Little Ducks Childcare
Nov / Dec 2021

RATED EXCEEDING NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to Little Ducks Childcare Wilston Newsletter.

As the year winds down, we are excited for our end of year events to roll out. While we prepare for the Kindergarten Graduation and Christmas party celebrations, we reach out to our local community and welcome one and all to visit and celebrate with us.
Being part of a community can have a positive effect on mental health and emotional well-being. Community involvement **provides a sense of belonging and social connectedness**. It can also offer extra meaning and purpose to everyday life.
We our so fortunate to have such a wonderful Community outreach to strengthen our relationships and further support our Families to feel a sense of belonging.

It Takes a Village

Thank you to everyone who continues to share their warmth and kindness with welcoming me into the Little Ducks Family.
I am settling into the role with the help of our wonderful Team.

Kind regards,
Anthea Jones
Centre Manager



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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

Nov



National Recycle Week
8th—14th Nov



Remembrance Day
11th Nov



World Kindness Day
13th Nov

Dec

End of year Celebrations —

Come one, come all to our end of year events—



Kindergarten Graduation
Wed 8th @6pm
All welcome to arrive early for a 6 o'clock start.



Christmas Party
Wed 15th

Invitations will be sent out soon with al the details.



Centre Closed Dates -
Mon 27th— Frid 2nd
Open—Mon 3rd Jan 2022

Policy Reviews

Your feedback is important— The policies/procedures in review are:

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



Ways that you can provide feedback are:

Our policies are available to read in the foyer and you can give feedback in 2 ways, by email or anonymously via the suggestion box.



Educator Spotlight ...

Miss Kailah!

Kailah is shining as a Lead Educator who role models excellence in everything she does. Our Junior Kindy room has a focus on respectful relationships and are building on thumbs up choices.

Little green thumbs are flourishing with Kailah's gardening experiences. The children have planted seedlings and we are all amazing with how they are caring for the plants.
Social and emotional skills are developing with secure attachments and friendships forming while we are enjoying learning through play moments.

Well done Kailah! We are so proud of your achievements and your heartfelt experiences for the children.



Reconciliation Australia

First Nations Bedtime Stories

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

Learn ……

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

Connect …….

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

Celebrate Language …….

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

Give …….

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

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

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

FIRST NATIONS BEDTIME STORIES Challenge!

Nursery Notes

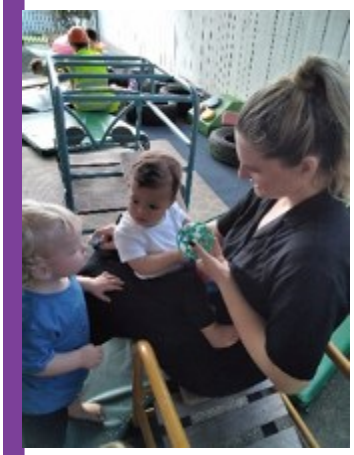
With new little friends joining us each week, we have a strong focus with building trusting relationships our circle of security.

The Circle of Security is a way of thinking about emotion and behaviour that enables early childhood professionals to look beyond a child's immediate behaviour and think about how to meet their genuine relationship needs, which helps children develop social skills by being with them and with their peers.

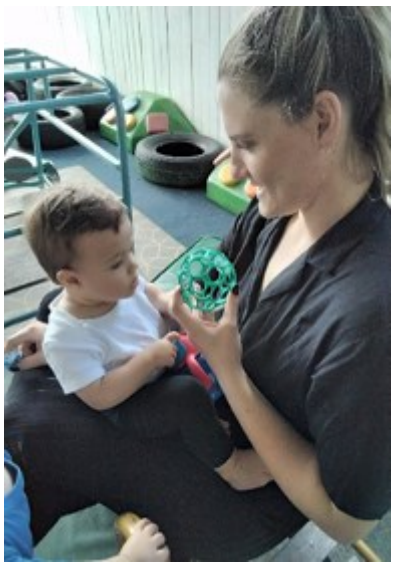
In early childhood settings, children develop a sense of *belonging* when they feel accepted, develop attachments and trust those that care for them.

As children are developing their sense of identity, they explore different aspects including physical, social, emotional, spiritual, cognitive, through their play and their relationships.

