



Little Ducks Childcare

September/ October

2021

A note from your Centre Manager

We have passed the half way mark and are powering ahead into Terms 3 and 4 here at Little Ducks. Walking around the rooms it is amazing to think back on the beginning of the year and consider how much the children have grown and learnt. Nursery children who were just starting to feel comfortable away from the care of their mums and dads are now confident and finding their feet by walking. All the way through to our kindergarten children, the leaders of our learning community are showing empathy and compassion to the younger children and are working to set a good example and be role models.

Looking back on the journey our children have been through this year, I can confidently say that strong educator to child relationships and a deep understanding of each child's interests and needs has been key to this journey. This is what makes it so vitally important to have a strong team of passionate, engaged and nurturing educators. Early childhood educators are not the highest paid of professionals but certainly the time, energy and dedication they contribute to their roles is extraordinary. Many of our educators spend their days teaching, nurturing, comforting and loving the children enrolled in their classrooms and then return home to their own families to start the process all over again. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible educators for their energy and dedication. I am very proud of the confident, passionate and professional educator team we have here at Little Ducks.

We have some great activities coming up over the next few months, organised by our great team of educators. These include fathers day and grandparents day celebrations which we are excited to organise. We hope to see many of you there.

Warm regards,
Kirsten Evans
Centre Manager



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Upcoming Events!

September

Sunday 5th
Fathers Day

Afternoon tea on Monday

Monday 6th
Fathers Day Afternoon Tea

Come along for a special afternoon tea to celebrate our dads. Starting 3:30pm



Wednesday 15th
Grange Family Dental Visit

Wednesday 22nd
Bravehearts Incursion

This fun, interactive live show teaches children essential personal safety skills and knowledge using age-appropriate language, song, and dance.



Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th
Centre Photos



Wednesday 15th
National ECE day

Celebrating the important role early educators play in educating and caring for to-morrows leaders.



October

Monday 4th
Public Holiday—Queens Birthday
CENTRE CLOSED

Sunday 16th
World Food Day

A day of action against hunger. Bring along a non-perishable item of food for us to donate to the needy.



Monday 25th—Friday 29th
Grandparents Day Celebrations

We welcome any grandparents to come along throughout this week and share a story with the children. Bring along your favourite story to read or we can lend you one to share with the children between 10am - 11am and 2pm – 3pm every day.

Sunday 31st
Grandparents Day

We will be celebrating throughout the previous week



Saturday 23rd—Sunday 31st October
Children's Week

Children's Week celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood. It is also a time for children to demonstrate their talents, skills and abilities.

Friday 29th October
Ekka Public Holiday (Rescheduled)
CENTRE CLOSED

Policy Reviews

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

Education, Curriculum & Learning
Acceptance and refusal of authorisations
Family Law and Access
Transport
Temperature
Enrolment
Continuity of Care



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.

Reconciliation Australia

Wednesday 1 September 2021 - a national celebration!

Indigenous Literacy Day is a national celebration of Indigenous culture, stories, language and literacy. Through activities on the day, we focus our attention on the disadvantages experienced in remote communities and encourage the rest of Australia to raise funds and advocate for more equal access to literacy resources for remote communities. Whether you are a school, bookseller, publisher, library, business, organisation or individual, here are some ways you can participate on this day:

- Make a donation
- Hold a Great Book Swap or your own fundraising event
- Donate a percentage of your product sales on this day – popular for bookshops!
- Take an ILF donation box to work or school
- Buy an ILF t-shirt for your staff or students to wear to work or school
- Pre-order a copy of I Saw We Saw for your school or family
- Stock I Saw We Saw in your bookshop
- Become a regular giver or set up workplace giving
- Make your organisation a partner

Advocate for the foundation on social media and tag
@IndigenousLiteracyFoundation on Facebook and **@IndigenousLF**
on Twitter and Instagram

You can use the below link for more details

<https://www.indigenouliteracyfoundation.org.au/news-events/celebrate-indigenous-literacy-day-with-us-1>

Kids Heart Pilates

Milestone Guides how to use them?

There is a new train of thought supported by research indicating there are **optimal times** of development rather than critical times. This indicates that milestone guides should be used very much as **guides only**. Each child develops uniquely and learns and experiences at different rates. They may be exploring one area of development more intensely and then follow on to another balancing it out in time. Therefore, it is important to not rush or force a child's learning and development but provide support and gently encourage the child. Rushing or pushing may result in the child having adverse feelings to activities and later avoiding it, having larger repercussions to their development and health. Research now supports that if there is a delay in development the plasticity of the brain will allow time for the child to 'catch up'.

