

Little Ducks Childcare New Farm

November/December 2021

A note from your Centre Manager

As we head toward the end of this crazy year and look back over what we have achieved I can't help to be proud of all of the Little Ducks Childcare New Farm educators and their dedication to our children and families and their professionalism in their work. We end the year with the same core group of educators and added a few more. Through the year we have completed many hours of professional development in particular completing our Pathways to Resilience Project—this year long partnership with Pathways to Resilience increased our educators capabilities immensely and saw an even bigger focus on positive relationships with families and children as we learnt more about the neuroscience behind how positive interactions with children create strong neural pathways which in turn creates confident resilient children.

The year began with a review of our Service Centre Philosophy, which was influenced by our Pathways project! Positive relationships with children and families have become our vision.

Along the way we have worked with our Early Years Network Inner Brisbane to build connections with our local schools and present 4 Community Information Sessions—providing free information sessions to families of the Inner Brisbane community.

We have worked with our families and children toward meeting 240 child goals, written 120 summative assessment celebrating the growth and development of our children. We have republished our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for the 3rd year putting actions in place to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture into our service. We have approved our 4th Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP) reflecting on actions that ensure all children have access to early learning. Probably most importantly we have celebrated 3 Educator Appreciation Days. Without the dedication of our educators Little Ducks New Farm would be a very different place.

Well done to a great team!

55 McLachlan Street
Fortitude Valley 4006
Phone (07) 3252 1841

Kindergarten Approved Program
Queensland Government

fv@littleducks.com.au

Educator Spotlight

Miss Enza

Assistant Centre Manager



Miss Enza has been the Assistant Centre Manager at Little Ducks Childcare New Farm for over a year. Miss Enza comes from an Italian background and brings the Italian fun and enthusiasm to the service. Miss Enza's bright and bubbly personality is what first greets families on arrival at the service as she makes them feel welcome instantly.

Miss Enza is an avid fitness guru, recently completing her first 50 KM trail run!! We are in awe of her fit and healthy lifestyle.

Miss Enza has worked in the early childhood sector for over 22 years and brings this wealth of experience to the service supporting our educators and Centre Manager to ensure the smooth running of our busy service.

Enza can also been seen making connections with our community and you will see her visiting the local community businesses and schools and is the brains behind our social media accounts.

She is a very valuable member of our team. Thanks for everything Miss Enza!

Upcoming Events

November

4th - **Diwali**—celebrate the Indian festival of lights



10th – **Remembrance Day**—remember those who have given so much for us

14th – **National Recycling week—**learn more about this important topic

December

9th – **Kindy Program graduation**



17th – **Children's Christmas** party—celebrate the end of a wonderful year with our Annual Art Exhibition

27th – 31st – **centre closed**

Policy Review's

Our policies in review are:



- Discrimination, Harrassment, Bullying and Occupational
- Violence Policy
- Social Medal Policy
- Code of Ethics

If you would like to provide feedback you can do so via email to newfarm@littleducks.com.au or through the suggestion box located in the level 1 foyer

Move and Groove

Kids Heart Pilates provide our Kindy children with a weekly Pilates class This is their newsletter for this month with some interesting information on the benefits for children's development.

Welcome back for our fourth term of Pilates! This term we are all about continuing to build upon our exercise repertoire, with the introduction of cognitive and social developmental exercises.

This term is a particular favourite of ours, as you can really see the development of each child starting to shine through in their Pilates and the confidence and keenness they show in our weekly sessions is something special!

But how do we focus on cognitive and social development with Pilates?

Throughout the year, we have constantly been working on different exercises and building our own little battery of skills. Each exercise is repeated through practice but in different formats or scenarios which helps to promote neuroplasticity. This means that the brain will strengthen and create new pathways to learn new skills and help strengthen the ability to problem solve.

This is particularly evident when performing exercises that cross the midline or include bilateral coordination. Even our little Pilates participants are practicing their bilateral coordination with the pushing of our Kids Heart Pilates trolley!

Due to the nature of these exercises, communication skills are constantly in play, which in turn helps to develop the all-important skill of TEAMWORK!

We love to have this cognitive and social development focus in term 4 to help prepare the children for the following 'Big school' year!