When children feel safe, secure and supported, they grow in confidence to explore and learn.







The idea of *being* reminds us to focus on children in the here and now, as well as the importance of children's right to be a child and experience the joy of childhood. *Being* involves children developing and awareness of their social and cultural heritage, of gender and their significance in the world.

Nursery Notes

Becoming embraces children to build and shape their identity through their evolving experiences and relationships which can include change and discoveries. So many learning opportunities to guide children's autonomy and agency, care and teaching moments by families and educators, shape children's experiences of *becoming* in our warm and inviting environments.



Colourful sensory environments set up for cosy learning through play experiences. Children seem to enjoy investigating and discovering within their own little hide away.









Love Kedie + the Nursery team

Senior Nursery Natter!

In Senior Nursery this past month we have been focusing on creating an inclusive, positive and happy environment for the children. A part of this has been implementing a structured routine, this is so important as it produces a strong sense of security and stability. In our routine we have started to include group time where we do fun activities such as singing, positive affirmations and yoga to help us grow big and strong while deepening the children's sense of belonging. Here is a glimpse of the fun activities we have been doing and continuing throughout the rest of the year!











Senior Nursery Natter!



We have been incorporating group time to help build healthy friendships between children and further their sense of belonging. One of the children's favourite activities at the moment is singing 'I wonder what your name is'! Through this we have been able to help grow the children's sense of identity with most children now being able to point and say their own and their friend's names. We have also been participating in yoga to help build confidence, gross motor skills and stay active! Dancing is another way we have been channelling our energy and having fun. It has been a pleasure watching the children learn and develop through participating in these experiences so to further this growth, will continue the fun for the rest of the year.

Our Beautiful Garden—

Not only has creating our garden helped to make a positive atmosphere but has also been a learning curve for our Senior Nursery children. We are using this experience as an opportunity to learn about gentle hands, sustainability and caring for our environment.



We currently have herbs growing which are amazing for activities using the 5 senses and will continue to add to our garden throughout the rest of year including more flowers will be added to help Senior Nursery children with identifying colours and invite butterflies and bees.





Thank you

Miss Chloe and Miss Ella





Toddler Tales!

Hi Toddler Families,

Our days in the Toddler Room are filled with fun, learning, singing and laughter. Children are demonstrating a sense of belonging in their environment and their learning is happening in leaps and bounds. We have been focusing on the Developmental milestones in many areas of learnOur learning through play experiences have seen active participation and a lot of investigating. Our favourite songs to sing and dance to seem to be “Baby Shark”, “Sleeping kangaroos” and “Barramundi song”. As new friends are welcomed into our team we encourage plenty of exploration to build confidence and form attachments with Educators and each other.





We invite children to broaden their understanding of the world around them by implemented experiences for children to use their senses to learn more about their world. Using their sense of smell we offered something sweet in vanilla essence and then something not so sweet in curry leaves. Our taste buds were next to taste something sweet in bananas and then something sour in lemons. We focused our eyes to look at a sunflower and Miss Belmira asked everyone to paint their own interpretation of a sunflower.



Toddler Tales! Continued





For our sense of touch, we encouraged our
Toddler friends to feel cold water, warm water and even ice for a 'chilly' sensory experience. Last but not least, we turned our ears on to listen to the sounds around us. We heard some birds in the trees, children laughing and a train.

We have noticed our Toddler team being more active outdoors and now ask to swing from the monkey bars with some assistance from Educators. Some children independently negotiate the obstacle course under close supervision while separately throwing or kicking a ball into a goal post.
We are singing the ABC song while pointing to alphabet pictures as well as to the letter of each of our names. The children are encouraged with this letter recognition experience sharing that they are confident and involved learner and is a curious and enthusiastic participant in their own learning.

To extend on our Toddlers vocabulary and becoming effective communicators, we read books, engage in conversations during and after learning experiences and encourage children to use their words during play.







For the rest of the year we will be focusing on social/emotional learning and in doing this we will be teaching the Toddlers to recognise and name emotions and to recognise emotions in their friends. We will also have regular conversations about using gentle hands and gentle words during play.
All our dedication,
Miss Belmira and Miss Thuy.





Junior Kindy Jumble!