The important thing in respect to a child's development is that parents and carers are aware of where children are at and encouraging children through activities that will bolster development. Through group movement programs children learn gross and fine motor skills, problem solving, cognitive skills and emotional awareness.

We are excited to share an exclusive discount for all Little Ducks families to the Kids Heart Pilates online programs that you can access from home and hook up to your smart TV. See the links below for more information and use 'LITTLEDUCKS' in the coupon code for 15% off or see the link below for an exclusive little ducks offer and receive a 12 month membership free with the purchase of a Mummy & Tummy Postnatal & baby development membership.

2-4-1 - <https://www.kidsheartpilates.com.au/blog/register/membership-2-for-1/>
Sign up - <https://www.kidsheartpilates.com.au/blog/signup-options/>



Nursery Notes

Welcome to another addition of our Nursery newsletter where we get to share all the wonderful things your child has participated in over the past few months and all the exciting plans we have for our little friends in the coming months. Firstly, I we would like to welcome all our new Nursery families who joined us recently in our studio. We have been super busy getting to know all the children and supporting them in feeling safe and secure in the environment.

We have lots of new friends showing interest in walking. This has been a steady process which educators have eased into providing an environment that stimulates and encourages children to practice these skills. We have supported the children with easy to access furniture at their level and changes to our environment that include walker aids, climbing frames for balance and much more. The children have adapted and their emerging skills are continually amazing us each day.

Taking risk has been on the agenda this month with our older children engaging in more physical development as they become more spatially aware in their environment. Our Nursery friends like to climb on everything and anything, challenging their new found skills. As their bodies develop and they begin to respond by combining their gross motor and movement skills we can be sure that as they gain more confidence we will be right there to support and ensure the wellbeing of themselves as they develop through these stages.



Nursery Notes

As we get to know our little friends we have learnt so much, we know that creative arts and messy play has been a big hit within our environment, so it was only natural that we stimulate their little minds with plenty of experiences and Loose parts play, painting, clay, playdough, refining skills, sensory exploration and more.....

We are encouraging the children to feed themselves their own milk bottles, water bottles and finger foods with our older ones starting to use spoons as well. This makes lots of messy but gives the children lots of practice to learn vital self help skills. After our meals we are learning to wipe our own hands and faces with wet washers. Some of us prefer to wipe the highchairs with the washers instead.

Lots of Love,
Miss Nachy



Senior Nursery Natter!

Hello families and welcome to another edition of Senior Nursery News

These last three months have been very eventful with lots going on both inside the centre and outside in the world. We recently completed our transitions and already our friends have taken to their environments with ease. We have taken the opportunity of small numbers in the class room to have more one on one and small group play experiences. In this we expand on children's voices and confidence and implore them to express their interests more often. We have heard many of our small friends talk about themselves and their families, to expand on this we have worked together on creating our "family wall". Displaying pictures of our families and ourselves has been a great tool in beginning the discussions about our role in the world and further explore who we are and begin to recognise diversity within our studio. That being said we recently started sharing Acknowledgment of country before we begin our day with the whole centre and bridge the gap by acknowledging the traditional land owners in which we learn, play and grow on each day, perhaps you heard your child talking about the Turrbal people, the sun or the land.



We have definitely explored indigenous perspectives this last month through storytelling, art activities and incorporating indigenous songs into our morning sharing circles. We have particularly enjoyed learning about and discovering the meaning behind aboriginal symbols and how they were used. As always we will continue to incorporate Aboriginal and Torre Strait Islander culture into our everyday curriculum to further work with our small friends in reconciliation. We look forward to learning about our little ones own cultural backgrounds to and incorporating language, art and food into our routines. Please don't hesitate to include your family input onto our program, communication book and on story park.

To further work on our building our personal wellbeing we have been learning about self-care (especially during this time). Starting this journey of hand washing and personal hygiene, with the use of songs and demonstrations we have seen majority of the senior Nursery friends independently washing hands, before meals, after meals and after nappy changes. This has demonstrated to the educators in the room that the children are beginning to understand the necessary actions needed for personal hygiene. As we explore the concept of self-care further we have been learning and making attempts to put on our own shoes and socks and putting on our jackets before going outside. We have not quite mastered this level of selfcare yet, however we are definitely making progress and working towards being more independent young souls.

Senior Nursery Natter!