As an added bonus, we have included the following link which grants you 12 weeks access to our Kids Heart Pilates online program. Enjoy x.

https://www.kidsheartpilates.com.au/blog/register/kindy-online-program/

Let's do this!

From the Kids Heart Pilates Team

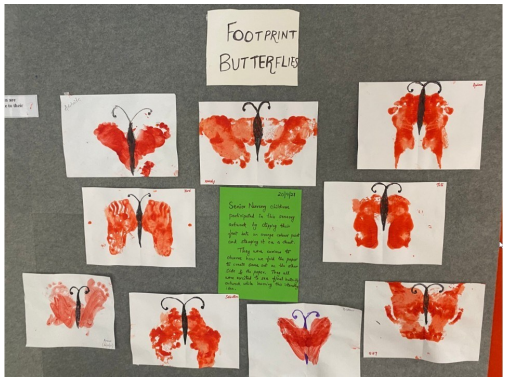


Art Immersion

During the month of September, we explored art inspired by animals with the children. e saw a lot of involvement from the children with educators asking them which animals were their favourites and creating artwork based on that. This helped involve the children in art immersion this month, and we saw some great artwork come from this. A popular choice was butterflies, showcasing various different colours and patterns. It's great to see educators encouraging children's sense of agency and acknowledging their voices.

Moving into October, we have been engaging with the children in different types of sculpture art. This has included the use of clay, paper mache, cardboard, paper, and other arts and crafts materials. This has provided the children with an opportunity to use and further develop their fine motor skills by using their hands and fingers to sculpt materials into different shapes and objects. Many rooms took this as an opportunity to make pumpkins for Halloween decorating out of paper mache or clay.

As we come into the final weeks of the year, the children will each be given a blank canvas to create a work of art on. Educators and children will collaborate to choose a topic from Art Immersion this year that they enjoyed and use that to create artwork for their canvas. These canvases will be on display for the parents to see during the Children's Christmas Party on Friday, December 17th.
Wishing you all a safe and happy holidays









Sustainability Program

Hello families.

I am excited to say that I have taken over as Sustainability Officer and am looking forward to inspiring and encouraging my fellow educators, and the children, to think and act sustainably. Since being appointed this role, I have had numerous discussions with the other educators about what our Sustainability strategy should be moving forward. One big change we have decided to make is that we are now longer having a monthly focus for Sustainability, but instead a different focus each term which will allow us to be more in-depth and cover various aspects of that topic. These will be as follows:



Term 1: Sustainable Energy
Term 2: Gardening
Term 3: Ecosystems
Term 4: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

This means each term educators will be looking to these areas to plan educational experiences for the children to immerse themselves in these four corners of sustainability. This term, we have been looking at Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Exploring how we can reduce our use of non-recyclable materials, reuse items to reduce waste, and recycle applicable materials to create a more sustainable future. Teaching this to young children is important, because unfortunately as a society we have become very wasteful. If we do not take action now and teach children how to take action themselves, then the planet will run out of many resources in the future and cause damage to the environment.

We have been encouraging the children to reuse materials where possible, particularly paper and arts and crafts. We also accept donations of clothes here at Little Ducks, to ensure we are reusing where possible. In November, we will be celebrating National Recycling Week 9 (Monday, November 8th – Friday, November 12th), and as we move towards this we will be encouraging the children to recycle by teaching them about how recycling works and which items can and cannot be recycled. It is important to ensure we are teaching children the correct way to be recycled the maximise the positive impact that recycling can have on the planet.
I look forward to sharing with you all the successful learning we've engaged in regarding Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in the new year.



Nick
Sustainability Officer

Snr Nursery—Ground Floor

During last two months, we had few children transitioning from nursery and some new friends joining us in the Senior Nursery room. It is lovely to see all of them settling well and taking initiative in following the room routines appropriately. They are enjoying exploring the new environment and excited to build new connections with our cheerful senior nursery buddies. Senior nursery children are also working on refining their self-help skills and growing confident with each passing day.



