Little Ducks Childcare Annerley

November/December 2021

A note from your Centre Manager

Dear families,
Wow, can you believe that we are almost at the end of 2021. What a wild ride it has been! I have been busy working on our 2022 re-enrolments. It has been wonderful to meet so many new families throughout the tours we have completed throughout the service. There are many hopeful families, who are eager to gain a position for 2022. Our rooms are filling quickly and there are very limited positions remaining within the service. If you are still hopeful to secure a position before February 14th 2022, please do make contact with us and I will advise of our remaining availability.

2022 will see some very exciting changes for us within the service. We have had such keen interest in the current Kindergarten programme that we offer, that we will be opening a second Kindergarten programme for 2022. Both programmes are completely booked now and we are very much looking forward to this new venture we embark on for 2022. We are discussions for a rename for both Kindergartens for 2022 and we would love to hear your input! We are incredibly lucky here at Little Ducks to be able to have two wonderful and very experienced Early Childhood teachers to deliver these programmes.

A highlight for me over the past two months has been the focus we have placed on updating our gardens. This bought the entire service together, for a day of team work to prepare the garden beds and plant our new plants. My most favourite part of our garden, would have to be the bush-tucker garden. Over the next few months, we are very excited to be able to gravest our first crop of herbs and vegetable to be able to use within our programmes.



Until next time,
Kind Regards,
Erin Evans
Centre Manager/Nominated Supervisor

RATED EXCEEDING NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

35 Waldheim Street
Annerley QLD 4103
Phone (07) 3848 7688
Fax (07) 3848 6533

Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

annerley@littleducks.com.au

Upcoming Events!

November

Thursday 4th – **Diwali** – the children and educators will together celebrate the Indian festival of lights.

Monday 8th - Sunday 14th November– **National Recycling Week**
A great week of creating with recyclable materials and exploring how recycling helps the environment.

Thursday 11th - **Remembrance Day**
We will be making poppy's in remembrance of the diggers that gave their lives for our country and paying our respects on this day.



13th – 19th **National Nutrition Week**
Let's learn to eat right and eat for our health.

December

Children's Christmas Party
Come along for some Christmas fun.
- Date to be confirmed

9th December
Kindergarten Graduation 4.30pm
Celebrating our children that are transitioning to school next year

Saturday 25th - **Christmas Day**
Sunday 26th – **Boxing Day**

Monday 27th – Friday 31st Centre **Christmas closure**



Easy Art! - Salt dough ornaments



All-purpose flour (4 cups) , **Table salt (1 cup) Warm water (1 1/2 cups)**

- Grab your large mixing bowl, and add in the flour and salt. Stir until well combined. Then, slowly stream in the warm water while stirring. Keep stirring until you've added all the water.
- You'll get to a point where it is too hard to stir with a spoon. Put it down and use your hands to get in there and mix it well.
- Once the dough starts to come together, keep kneading with your hands for a few minutes until the dough is smooth and pliable.
- transfer the whole parchment paper and shapes onto a baking sheet. Bake the ornaments in a 150°C oven for about an hour. This isn't an exact science, because inevitably, your shapes won't be 100% even in thickness. They are done when they feel hard. They are really done if they start to brown (no worries, that's something we can fix later!). Let the ornaments cool completely before proceeding to the next step.

We value your input and feedback so please refer to the Policy Review Folder in the foyer for more information or to provide any comments or suggestions. The policies/procedures in review during May and June are:

- Additional needs
- Social media
- Code of ethics
- Sleep, rest, relaxation and clothing
- Food, nutrition and beverage
- Medication
- Medical conditions

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Owen, Illya, Ang, Hineni, Lucy.T, Alessa, Kack, Tyson, Tej, Finn.M, Hannah, Johannes, Lia, Genevieve, Samson, Hunter, Cassius, Zachary and Madeleine.



Easy Recipe–
Christmas pudding truffles

- 750g Christmas pudding or fruitcake
- 100g dark chocolate, chopped
- 30g Western Star Chef's Choice Premium Cultured Unsalted Butter
- 2 tbsp brandy (optional)
- 200g white chocolate, chopped
- 12 red glace cherries, quartered and thinly sliced
- 12 green glace cherries, quartered and thinly sliced



Method

Step 1

Break up the Christmas pudding or fruitcake in the bowl of a food processor and blitz until it forms coarse crumbs.