Creatively, we have been busy exploring our expression of art. Through the many experiences and mediums of paint, clay, playdough, natural resources we interpret our ideas and thoughts with much imagination and creativity as we can. We get messy, we explore, we express and we create beautiful pieces that are uniquely personal to each individual. What we see as scribbles and lines represent an array of animals, objects, people and love in the eyes of children. As we blossom into confident young beings we will further explore the possibilities of expression with music, dance and creative arts of drama and storytelling, watch this space.....



With how enclosed the world has become with our friends needing to quarantine and isolate, we have been facing this by encouraging the children to run around, dance and play outside. Despite the seasons changing it has still been warm enough outside, especially during the day and playing outside has become an important part of the day for the children. Our connection to nature expands far and wide as we nurture the children's curiosity and wonder to explore with adventures to the big yards and garden tracks. During these moments we emerge with the confidence to explore, takes risk and feel the soil between our fingers and the warm sun on our skin, these are all important lessons for the children as they interact with the world around them and become more connected to this world. Our friends have positively responded to consistent music while outside and we love seeing them stop their running or jumping activities to bounce to the music before continuing on their adventures.

These are just some of the learning and development we have been working towards. We will continue to nurture and support children's growth and confidence within our studio and use our recent collaboration and input from goal forms to further challenge and develop our skills. Please look out for communication across story park in the coming months as we update new goals and documentation regularly.

Until next time, please don't hesitate if you'd like to know more about our routine, your child's learning or share important information to support our partnership for the children. All information is valued and appreciated.

Warm regards,

Mel and Madeline



Toddler Tales!

Hi Toddler Families,

The past few weeks have been filled with fun and learning for the Toddlers. For the Toddlers who have moved up from Senior Nursery, we have been encouraging them to build a sense of belonging in their new environment both indoors and out in the big yard. They have engaged in learning activities, the intentional teaching behind most of these activities has been to build their confidence in expressing their opinions and to contribute their ideas during group learning experiences.



Through their active engagement in our role play activities each of the Toddlers has demonstrated having a strong sense of identity. They have acted out 'being a chef' and have cut soft fruits or played pretend cooking in home corner. They have acted out 'being a doctor' and have checked dolls using doctor's instruments and have bandaged pretend wounds. They have enacted the song 'The Wheels on the bus' during which they have taken turns at being the driver and driving their friends around. We have encouraged children's sense of agency by requesting them to choose the book they would like to read or the set of blocks they would like to construct with, with the intention of them building their sense of confidence.



The Toddlers are broadening their understanding of the world in which they live and they prove this as they actively participate in activities such as reading dreamtime stories and learning more about Australian Aboriginal culture. They are also front and centre of our daily group gathering in the outdoor yard during which we have begun to Acknowledge Country as a group and we enjoy listening to Indigenous songs such as 'Taba Naba' and 'Innanay gupu wana'. The Toddlers sit with their older friends and dance along and follow the actions to the Acknowledgement to Country. Then again they enjoyed a big group experience of our very own Ekka Day celebrations and actively explored the petting farm, games and photo booth.



Toddler Tales! Continued

The resilience of all the children including the Toddlers was on display as we went through yet another lockdown a few weeks ago. The Toddlers should be commended for staying strong and calm despite missing many of their friends and having all the big people around them including their educators wearing masks, as was mandated. But now, everyone's back and the learning continues. Separately, the Toddlers seem to have developed a good feel for the outdoor yard and confidently negotiate the swings or the bikes independently, some of them are even beginning to swing from a rung of the monkey bars. Indoors, we have promoted development of gross motor skills through activities like knocking down skittles, dancing to their favourite songs and jumping from one felt circle to the next on the mat all of which have seen keen involvement from all the Toddlers.



National Science Week learning activities proved that each of the Toddlers is a confident and involved learner. During these activities they have explored the life cycle of plants, conducted simple science experiments like making rainbows from candy (Skittles), and mixing colours using milk, colours and liquid soap.

Children being effective communicators is crucial from the point of view of them contributing their ideas and experiences in play, small and large group discussions and we facilitate this through book reading at group time and conversations with them during the day. Book week has seen us focusing on a book every day and after having open ended discussions about what might happen next while reading the book, the children use the creative arts such as painting and craft to make meaning of what they have read.

During the next few weeks we will build on the Toddler's sense of wellbeing by focusing on the physical developmental milestones and engaging them in small group play activities. Their fine motor skill development and social interactions will also be a focus as will extending their vocabulary and further building their confidence both inside the Room and outdoors.

All our dedication
Miss Belmira and Miss Thuy.



Junior Kindy Jumble!