Junior Kindy Newsletter

What a busy few months we have had in the Junior Kindy room! It has been wonderful to see the children's confidence growing within the learning environment with them feeling comfortable and enthusiastic to express their ideas, thoughts and opinions to the group. This input has shaped our program, with us providing learning experiences focused on a child-centred curriculum.



Through child input, we created a post office dramatic play area within our learning environment. Through the exploration of this area, we investigated how to post a letter writing letters to post to our homes, we became movie stars for the day having the opportunity to star in a short film using the post office scene and have written a letter to our Pen Pals at Gwandalan Preschool in New South Wales who we are very eager to hear back from.



Yoga has become a daily ritual within our room! Many benefits have been observed through the participation in this activity including the development of both fine and gross motor skills, increasing persistence and determination improving on their poses and providing children with an opportunity to calm down and be present in the moment. We extended on this learning experience by introducing the reading of affirmation cards to encourage the children to fill their bodies with love by repeating positive and kind words towards themselves. The children have also created their own affirmations filled with positive stories and features of themselves. Our walls are now filled with beautiful words such as "I am loved", "My voice matters" and "I am smart".

We have created a kindness tree in our room to highlight the acts of kindness our friends do each day – acts of kindness make our tree bloom; we can't wait to fill it up more and more. We have also spent some time discussing red and green choices within our learning environment encouraging children to recognise what choices they should be making throughout the day and reflecting on possible consequences of their actions.

Our garden is absolutely flourishing with the children feeling such a sense of pride with their efforts and contributions. In our garden we are growing sunflowers, beans and lettuce.

Our friendly scarecrows are providing great assistance in keeping birds away from our plants! Our sunflowers have grown so big, it shouldn't be long at all until they bloom! We have also planted some seeds in the outdoor yard which have sprouted so quickly! We are so excited for these to blossom into beautiful flowers in the coming months.



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We have been baking up a storm in the kitchen, with the children taking on the role of Junior MasterChef's assisting in any way they can to create delicious and healthy meals. Through these experiences, children have had the opportunity to be exposed to a diverse variety of food and are encouraged to try new foods as they have contributed to the cooking process.

Our events calendar has been jam-packed with special events and guests coming to visit us and providing us with invaluable learning experiences. These special guests include Constable Vicki from the police department, Ditto and the Braveheart's team, Grange Library, Grange Dentist and Garden Growers. These incursions assist children to generate a sense of belonging and understanding their responsibilities as active and contributing citizens. Our Teddy Bear picnic was a huge success with each child being so excited and proud to show off their special teddies. We have a lot more exciting events coming up over November & December and we can't wait! This snapshot just covers some of the wonderful learning and developmental progress we have been working towards in the Junior Kindy room. The children have such brilliant minds and each of them provide so much valuable input and different perspectives into our learning environment! As always, we welcome parent input and feedback and look forward to working in partnerships to achieve the best outcomes for your children, in particular bridging more connections between children's home and care environments. Over the next few months we will be working to support the children in achieving their goals for term 4 as well as continuing to deliver a child-centred curriculum.







Lots of Love
Miss Kailah, Miss Louise & Miss Cydnee

Preschool Pride!

Kindergarten Goals

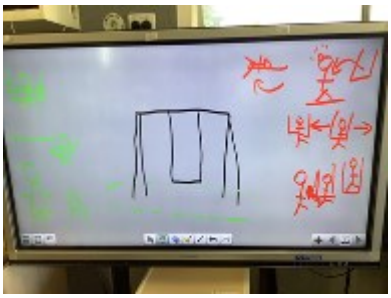
We have been focusing on our goals of self regulation, conflict resolution and leadership as we begin the final term of this year. Through small group activities we are developing the children's awareness of being patient, waiting for our turn or being fair. The playdough table has provided some opportunities to discuss turn taking as they are all keen to add or mix the ingredients. In the school roleplay area there has been some great turn taking at being the teacher and setting up sums for the students to do. The children have been taking turns to work the pump in our new mud kitchen.

During play conflicts can arise and we are modelling with the children how to explore solutions to the problem for themselves by talking it through and promoting a caring attitude by not becoming physical. This is a continual process, but it is pleasing to see that some of the children are becoming more involved in helping to develop their own solutions.



We are beginning to show some great leadership skills as they run some of our popular games with the class, or demonstrate how you draw or make something. This is great inspiration for everyone.