Connecting to their world, children were excited to explore the spring season by watching the flowers bloom each week and enriched their understanding of growing fruits like strawberries and tomatoes by learning to take the seeds from them and planting it in our garden bed. They also showed responsibilities in taking care of the plants and their environment on daily basis as well as are learning to reuse the materials in a creative way. Music is a mood lifted for our our children, and they are always happy to explore the instruments and enjoy dancing together in our beautiful outdoor. We also worked out various sharing-based activities like ice-cream passing game, fishing fun, feeding the shark to understand the concept of fairness in a group play.



We had been very busy artists in the Senior Nursery room, using our fine motor skills to create the animal theme artworks like making sheep using cotton wools, using egg carton to create a caterpillar and creating a symmetrical butterfly image using our feet. They also worked on various creative ideas in making sculptures using clay and popsicle sticks. Enriching their gross motor skills is a daily dose of fun. They practised various throwing and catching skills to refine their confidence. They also are enjoying transition process to next room by having a stay and play once in a week and connecting through play with other educators and peers.

Our children have enthusiastically been involved learners towards many interesting experiences past months. Children participated enthusiastically for the Father's Day celebration by making football shaped cookies and a lovely handprint dinosaur card. They enjoyed various pretend play together and worked on their cognitive skills to solve puzzles as well as showed learning disposition in analysing various risks during transition time. They demonstrated curiosity while working on various ideas and are exploring new challenges with patience.

Senior nursery children are showing confidence in communicating their needs more clearly and can share their ideas verbally through constant interaction. Children love to enrich their knowledge and communications skills by constantly interacting with educators, dressing up as characters, reading books and making meaning through various interactive media. It is amazing to see most of senior nursery babies using 2 words or a short sentence to communicate effectively.



We are delighted to see all our Senior nursery children refining their skills confidently and embedding the day-to-day learnings in their actions.

Nursery—Level One

Over the past few months our little nursery room has been working on our connection among child to educator, educator to educator, child to child and families too! As our newest additions to the Nursery family have begun to settle and build a connection to the educators and sense of belonging in our room our other children are focusing on building relationships. Many of the children are initiating greetings upon arrival and departure including verbal and nonverbal gestures.
This adds to a positive and inviting environment for the children and families.
Our babies also have made connection with their community as we celebrated Father's Day together with our SN friends. It has also been to wonderful to see our babies developing interest to explore nature and learn about their natural environment around. Visiting ground floor outdoors and participating in various nature-based play experiences has offered our nursery babies to continue building knowledge around natural and constructed environments.
We've also been encouraging gross motor development through a variety of experiences including balloon catching, obstacle courses, push and pull trolleys and more! This has contributed to the development of children's transition from crawling to walking in preparation for Senior Nursery next year.

All our babies have shown great enthusiasm towards being involved learners as they explore their learning environment through play. Our babies have been keen on exploring their senses and we have been supporting theirs interest with different sensory based play experiences.

Our nursery babies have also been quiet keen towards communicating their needs and interests to their educators and peers. With encouragement and role modelling, our babies have shown such wonderful development towards their communication skills. Repeating sounds, new words, pointing and interacting have been big part of nursery through these last months.

We are really looking forward to the coming month celebrating all the great achievements of our babies through the year and celebrate Christmas together with all friends, educators and families.







Toddlers—Level Two

We have had a blast over the last few months we have getting to know each other and building bonds with each other and the children within the room. We have had a few children transition over the last few months with the addition of a few new friends, so we have been getting to know them, the children have settled in very nicely. I have observed the children's interest grow as we continue to explore the world around us while observing as they come out of their shell, building many beautiful memories together. The children have enjoyed building bonds with each other as we explore each other's interests.

The Children have enjoyed exploring Art these few months, as we did some animal prints, Although the children have enjoyed their sensory play as well especially water play, and we also added some chia seeds which created a very different texture. Miss Lainey has been exploring Farm animals with the children as we explore where they live, the sounds they make and some textures that they produce. The children have currently had an interest in sea Creatures so we will be exploring these coming weeks. We had an excursion for brave hearts which explored stranger danger, we also had a blast in loud shirt day as we explored how it supports those with lack of hearing and hearing loss. The children had a blast celebrating Father's Day as we had a picnic with food and activities to do together. As we move into the next months, we will be exploring Garden growers as we learn about taking care of our plants, we will also enjoy Halloween as we dress up in our Halloween outfits.

