie, playing in the sand is terrific for developing gross and fine motor skills, building hand-eye coordination, and strengthening muscles. Playing in the sand is an enjoyable form of independent play, but it is also a great way to interact with others. When children share sand toys or dig a hole together, they're not only practicing social skills like turn-taking and co-operation but are also using problem-solving and language skills. Plus, work towards a shared goal provides a great sense of accomplishment they can enjoy with their friends!

Junior Kindy Jumble!





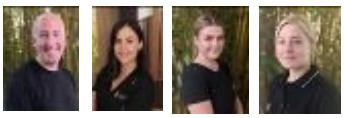
One exciting experience will be the creation of our very own podcast. Please keep your eye out for a permission slip in your child's bag if you would like them to participate in the podcast. We will publish this on Story-Park and our Facebook. This podcast will not identify the children individually, it will only be the recording of their voice. This is a unique and great opportunity for the children to express and communicate their ideas and use a new form of media.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Miss Fran on 2 July as she starts her maternity leave. On this day, we will be having a party day in Junior Kindy to celebrate the learning Miss Fran has shared with us in Junior Kindy.

We look forward to working closely with you on your child's learning journey.

Warm wishes,

Noah, Fran, Kailah and Cydnee





Our class would love you to collect jars, milk bottles, lids, paper towel rolls and all sorts of items from your home to create our "loose parts" library. Please feel free to bring these in and hand them to one of the team in our room. In addition to this we would love any old business shirts, skirts, dresses, scarfs, shoes, hates etc to create our very own transformation space in the room.

Preschool Pride!

Hello Families,

In the Kindergarten room, we have focused on various animals for Show and Tell during the last two months to tie in with our Sustainability units. In May we identified and explored animals that are in danger of extinction due to habitat destruction or pollution. Noah brought in an amazing story about the rhino, featuring the rangers who are working to save these beautiful animals. To help us learn about some of these animals, we created three dimensional models using playdough (panda) or pipe cleaners (orangutan).





We have been focusing on ball skills and dancing to help us develop our core strength, hand eye coordination and muscle awareness. The children have been dancing along with Let's Dance Songs, attempting to follow the actions on screen. Lincoln's favourite has been I am a Gummie Bear. In the yard we have been throwing, catching and bouncing balls or balloons. The challenge is to throw the ball just high enough so that we can catch it. Recently some of the children have taken an interest in cricket, trying to hit the ball with the bat.





To help prepare our hands to manage detailed tasks we have been revisiting some of our previous activities, such as cutting, using hand tools, stacking, squeezing and threading. Cutting shapes, like stars, offered some challenges, as the children had to turn the paper and control the size of the cut. Threading continues to be a popular activity with the children and we used our steady hands to help us create a gift for Mum. We have added peeling to our fine motor activities this month, with children peeling stickers to use for art.

Preschool Pride!





Our STEAM focus for this term has been forces and we conducted experiments using static electricity, built electrical circuits, explored surface tension, observed the effect of circular motion, used elastic energy to make things move and created sound. One of the highlights was doing the gravity defying water experiment with the class. The children were eager to explore different materials and we learned it worked with foam and fabric.





We have been exploring text features in reading, helping the children gain more understanding of how the pictures and words support the message of the story. We have looked at books which use large, coloured or multidirectional text to indicate how something is being said or which direction the action is moving in. We read some amazing picture books, like Flood, using only the pictures to tell the story. We also explored how comics and some storybooks use speech and thought bubbles to tell us who is talking.

We have been using small group games, such as board games to help children learn how to play fairly with each other, deal with competition and communicate throughout the game. Hungry Hippos has also provided some lessons in self regulation, as it is so tempting to keep munching the balls, even when they are not there! In each game there is some form of turn taking, as the game progresses around the table.

Preschool Pride!





Special Events
We have had a number of special events in the centre recently. It was wonderful to welcome the Mum's back to the service for our afternoon activities. Mums were treated to a nail makeover, a hairdo and hand massage and some painting. I know the children enjoy sharing these times with you and showing you just what they can do.





We celebrated Outdoor Classroom Day by decorating some big boxes and organising them into a city. The children had neighbours (the person in the closest box) and made fences. It was a great way to enjoy the beautiful day and fire up our imaginations.



Preschool Pride!

I was amazed at the emotional connection the children formed with our story for Sorry Day. Their response drawings brought home the sorrow of the children and the parents at being taken away.

For World Environment Day we explored ways we could protect our ecosystems by preventing rubbish from entering the environment. We identified ways we could reuse plastic containers and created items like pencil boxes and vases from recycled plastic bottles.



Looking Forward
In our STEAM program next term we will be exploring living things, examining the systems , like blood and digestion, that help them live. We will continue to work on our fine motor skills, looking more closely at pencil grip and control in preparation for school. In numeracy we will start to incorporate more measurement activities to support our counting and numeral based work. We will be focusing on more teamwork activities to help children develop that ability to work with others to complete a task. Shortly we will be sending out a new goal sheet for Term 3 to help assist us in planning for your child.

Yours in education,
Natasha



Healthy Habits!

Winter Warmer Recipe

Chicken Tortilla Soup

You Will Need:

- ½ pound of chicken breasts, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 small sized onion, finely chopped
- 1 can of condensed tomato soup
- 3 cups of salsa sauce
- 1 cup of chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon of ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon of garlic powder
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup sweet corn
- Chopped avocado, tortilla strips and cilantro for garnishing

How To:

1. In a slow cooker, combine chicken, onion, salsa sauce, tomato soup, chicken broth, cumin, and garlic powder.
2. Cover it up and cook for 3 hours.
3. Remove the chicken from the mix and shred it into finely. Return the shredded pieces to the slow cooker.
4. Season the mix with salt and pepper.
5. Now add the sweet corn and cook for another 15 minutes.
6. Garnish with chopped avocado, tortilla strips, cilantro and serve.