Project work
Saving water
Our Sustainability focus is on saving water throughout this term. We have discussed where our drinking water comes from and how important it is for us to preserve it. The children helped to identify where we use water in the Kindergarten classroom, ie toilets, sinks and outside. The class has helped to prepare and educate other rooms about using the half flush button on the toilet to save approximately 5 litres of water, using sensory and visual cues. We are now working on educating others about turning off the taps. When our new mud kitchen arrived we discussed how we could use water wisely, but still make mud pieces and worm stews. We created a water recycling system, so that the water did not end up on the ground.



Personal safety
Extending from the Bravehearts incursion, we are exploring how to identify things that are dangerous in the yard and in the room. We are assessing what can happen to us if we use the equipment unsafely. The children are then involved in making suggestions about how to use it safely, for example, making sure that mats are underneath the obstacle course and staying far enough away from the swings when they are operating.

Preschool Pride!



School roleplay area
We have created a school play area in the room, equipped with whiteboard, exercise books, pencils and school desk so that the children can explore and imagine being at school. Our wall display features the different schools the children will be attending: Wilston, Windsor, Newmarket, St Ambrose, St Columba's, Kew (Vic). The children's images have been placed in the display, wearing the colours from the uniforms they will be wearing next year. This has been a great centre of discussion as the children identify who they may see at Prep with them.



To help familiarise the children with things they may see at school, we have looked at images of a classroom, port racks, playgrounds and school bubblers. Children with older siblings have been able to share some of their knowledge with the rest of the class. We viewed some images of classrooms from across the world, so that we could compare uniforms, classroom sizes, cultural differences, student numbers and single gender classes.



Special Events
Grandparents Day

Some Kindy friends were very happy to introduce their grandmother to friends and show her how to make a clay pot. A small group joined us and it was wonderful to hear the interactions as they drew pictures and engaged in the school area together.



Thank you so to our Grandparents for taking time out to visit us.

Preschool Pride!

Garden incursion

The children were entertained by our gardening incursion at the centre. They were shown how important the insects were to the health of our gardens, pollinating flowers and creating good soil. The class was given a range of herbs and flowers to plant in the garden and we have been watching them grow. It was beautiful to see this learning being evident when a beetle was found in the garden recently. The children were focused on caring for it and making it a home so that it could continue to be of benefit to the garden.







During Space Week, we investigated what comets are and we created one from aluminium foil and fabric streamers. When we flew them in the yard, the streamers created the tail of the comet racing through space. We viewed some content on the NASA website featuring the current Perseverance mission, including pictures of it drilling rock samples. We created rockets, launched by blowing through a straw.

Looking ahead

During November, I will be writing Transition statements for the children attending Prep. This is a summary of their development across the year, based on our key learning areas. This document can be shared with the schools, to help them support your child as they move into Prep. Please return the consent forms as these are required for me to generate the report.
Shortly we will begin preparing for our graduation ceremony.
This is an opportunity for the children to share some of the things they have learned and enjoyed doing during the year.
Keep an eye out for an invitation that the children will be preparing.

Thanks everyone

Miss Natasha & Miss Abbey





Healthy Habits!

Orange poppyseed muffins recipe



Skills Easy | Prep time 10 mins | Cook time 18 mins | Servings 12

Ingredients

4 Weet-Bix™ Little Kids Essentials, finely crushed
1 1/4 cups wholemeal self-raising flour
1 tbsp poppy seeds
1/4 tsp salt
Zest from 1 orange
1 cup orange juice
2 eggs
1/2 cup honey
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C. Lightly coat a 12-hole muffin tin with cooking oil spray, or line with paper liners.
Combine Weet-Bix, flour, poppy seeds, salt and orange zest in a large bowl and stir well.
In a jug, whisk together juice, eggs, honey and oil. Add juice mixture to bowl with dry ingredients and stir to just combine.
Divide batter into prepared tin. Bake 18 minutes until muffin tops are golden and spring back when pressed, or when a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean.
Cool muffins in tin for 5 minutes, then turn out onto a rack to cool completely.

Tips

Batter will be thin when mixed, but will thicken as the Weet-Bix absorbs the liquid – don't add any additional flour or you'll end up with tough muffins!