Step 2

Place the dark chocolate and butter in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan half-filled with simmering water. Stir until the ingredients melt together and the mixture becomes smooth. Add the melted chocolate and brandy to the Christmas pudding or fruitcake crumbs, and stir to combine.

Step 3

Line a tray with baking paper. Roll large tablespoonfuls of the mixture into balls, and place on the lined tray. Transfer into the fridge to chill for 45 minutes.

Step 4

Meanwhile, place the white chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan half-filled with simmering water. Stir until the chocolate has melted and becomes smooth. Use a teaspoon or piping bag to drizzle the melted white chocolate over the truffles, and decorate with the slices of cherries.

Nursery Natter!



The Nursery has reached the final term for the year 2021!

Promoting and scaffolding resilience and self regulation to facilitate a smooth transition are common goals planned for this term. To work towards these goals the Nursery Team is practising intentional teaching approaches as follows. 1) Get the children to match the room routine for next year, transitioning from the individual routine that we carried on from home to day care at the start of the year. The educators have communicated with next year's staff regarding the requirements. 2) To promote self regulation skills at meal times, rest times, solitary play and during group experiences. We plan to emphasize on autonomous play, use the individual observations to extend on to larger group experiences and to scaffold on self regulating skills. 3)promoting self regulation further by encouraging self help skills with meals using cutlery, wearing hats, knowing their own belongings; hats and shoes.

Families will continue to be provided with regular updates on the goal progression throughout this term and with photos on the programming wall, which is created using 99% recycled materials, and children's contributions with art and craft. Please do take the time to add your child's current interests to the wall, to ensure we are planning for these moments.





Over the past few months our Move and Groove focus has been on balancing skills and will be continuing on with climbing and Baby Yoga. We have been bringing the outdoors inside, with obstacle courses and climbing frames being set up inside. This has challenged the babies gross motor skills and balancing, and we have certainly noticed an increase in their confidence levels surrounding this.

We have recently begun exploring our senses. We have begun this by introducing different natural resources for the children to explore. This included; dry leaves, fresh leaves, flowers and herbs. The children used their sense of smell and touch to uncover the different textures within the natural materials. This has sparked a learning journey that we are still uncovering, by exploring different colors.

We are very eager for the next two months as we near the end of the year and continue to watch the babies grow and develop, before they make the transition into their new rooms in 2022.



Miss Manoja



Miss Rabia

Senior Nursery Tales!



We welcomed Frederick, Violette, Lily to join our Senior Nursery family. This term has flown so quickly. “Time flies when you’re having fun.” Our Senior Nursery children have been developing so rapidly. Amongst all the other planning and children’s interests; one of our main focuses on our weekly planning is on the children’s goal and developing milestones. As we continue to assist the children with their communication skills, it is amazing to see how far they have come. Our older children are now communicating their needs more confidently whether it be verbally or non-verbally. This skill has proven to prevent frustration from the children as they use words and kind gestures to communicate their needs, wants and desires. We have been encouraging this skill through modeling, group time, stories and songs.



As the children continue to develop their fine motor strengths; we have been challenging their abilities. With activities alternating from playdough, picking items with spoons, pulling water with a pitcher, children continued to show interest in fine motor development. Gross motor development is supported through activities such as obstacle courses, ball activities and dance.

Move and groove program have been helping with our gross motor skills as well. With Up & down obstacle courses, Pilates and underarm rolling etc. We also set up an indoor obstacle course for children during our rainy periods, and our children loved it! They showed enthusiasm in exploring how to walk up and down the stairs with their educators. It is challenging for this age group at the moment; but with practice we will definitely master it.

Watering the plants in the garden has been our children's all time favorite, especially after participating in our garden show. We have added new plants into our garden; It's going to be a fun learning experience for the little ones to look after the flowers, herbs and vegetables and water them grow every days. Our children have also shown such a strong interest in saving their fruits to be put in the compost bin instead of the rubbish bin since our lately center garden show. As we have conversations about worm farm and composting, we are teaching the children about a sustainable environment.

Self-help skills and helping pack up has been a new teaching this term. As some children show interest in helping pack up. We have introduced and modeled to the children about packing up with songs. At the moment children are encouraged to clean their plates in the bin and put their plates in the dirty dish bucket. Children have been observed getting up after mealtime and putting their plates away with enthusiasm. This experience is extended by hygiene practice as well, as the children put their plates away, they walk to the bathroom to wash their hands and faces. We have been focusing on dental and hygiene practices. we modeled how to wash hands properly and we assisted the children to drink water swish it around after mealtimes. We also planned a weekly activity where a picture of teeth was printed out, laminated and colored some teeth with green marker, to imitate dirty teeth. Children were then encouraged and assisted to brush the laminated teeth.



