Little Ducks Childcare Bardon

November/ December 2021

A note from your Centre Manager

Dear Families of Bardon, we acknowledge the traditional lands of the Turrbal people and recognise the strength and resilience of the Aboriginal people of this land .

It's that time for the Bardon Newsletter again. We are now in Term 4 of our year already! Where has the year gone?

Throughout December, the educators will be working hard on completing the children's summative assessments of learning. Throughout the summative assessments the educators will share the highlights and current development and learning of each child in relation to the five learning outcomes of the EYLF and QKLG curriculums.

I am excited to announce that here at Little Ducks Bardon I have updated the Reconciliation Action Plan. This is available for parents to view anytime in the office upon request. We have some new multicultural resources coming soon which will help support the educators in their learning experiences planned for the children. I would like to invite parents if you would like to be part of the RAP committee please let me know and I can put your name down.

Thank you to all the families for your understanding and support whilst I received training as I stepped up into the Centre Manager role. If there is anything I can do, please don't hesitate to let me know.



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

Kind Regards,
Miss Roxy
Centre Manager

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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events

November

1st Halloween- Children can come dressed in their spooky costume for a day of fun activities



2nd National Grandparents Day- Grandparents are invited at 10am for Morning tea and to come for a morning full of fun activities



4th Diwali Festival– We will be celebrating the festival of lights with some activities planned for the children



10th Remembrance Day– We will have a minute silence and remember our fallen soldiers and have activities planned



14th National Recycling week– We will explore recycling all week with the children



December

TBA – Kindy graduation



TBA – Children's Christmas party



14th Dental2 You visit– The dentist will attend the centre and check the children's teeth and oral hygiene



27th – 3rd – Centre closed. Enjoy holidays with the family



Policies in Review

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

- Medication
- Medication Conditions
- Food, Nutrition & Beverage
- Sleep, Rest, Relaxation & Clothing
- Code Of Ethics
- Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying and Occupational Violence
- Social Media
- Additional Needs

Did you know that Policies can be located for parent view at any time in our front Foyer.

Ways to provide feed back are:

Policies are available in the office and you can give feedback by sending an email to bardon@littleducks.com.au.

Your feedback is greatly appreciated and what better way to share this then go on-

Educator Spotlight ...

Miss Trudy

Please welcome Miss Tracey to the Little Ducks team. Miss Trudy holds a Diploma in Children's Services and will be our Educational Leader, working in the float role so Trudy will be able to support all the educators within the Centre. Miss Trudy has worked in the childcare industry for the past 10 years, working with all age groups.

Trudy loves taking her dog for a walk or to the beach. Trudy has just enrolled in a Bachelor of Education Early Childhood and is excited to learn something new. Trudy has recently got engaged and is excitedly planning her wedding for August 2022. If you see Trudy please go and say hi.



EYLF OUTCOME 4: CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS

Children are natural explorers, ready to touch, taste, smell, look at, and listen to all the things around them. Everywhere that children go, they are curious about what they see and do. This curiosity leads to questions that can spark important exploration and learning, especially in math and science.

Science is the study of the natural world and the process of finding out about the world and how everything in it works. Math includes exploring numbers, quantity, space, patterns, and relationships. Math is a problem-solving process.

Opportunities for science and math learning are all around us; for example, when a child wants to investigate the water coming out of the faucet, the snow tracked in on her winter boots, or the cereal floating in her bowl. Routine occurrences like these are natural opportunities for parents and caregivers to help their children to discover and explore with all of their senses.

By showing your child how math and science are part of everyday experiences, you convey that math and science are important and exciting. By supporting your child's curiosity and helping her to ask questions, look for answers, make observations, and explore with all her senses, you show your child that that she can think like a mathematician and scientist. You also help her to develop important skills for future learning. Children who are confident questioners, explorers, and problem-solvers will arrive at school with many of the tools necessary to thrive.

In this video you'll meet children from four families:

- Kendra (age 3) as she takes a walk with her family.
- Cora (age 4) and her sister Pepper (age 2) as they explore ramps.
- Joaquin (age 4) and his older brother Tariq (age 12) as they build block structures.
- Marli (age 3) as she cooks with her mom.

Watch as these children explore math and science at home and on-the-go.

http://resourcesforearlylearning.org/parents/module/1147/31/

A World of Science and Math. In the video, you saw children building math and science skills through hands-on experiences. Kendra explored leaves during a walk outside, Tariq and Joaquin investigated balance as they built with blocks, and Marli and her mother made math a part of their meal preparation.

You also saw Cora and Pepper's mother further engage them in their ramp explorations by asking questions such as "What do you think will happen when we roll this ball down the ramp?"