Off to sea we go!



This month in Jnr. Kindy we decided that our learning at the beach had come to an end. Ari suggested that we needed a boat to access our camping site. This boat had to be big enough for us to fish from and to ferry passengers from one place to another. Dramatic play area's such as this teaches and promotes expressive language. Children are inspired to communicate their wishes to their peers and therefore, must learn to speak from the perspective of their pretend roles. Dramatic play is often a good avenue for children who are shy or with low self-esteem to participate in a group.



What else is happening?

Ms. Kailah has been working hard with the children on our garden project. This project is progressing very well, and the children are beginning to ask some interesting questions about how these plants grow and what they can do to help. We would LOVE to know more about what you are doing at home in your garden. Please take some time to take some photos of what you do with plants indoor and outside so we can extend our learning around this exciting new project.

Finally, we welcome Ms. Louise into our classroom in her role of inclusion support. We cannot thank Cydnee enough for her Support in our Junior Kindy Room.

Thank you,

Noah, Kailah and Louise



Preschool Pride!

Kindergarten Newsletter July August

We welcomed Miss Abbey into the room on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's. She is a long term employee of Little Ducks and she is familiar with all of the children in the room. Abbey has been establishing connections with the children and we look forward to working with her throughout the rest of the year.

The 2021 Ekka was cancelled so we decided to create some sideshow attractions and treat the kids to a sample bag. The games, including skeeball and duck shooting provided a challenge and some fun. The children were excited to see Mr Duck arrive and hand out the show bags.



For National Science Week, we held a Mad Scientist Day, where the children took part in several experiments, including making ice cream and fizzing oranges. This gave the children an opportunity to observe, learn from each other and make predictions.



Both of these events were covered by our Little Duck's News Team and I hope you have had an opportunity to view these on Storypark.



We are helping to build resilience and persistence by challenging ourselves, this term. For example, there has been a great deal of interest in learning how to draw different things. The girls have been doing a wonderful job at being persistent, even when they are uncertain. Our step by step guides have given them more confidence to give it a go. They have been very proud of their efforts and some are even teaching others how to draw. The guides are being collected in a book for future reference.

Preschool Pride!

We have been investigating living things and discovered that they need to eat, breathe and find somewhere to live and have babies. We have explored the different ways they are covered. We have done experiments to demonstrate how living things breathe, for example through their lungs or skin. Jack Hartman's Animals in Action song has taught us about different ways that animals can move around in their environment. Gloves and some drink bottle nozzles provided a fun way to demonstrate how squid propel themselves in the water. During our investigation into teeth and digestion, we performed an experiment to mimic the human digestive system.



Sculpture has given us the opportunity to develop or problem solving skills and conflict resolution. When a group works around the table, sharing resources, there are inevitably some times when a disagreement occurs and we can all learn lessons in taking turns. We have been learning how to make a duck in playdough, or create a dinosaur from foam and matchsticks. We have recently been exploring plaster and how to make a mold.

French

We said goodbye to our French teacher, Mr James and have welcomed Miss Perrine to our classroom each Tuesday. She has been teaching us about expressing our emotions and personal needs, including I am hungry and I am tired. We will be learning this vocabulary until next term.

Looking forward

We look forward to seeing some amazing costumes in our upcoming Book Week parade. The theme is old World, New World, other Worlds and there are so many amazing books that fall in this category.

We look forward to looking after our Dads on Father's Day.

Thank you for your donations of recycled goods. Please keep these coming as the children and staff use these resources on a daily basis and they can turnover quite quickly.

Thank you,

Natasha and Abbey



Easy Potato Pancakes!

You Will Need:

- 500 g desiree potato (grated,peeled)
- 500 g sweet potato (grated,peeled)
- 1/2 cup plain flour
- 2 eggs (lightly beaten) or substitute
- 4 spring onions (sliced,washed)
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 pinch pepper
- oil (for frying)
- sour cream (*to serve)
- beetroot (chopped,*to serve)
- salad leaves (*to serve)

Method



Combine all the ingredients except the oil in a mixing bowl. Heat 2-3mm of oil in a non-stick frying pan on high.



Place a spoonful of potato mixture into the hot oil and gently flatten. For a perfect shape use a deep egg ring. Allow a crust to form on the bottom before attempting to move or turn them. It should take around 5 minutes, each side, on a medium-high heat.



Remove potato patties from the pan and drain well on paper towel. Repeat until all the mixture is used. Serve with sour cream, beetroot and salad leaves.

QUEENSLAND CHILDCARE "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

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