We recently opened a little hair salon in the room for our children to ex
tend their interests in checking on themselves through the mirror. This theme play set up will encourage children to use their imagination and make connections with their real life experience and dramatic play. It helps to develop their identity through exploring the role as a hairdresser.



Miss Concy



Miss Vicky



Miss Abigail

Toddler Time!



This term we have been working on children's language skills through songs, rhymes and stories which aids in building their vocabulary and developing their confidence to build short sentences. This includes their ability to understand and follow simple instructions in a way that is age-appropriate and individual to each child. We have been seeing a great improvement in children's verbal communication skills over the past few weeks. Our current favorite songs to sing to include Baby Shark, Open Shut Them, One Little Finger, The Wheels on The Bus and Five Little Ducks. We also love to dance to all of the Disney songs!

We have been focusing on extending children's fine motor skills through a broad variety of activities which help develop children's crucial milestone that support their future writing and scissor cutting skills. This also includes their ability to open containers, buttons, zippers and picking up small items with tongs.

Our theme for this term was "Our Bodies!" where we explored our body parts, health and wellbeing and our emotions. Learning about our body in a holistic manner introduces children to ways that we can keep ourselves healthy, growing and strong – children have a strong sense of wellbeing.



As of late we have been having plenty of rain which allows for lots of jumping in puddles and water play. These activities provide an opportunity to enhance physical abilities and practice our balancing. It also connects us to our natural environment (country). Indulging their senses creates awareness of personal space and helps them socialize with others.

Our centre had a Gardening Day on the 21st of October which allowed everyone – children and educators – to get dirty as we improved our gardens through digging, planting and watering. This hands-on experiment allowed children to build a respect and awareness for nature, sustainability practices and a love for gardening. Digging the holes, planting the plants and watering the garden provided our toddler children the opportunity to practice and strengthen fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. We will continue to take care of our gardens through watering and checking for any progress including flowers!

We have had Marlie, our indigenous doll, visit a few more of our children's homes including Isabel, Oscar and Theo. We have been eagerly awaiting to see what adventures Marlie get up to at home with our Toddies! This has helped build connections with our families and bringing a part of their home life into care.



Over the next few weeks we will be exploring our children's new interest which is Hairdressers! We will set up our own "Toddler Salon!" in our room with a variety of hairbrushes, combs, shower caps, spray bottles, hair ties, clips and a mirror. This dramatic play experience will allow children to further develop their role playing skills in a social setting with their peers and educators whilst broadening their language development. We can't wait to see how this interest develops!

We will also be working on children's independence and self-help skills. This includes taking responsibility for their own belongings including their hat, shoes, and water bottle which we will encourage to be put away in their bags or water trolley after each use. Our children have been helping to pack away their bedsheets after rest time which builds further builds their responsibility for their belongings. When children practice self-help skills it boosts their confidence. This is important as it reduces their overall stress and positively promotes their self-esteem.





Miss Di

Miss Lauren

Junior Kindy Column!

We have been very busy in our Junior Kindy room, over the past few months as we have been engaging in Yoga & Breath time most mornings with Miss Sidra (music and movement) where the children learn to engage their diaphragms for deeper breaths and also practice yoga moves to stay flexible and warm up for the day. We are also enjoying interactive books and songs about sun-safety (health & hygiene; learning about ways to wear the sun safe clothing, the correct way to apply sun-screen and reapplying every 2-3 hours) and toilet training (how it takes persistence and practice to sit on toilet and hygienic practices towards wiping ourselves, flushing the toilet and washing our hands properly). For our sustainability program we planned a fantastic "Gardening Day" where we all helped to soften and dig the soil, learnt how to plant our flowers, shrubs, vegetables and herbs.



We are also focusing a lot more on our self help skills; clearing away plates, being responsible for our own belongings (putting away our shoes and socks in our lockers), making and packing away our beds, serving our own foods and so forth. This would be beneficial to us for our sense of autonomy and our identity as competent individuals.