- Where else in the video did the parents use questions to help spark investigation?
- What are some questions that have encouraged your child to investigate?

Try This. Pose a daily math or science question that you and your child can investigate as you are out and about. You might ask, "What do you think would happen to our shadows if we stand under that tree?" Or, "Which object do you think will roll fastest down this slide? Why do you think that? Let's find out!"

Sparking Science. In the video, parents used their children's interests to spark science investigation. Kendra's parents know she loves being outside, so they went on a walk to explore leaves. Your child will be most excited to explore what she is interested in. By building science investigations out of her interests you encourage deep and lasting learning.

Try This. Give your child an investigation kit. In a box or bag put string, a plastic bag, a magnifying glass, paper, a ruler, and crayons. Demonstrate how to use any tools that your child is unfamiliar with. Encourage your child to use these tools to investigate something that interests her indoors or outdoors. She might measure the trunk of a tree with the string, dig in the dirt, use the magnifying glass to inspect a leaf, and then draw pictures that illustrate her investigations.

Making Math Meaningful. In the video, Marli explores numbers, shapes, and measurement as she makes a pizza with her mom. Through this experience she learns that math is a part of mealtime. When math is connected to children's real world experiences, it takes on far more meaning to them. Children are eager to learn more about math when they see just how important it is.

Try This. Use math words or "math talk" as you are out and about with your child. Math talk includes words that describe size and weight, words that describe shape, and words that describe how many or how much. At the post office you might discuss the size and shape of a stamp, on a walk you might count your steps or discuss which building is the tallest. At home you might ask your child to tell you how many crackers are on his plate. Hearing and using math words will help your child understand the math that happens in school and in real life.

Nursery Natter!



Welcome to our families in the Nursery room. In the Nursery the babies need to feel safe, secure and supported and we do this by building secure attachments with their educators. At routine times, such as nappy changing, feeding and mat play we interact and form bonds through singing and talking to the babies. As educators we recognize there are times in a child's day that may provoke feelings of distress or discomfort and we recognize these feelings and are able to provide comforting support for your child. The babies are developing a sense of belonging and when their routines are implemented it helps to make predicted transitions smooth for the child. We have also been working towards staggering our meals as some children are wanting to be fed earlier than others and this provides a one on one feeding experience with an educator. The babies confidently explore their environment through relationships and play, such as, singing, building with blocks and home corner investigation. We are working with the babies on being confident when dealing with spontaneous situations such as an unfamiliar person coming into the room. It is important that the children feel comfortable and like they belong in their environment. We recognize the babies individual achievements and love seeing them share happiness and enjoyment. The older children have been enjoying moving their bodies to music and also listening to different kinds of Multicultural music. For sustainability we have been helping to water our pot plants and conserve energy through turning off our lights during rest periods. In move and groove we have been practicing our balancing and ball throwing. Over the past month we have celebrated 24th-1st October Children's week. 28th October is Day for Daniel. On 1st November is Halloween and the 2nd is National Grandparents day. The 4th November is Diwali and the 14th is National Recycling week.



We have built a lovely Circle of Security forging strong bonds with the babies. The babies in the Nursery feel safe and secure within our care and we are proud of our achievements. We treat routine times such as nappy changing and feeding and we encourage the child to be an active participant. The babies have been engaging in small group activities such as sensory play and block play while learning new interests and friendships with their peers. As the weather becomes warmer the babies enjoy water play and investigating water mixed with sand. We create opportunities for interactions and routine times to be one on one.







Miss Tammie, Mr Tyler and Miss Niki

Senior Nursery Natter!