The children's interests have continued to grow as we continue to grow as we explore the acknowledgement of country; The children have grown more confident in verbalizing the acknowledgement, and doing the actions to the acknowledgment, we have also incorporated Taba Naba. The children's excitement grows as they learn the songs and actions. Every month we have been explore 4 new breathing cards that the children have picked. The children are excited to pick the cards each day. The children have grown more confident in demonstrating each breathing technique. Over the last few months, we have also been exploring sign language within the room to help our non-verbal friends to communicate their needs and wants. Miss Enza has taught us baby shark, which we are still learning but the children are growing more confident when expressing this song, we have continued to explore the basic and continue to grow our knowledge. The children are growing more confident at demonstrating and recognizing each sign that we are learning.

The children's confidence is continually growing as we add and build on their fine and gross motor skills within our move and groove program. The last few months we explored throwing/underarm throwing and catching, the children enjoyed the catching as we explored throwing balloons and water balloons into the air, or to each other to catch, allowing to explore their hand-eye co-ordination and gross and fine motor skills as they throw and catch the balls. The next few months we will be exploring striking We will continue to further scaffold the children's interest and development within various pose to further enhance their balance and co-coordination.

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

Love Miss Megan and Miss Lainey

Junior Kindy—Level Two



Here in Junior Kindy the last couple of months the children have continued to make accomplishments throughout their learning journey, over coming challenges and making progress on their goals.
The children have been seeking out investigation-based play, with an interest in magnets playing a major part in this learning area. The children have been investing their time into using their investigation skills to find answers to questions, using all their environments during this process as they've investigated how magnets work and what items within their environments are magnetic and which are not. The children have taken this investigation play and the interest in magnets across the levels through out the months, seeking out the resources and sharing this interest with other children around them.



The Junior Kindy Children have also began preparing for their next major transition in their learning Journey, next year they will be moving into the kindergarten classroom as their last step in their progress here with us. We have began discussing this topic in the classroom, the children voicing what they feel Kindergarten will be like for them and what they are looking forward to next year. We have also began having transition visits up to the Kindergarten level, the children have been excited to have the opportunity to spend time up stairs and explore the level three environments. Each visit the children have been exploring the environments and resources, discovering resources they've yet to play with here and even discovering new interests through these visits to kindergarten. Throughout these visits the children have had the opportunity to take part in the Kindergarten routines, including morning periods, group times and meal times and with each one the children further develop their understanding of the routine on level three and how the day runs up in Kindergarten.
Through the visits to kindergarten and moments of play on other levels, the children have discovered new interests, and these have taken shape within our classroom. Our home corner area which had been turned into an office, based on an interest in technology based dramatic play has now been converted into a beauty salon. The set up of the beauty salon has prompted a sense of turn taking within this area of play, the children have began discussing roles within their play and discovering their own processes of turn taking within these moments which has been wonderful to observe through out the last couple of months. Our puzzle shelf has seen change as the children have been seeking out more challenging puzzles, as well as larger puzzles that they can work collaboratively on as a group as they have observed the Kindergarten children doing on their level.



The end of the year also brings the Holiday season with it, the children have already began discussing aspects of the holiday season and what it will mean for all of us here. As with every season we are interested in incorporating the celebrations of all of our families here, if you have any celebrations happening at home that you would like us to explore here at the service with the children we welcome all input from our families.

Kindergarten—Level Three

We have had a busy couple of months here in kindergarten as the children are getting ready for school. I can't believe we are nearly at the end of the year which means it's nearly time for another graduation and Christmas celebration.

Children began constructing cubby houses finding resources around the classroom environment which has been expanded by looking at different types of houses the children live in. The children further explored structural buildings like, skyscrapers, apartments, town houses and standalone houses and how these structural buildings begin with shapes. Then activities are designed to demonstrate the differences between 2D and 3D shapes. To show the differences in the dimension, few basic flat shapes like circle, square, triangle and rectangle, and 3D translucent shapes are lined up on top to show the children visually how these shapes are easy to alter into 3D. Children used shapes to draw structures, make structures using playdough and shapes. Children participated in groups to make houses using magnet shapes and wooden mini bricks. These activities not only taught children two- and three-dimensional characteristics but also develop perceptive and motor skills. We planned cooking activities using shape cutters for the children to engage in measurements combining ingredients to make cookies in different.

shapes. Inspired by Queensland Museum loaned resource, 'Slab Hut', we further began to explore the Early Australian Houses on the interest of the children and to build a 'Hut'. We learned that due to abundance supply of timber, the walls, roofs, floors, doors, windows and even the chimneys are built using the wood, which is replicated in the Slab Hut display from the Museum. To promote sustainable practices we have provided, natural and recycled materials for our House Project.