We have been contributing to daily affirmations every day with Miss Sinead with the goal that all of our Junior Kindy children will continue to have self-esteem and a positive mindset so they can have gratitude for what they have and face any challenge that they may face with confidence. We are also beginning to incorporate Spanish into our daily routine. So far we have learnt a song to familiarize ourselves with the days of the week and we have learnt to count to 10. In the coming weeks, we will start doing our affirmations in Spanish (as well as in English), and we will learn the colors too. Our focus this month will be the weather, growing seeds/flowers, and self-help. We are explored all things spring! We have recently discussed how rain helps turn our neighborhoods green again, and which animals are returning from the long, cold winter, and becoming active. We even plant a few seeds and make observations along the way. We are working on children's self-help and how they should be independent, we are also working on making an animal farm in our junior kindy room, we have a lot of animal lovers so it will be a fun. We also had an incursion last term "The Magical Garden Creatures Show" which had activities about sustainability, environment and different kinds of flora present locally.





Miss Sidra



Miss Sarah



Miss Luana

Senior Kindy Catch Up!



Move and Groove

We have been super active the last couple of weeks with new balls, games and yoga! We have loved "What's the time Mr Wolf?" which is also great for developing our counting and turn taking skills. We have also really enjoyed dancing – especially to "Mr Clickety Came"! Dancing together is fantastic for expression, gross motor development and building a sense of belonging to our SK community. But most of all we have loved yoga with Miss Leighanne every afternoon. Not only is this great for gross motor, body awareness, strength and flexibility but it also helps in calming and boosting self-esteem as we master our balance and flexibility.







Health and Hygiene

The last couple of weeks we have had a huge emphasis on washing our hands properly. We talk about how important it is to make sure we clean in-between our fingers, on top of our hands and rub our fingernails. Miss Vanessa did a great sequencing activity to help us remember how to wash them really well. We have even been practicing a hand washing song to sing to as we wash!

Sustainability

Lately we have been really getting into our gardening and growing of plants! As part of our sustainability program this month, we had the Magical Garden Creatures show visit us! It was a wonderful interactive experience in which we learnt about the environment and sustainability.

We have also put a massive effort into our gardens – you'll see they are vibrant with beautiful plants which we are making sure we water all the time. The SK kids loved getting their hands dirty planting them and developed their gross motor skills as they dug, planted and watered. The plants inside are thriving too! We love to watch our bean sprouts grow!

Senior Kindy Catch Up!



Our Solar System

Miss Vanessa has been doing a lot of activities with planets, stars and suns to help educate the children about our solar system. They love making aliens, painting their own planets, and learning about space.











Miss Noo | Miss Leighanne | Miss Vanessa

Kindergarten Program!

Wow, time flies… we are now approaching the final stretch of our kindy year, but we still have a number of exciting and fun activities lined up for our children as usual. As summer is around the corner, we have been promoting sun safety to the children such as putting sunscreen on, staying in the shade when it's hot, and keeping hats on during play. The children also have been starting to explore more water play. So please ensure that the children have enough spare clothes in their bag to get changed after their wet n' wild exploration.

The learning project continues in the kindy room. Over the past few months, children have been participating and engaging in discussion about what they would like to extend next. The camping experience is one of the learning areas that was extended from many show & Tell presentations and was great to see children are confident to share their personal experiences and make connections to kindy learning.



During the group time, the children discussed what they have noticed which they could put in the camping area. They suggested adding a campfire, a tent, some wildlife and nature, stars and moon in the sky, a flashlight, a fishing rod to catch fish for the fire, as well as marshmallows. Children cooperated and developed their creativity and imagination to contribute to creating a camping atmosphere.

Another focus was firefighters which was a decision and choice by the children. The Kindy children and teachers collaborated to make a learning set up in the room. We had all the gears for role play such as fire uniform costume, helmet, fire truck, fire alarm, books, and pictures. Children engaged in role play which supports their growing language and vocabulary.

Australiana Vet was inspired from children's dramatic play from farm play and firefighters. They suggested to set up a place where they can take care of the sick and save the animals. So, we started the vet learning area and with children's help for the preparation, it's ready for them to explore and creating their own roleplay.

There are also some events that kindy children participated in. After the children completed adding the moon into the camp area, Miss. Jenny thought that it would be a good opportunity to introduce the Moon Festival, which is one of the important events they celebrate in her culture. Ms. Jenny shared the story of why the Moon Festival is celebrated and demonstrated the Chinese words that represent the moon. The children have been practicing writing those letters on the whiteboard and made their own lanterns to decorate the camping area. Miss Jenny also invited children to experience the atmosphere of celebrating the festival by sitting in the camp area to watch a full moon with some pretend foods.