These past two months we have been focussing on gardening, cooking experiences and painting activities, all of which are based on the children's interest and which they enjoy. The cooking experiences are a lot of fun and we learn a range of skills, namely measurements, fine motor skills, experimenting, teamwork and self-regulation skills. It is a sensory experience as well. The children all enjoy eating raw cookie dough. We baked several different things, namely coconut biscuits, "troll muffins", monster cookies, and decorated biscuits. This has been a highlight of the week. On the days that we bake we enjoy a special afternoon tea together. We have had wonderful results and lots of fun. The aim is to further complicate the cooking experiences to extend learning. We do gardening which supports holistic learning. Planting seeds and seedlings promotes curiosity as we wonder what will happen. Gardening aids emotional development as children experience delight and disappointment when the plants thrive or whither. It also develops patience and delayed gratification as we have to wait for the plants to grow. It develops fine motor skills and engages the senses. The aim of these experiences is to also foster an appreciation for nature. We planted lavender seeds which did not germinate. We also planted the Woolworths Discovery Packs which did not do very well. The seedlings that we planted has brought us a lot of satisfaction as we observed them grow and a few flowered. We planted some grass seeds to make grass heads in a cup, and we are so pleased that they have grown so well. We regularly observe and water the plants. The children enjoy spraying or watering the plants. Sometimes we spray each other which is fun! The children are very interested in reading and books, especially books with sounds. It is wonderful that every child in the room enjoys reading so we do this daily. The children choose the same books to read, mainly about animals, trucks and cars. They also like the "The night garden as well as "Thomas the Train" books. The vocabulary of the children is significantly increasing. The children have developed strong relationships with each other and with key educators. The children have been caring and understanding to the children that have newly entered the room. It has been wonderful to see the children who have been there longer attempt to soothe and comfort the children who newly joined the room by offering them toys, their dummy or comfort toy. I have noticed that the children in the room have become less demanding of my attention while the newer children are adjusting. The recent development in the room is that the children's assertiveness, confidence and vocabulary has significantly increased. There are often certain toys that the children all want at once and they are being challenged to take turns and problem solve. They are learning about boundaries and personal space, as well as norms and values. We have all had a pleasant few months with lots of learning, and getting to know and understand each other better. (developing relationships and prosocial skills).



Thanks,

Miss Reneta



Toddler Tales!

Wow! What a fantastic two months we have spent together in the toddler room? Can you imagine I am writing the last newsletter of this year? I am truly happy to see our little toddlers are growing little by little in all the five areas such as cognitive, social, emotional, physical and language.

The Toddlers' Room has been really focusing on spontaneous learning and child-initiated play! This means that the educators are responsive to children's ideas and play, and from that, we form the basis of learning experiences in the room. Every Monday morning during group time, we have been talking about how everyone spent their weekend and it led to get the ideas for planning every week programming. During this hot weather condition, most of the children are going to the beach and to have experience in Sea World. It caused us to do lots of activities regarding the sea animals. The toddlers had done handprints for clownfish, two different types of jelly fish, star fish, a playdough activity for making sea urchins, art activities for drawing fish, star fish, sensory play with the sea animals, reading books regarding sea animals, and singing songs about sea animals. They all loved singing the "Slippery Fish" song while doing the actions along with it.

Another two weeks, we have done the activities regarding farm animals as some children had visited some farmhouses. During that period, the children have done lots of art and crafts activities such as making cats, ducks, chickens and pigs, drawing different farm animals, reading books about farm animals, sensory play with farm animals and their most favourite activity was the singing "Old Mc Donald's" song and singing the new song, "What do we see".

For sustainability, we were focussing on the gardening project as this spring weather helps to grow plants fast in a healthy way. This type of life experiences helps children to gain skills for the future as they will know how to grow plants and why it is important to grow these plants and where fruits and veggies come from. The toddlers planted the seeds from "Woolworth discovery pack" and they watched day by day how they germinated as little seedlings, transferred them to the ground in the veggie patch and watered every day for caring them. They all had a fun and fabulous time with Ms Angela who brought the "The magical garden" incursion to the centre.

For the "Move N' Groove" program, we have focussed on activities regarding jumping and balancing and these all activities help children to develop their gross motor skills, leg-eye coordination, and balancing.

We started to focus on activities regarding the RAP program (Reconciliation Action Plan). Every morning our toddlers join to do the acknowledgement of the country with all the other children in the centre. They loved to do the actions along with the two aboriginal songs and most of our toddlers can sing these songs called, "Ina Nay Capuana" and "Taba Naba".

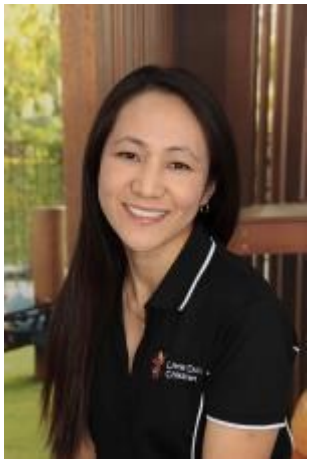
Toddler Tales!

They have learnt to respect of the custodians of the land. Not only that they have been doing some activities regarding Aboriginal culture such as playing with the cultural dolls, dot painting etc. The educators started to do the activities to achieve the term 4 goals of the individual child.
There are only two more months left until it's the end of the year! We will keep on working on embracing and building on the children's strengths and plan more experiences for them to explore and learn! We will also continue to work on transitions for the children coming into the room and for those who are moving up! Looking forward ending the year on a great note with everyone!

Thanks,

Miss Chrish, Miss Osi and Miss Jess











Junior Kindy Jumble!