We have planned an array of experiences based on children's interest on Magnets. Children are introduced to the invisible force of the magnets and the poles, North and South. Favourite activities were -Sorting magnetic and nonmagnetic objects, investigating the power of different types of magnets, racing cars and person down the track using magnets, make the magnet float and bounce, and go hunt for metal rings using magnetic wand. Then children are prompted to think whether magnets work under water. Children worked in groups problem solving using different magnets to explore immersing the magnets in and outside the bottle.



Kindergarten—Level Three

Raw Art program is having been very interactive and effective for children to follow instruction and get creative using their hands and mind. Children participating in Move and Groove program has further built their fundamental skills like jumping, hopping, catching and throwing with confidence. We have been encouraging children to take some risky challenge in their play by rearranging the obstacle courses.

Father's Day was a blast as every child challenged their dad's to do few complex movement games with them. Braveheart's show focused on promoting children's understanding to recognize what their body says when they feel safe and unsafe. Exploring about personal safety gives children the confidence to have a strong voice to say NO and then tell an adult whom they trust when they feel uncomfortable.

A visit to New farm State School was a wonderful experience connecting with the Prep teachers and observe the way children learn at school. This is a great way to strengthen the bridge between Kindergarten and School before children move between environments. Sharing the experience with the children has allowed children to openly express their feeling about going to school. Following the children's visit and sharing their experience, we have further extended by reading books about going to school and about a day at school. We will continue to read short stories around school aspects on a regular basis. We have set up a Mini school area called, 'Little Ducks Little School' in our home corner to give an opportunity for children to experience a bit school life before they attend school. Children are introduced to the resources they needed for school which is always accessible to children. With Mr. Nick's support we have also started a project book on children transition to school. We will continue to add new resources to our Little Ducks Little School.

Miss Suder and MR Nick



Kindergarten Approved Program Queensland Government

Recipe of the Month



3 Ingredient Christmas

Shortbread

I do love a good shortbread at Christmas time. And short-bread makes a really great food gift too for Grandparents and neighbours. This recipe only has three ingredients and is so simple, even the kids could make it.

Ingredients
6 cups Plain Flour, Sifted
1 cup Caster Sugar
500 g Butter

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 160 degrees.
2. Add the butter and caster sugar to a mix master or similar and mix on high until creamed and light and fluffy.
3. Slowly add the plain flour, a little at a time to the mix. The mix-ture should resemble a thick dough.
4. Place the dough on a floured board and roll out to approximate-ly 4mm thick. Use cookie cutters to cut out any shapes you desire.
5. Transfer the cookies to a cookie tray lined with baking paper.
6. Cook for 10 - 12 minutes. Remove from the tray and place the cookies on a rack to cool.

Recipe Hints and Tips: The dough can be frozen for up to two months. Once mixed, wrap in plastic wrap and freeze (with the use -by date)

Community Events

Each Term we work with the Early Learning Years Network Inner Brisbane—a group of educators from services and schools in Inner Brisbane to plan and offer a free information session for families and community members.

Our 4th information session is on the important topic of Mental Health and Wellbeing!

All welcome**!**

PRACTICAL INFO SERIES

EARLY YEARS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Connecting community, supporting children and family wellbeing.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN SCHOOL

FREE

In current times Mental Health and well-being is so important.

This workshop is to be presented by Jo Minto from New Farm State School. You will learn practical information and strategies to improve Mental Health and Wellbeing for Children.

When: Thursday 28 October, 2021
Time: 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Where: Community Place: 17b Skyring Terrace, Newstead (parking at rear of building)
Cost: FREE - includes a light snack
Register: EVENTBRITE
https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/parent-with-the-brain-in-mind-workshop-tickets-152594346799

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