Kindergarten Program!

To continue to promote personal safety, we invited Bravehearts to share their knowledge on personal space and privacy. Ditto, one of the Bravehearts mascots, introduced the importance of personal space and our private parts through action songs and interaction with the children. Bravehearts also taught the children to 'Run and tell someone you can trust' when facing stranger danger and sharing their feelings using the 'yes feeling' and 'no feeling' gestures. We have been revisiting these contents after the show and practicing the songs during our transition times.



The Kindy children were also very excited for the Garden Growers presentation with Ms. Angela, who came to teach the children through engaging song and dance about the insects and animals which are important for the growth of a garden, such as worms, caterpillars and butterflies. Ms. Angela also allowed the children the chance to experience planting for themselves by helping the children transplant some vegetables and herbs and explained how to water them at the roots. It was a great experience which gave some valuable lessons that we will use for the Kindy veggie garden!

Our upcoming events in kindy room:

- Diwali Celebration: Indian Festival of lights
- National Recycling Week: creating with recyclable materials and exploring how recycling helps the environment.
- Continuing with Vet and Firefighter focus
- Readiness for school and transition statement

Feel  free to approach kindy teachers if you have any questions



Miss Jenny



Mr Tim

Sustainability Program!

In our sustainability program during the month of September we focused on our Sustainability challenge. Through this the educators looked at different parts of the challenge which they focused on in their room e.g. recycling, saving water, saying no to disposable cutlery, etc – challenging the children to learn different ways in which we can make a difference in caring for the environment.



While reflecting on this we acknowledged that different groups show an interest in their own learning within our Sustainability program (Senior Kindy are very aware of the impact of rubbish ending up in our waterways and the how this affects the marine life – so they will often talk about this during the day.) We have changed our planning so that all of the modules are shared within the service and the educators of your child's room choose what they feel is the current interest In the room. We are happy for any input from parents about what they feel their child displays an interest in also and we can incorporate this into the program.

If you are interested in learning more about the programs, please click into the sustainability plan that your child's educator shares on their program and it will give you a overview of what they are currently learning.



As a centre this month we worked on a gardening challenge whereby the entire centre got together and planted many different flowers, herbs, vegetables, bush tucker etc in the gardens throughout the centre. Prior to purchasing the plants we had many discussions with the children about what they would like to see in the garden – and used their ideas in planning and planting the gardens. The children are also very involved atm with caring for our gardens, watering them and also ensuring their friends care for them also.

Extending on this we have had renewed interest in our worm farm and the children are saving their food scraps to feed the worms, leading to many discussions about composting and also what the important role the "worm tea" plays in our garden.

In the Senior kindy room we are also working on growing plants from food scraps , which we will continue to do over the coming month also, as there has been much interest and excitement about this.



Once again we are always happy for input from parents about ideas that they think could be incorporated into the program.



Miss Leighanne

Health and Hygiene Program

With the weather getting much hotter over the past few months our focus for the month of September was Sun safety. Through this module we focused on the importance of learning the five "must do" for sun safety, apply sunscreen, wear sun safe clothing, play in the shade where possible, wear a hat and also wear sunglasses if possible.

Through this we also discussed other ways in which we can protect ourselves with our extreme sun e.g. ensuring our equipment is at an appropriate temperature not to burn us, ensure we are drinking a lot of water to hydrate ourselves, ensuring we never leave any person's or animals in the car during intense heat – these are just a few of the teaching points we covered over the month of September – and of cause these are reinforced in our daily programs across the centre.

We have made some changes to our Health and Hygiene program, as we felt we needed to focus on the needs and interests of the individual groups, as often the educators felt that whatever our module was on, was not the main focus for their room – so now each of the rooms will choose their own Health and Hygiene modules to do with their groups.

Over the last month most of the groups have been focusing on Handwashing; ensuring the children are all washing their hands properly and at regular times through out the day e.g. on arrival at the service, before eating or handling food, after using the toilet, after blowing nose or coughing, coming in from outside play, etc. Especially given the current global situation we feel this is a very important learning experience for all the children.

In addition to this, Junior Kindy are also focusing on toileting, and Kindy are incorporating oral health to their program.

If there are any topics that you would like to see incorporated into our Health and Hygiene list of modules please do not hesitate to come and see either myself or your child's educator and we will incorporate this into our program



Miss Leighanne