Hello Families, It is hard to believe we are well into Term 4 already; what a different yet fantastic year it has been. It has been great to see the children develop, gaining new skills, talents, and abilities throughout the year. This learning will support the children moving onto kindergarten next year or coming back for another year of kindy.

Ms Amie and I have spent a large part of our day simply observing children, and from this, we have learnt so much about them and their personalities. We can anticipate problems, step in to avoid potential conflict before it escalates or simply avoid a meltdown. During these next few months, Ms Amie and I will begin to take a step back and encourage the children to work out ways to solve problems for themselves and improve their self-help skills, like learning to take care of their belongings and put them away in their lockers. This is particularly useful during routine times that the children have done each day at kindy, tidying inside after games, packing away after morning tea or lunch, and during their interactions with each other. These are excellent skills to have when at home and when they start school.

The children enjoyed space week, an annual celebration, and it is a fascinating topic for children. Ms Amie and I watched the children react with amazement as they learnt about the vastness of space, the colours and sizes of the different planets and our voyages to the moon and beyond. We sparked the children's imagination by making a rocket ship with them, watching moon landings on YouTube, and even seeing "Pepe Pig" blasting off into space!

The garden is looking great now, and we are very proud of the children's work. The children have been spending quite a lot of time caring for the plants by watering and mulching. Gardening is so beneficial for the children. It provides opportunities to learn basic science and math concepts, promote healthy eating, motor skill development, and take responsibility as they understand it is their job to take care of seeds and plants each day.

We look forward to celebrating children's week as it is an annual event celebrated in Australia to celebrate the rights of children to enjoy childhood and for the wider community to rejoice in their talents, skills, and abilities.

We look forward to preparing for Christmas and the end of year celebrations, how very exciting!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Take care

Ms Fiona and Ms Amie





Junior Kindy Jumble!









Kindy Catch Up!

Welcome To November!

Over the last month we have been working towards school readiness. Encouraging such things as taking care of our belongings. Looking after our classroom, making sure bags are packed and lockers tidy, helping and being kind to our friends making green choices and recognising what a red choice is.
Roxy and Stephanie were invited to an afternoon tea at Rainworth State school to meet with the teachers in the spirit of making new connections where they outlined their approach to the Prep year and the early literacy program they run. Goals we can start to reach before school starts are getting into line with school eating times, with meal breaks lasting around 15 minutes before they can start playing. Getting the kindy's used to using the toilets cubicle with the lock on it. Bringing individual containers for each meal as opposed to bento boxes. Wearing Velcro shoes (at school) and breaking them in leading up to school and getting the kindy's used to a no shoes off policy. To continue working with our fine motor skills of using scissors and pencil control, phonological awareness with sounds, rhyming words and word families.
Our term 4 program reflects the continuation of these school readiness goals with learning intentions of being able to use strategies or independently express feeling appropriately, strategies to regulate emotions, to manage challenges, to identify fair and unfair behaviours in everyday behaviour and to understand responsibilities, safe and unsafe risks, personal needs, positive interactions and resilience, confidence to negotiate into play, self help skills, responsibility of belongings and following instructions.
We also look forward to starting our garden in our outdoor area. Continue with our cooking and science experiments and welcome any input with experiment suggestions or recipes as we explore the world around us.
Please remember to send a recipe through on Storypark of your families favourite so we can start to compile them for our end of year kindy cookbook.
Thank you,

Miss Stephanie, Miss Charlotte, and Miss Tracey





Kindy Catch Up!









Our Community ...



Healthy Habits!

Gingerbread men



Ingredients:

- 125g unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 firmly packed cup (100g) brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (115g) golden syrup
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 1/2 cups (450g) plain flour
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 1 cup (150g) icing sugar, sifted

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Line 2 large baking trays. Place butter and sugar in a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment and beat until thick and pale. Beat in syrup and yolk, then use a spoon to fold in flour, ginger, mixed spice and bicarb until a stiff dough forms. Divide dough into 2 even portions, enclose in plastic wrap and shape into a disc. Chill for 30 minutes.

2. Bring dough to room temperature. Roll out pieces between baking paper to 5mm thick. Use a gingerbread man cutter (we used a 7cm and a 12cm cutters) to cut shapes. Transfer to prepared trays, spacing out a few centimetres apart (you may need to bake in batches) and bake for 10 minutes or until golden. Remove from oven, and if inserting a ribbon for decoration, quickly make 5mm holes with a skewer at the top of the warm biscuits. Cool completely on a wire rack.

3. If making icing, stir icing sugar with 2-3 teaspoons warm water to make a stiff icing. Transfer to a piping bag with a small plain nozzle (or place mixture in a snap-lock bag, push icing into a corner, then snip off corner). Decorate however you prefer. The biscuits will keep in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks.