Little Ducks Childcare

January & February 2022

A note from your Centre Manager

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our new and existing families at Little Ducks Wilston. We trust that everyone enjoyed their break with their family and friends. January is a transitional month as we welcome new children and families. It is also a time when some children transfer between rooms depending on their age.



Miss Kirstee



Miss Kealie



Mr Risdy

Transitions are opportunities for educators to:

- Engage and build relationships with children
- Nurture the development children's social and emotional skills.
- Communicate with children that they are in safe, secure and predictable environment
- Our role as educators is to understand each individual child; what they are saying through their behaviour and what they are feeling and thinking. All this can offer us some hints into what would support a smooth transition for them.

There are many ways we can support positive transitions, many of which come from having quality relationships.

- Collaborative relationships between family, child and educators
- Providing enough time to transition. No rushing
- Predictable routines from arrival until the end of the day
- Preparation
- Flexibility if things work out differently than planned
- Consistent and familiar educators present to welcome children and families.

RATED EXCEEDING NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

We look forward to supporting you and your child as you settle into or back at Little Ducks Wilston.

Little Ducks Wilston
Leadership Team

169 Newmarket Road
Wilston QLD 4051
Phone (07) 3356 8100
Fax (07) 3356 8400

Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

wilston@littleducks.com.au

Upcoming Events!

January

Saturday, 1 January – **New Year's Public Holiday Day**

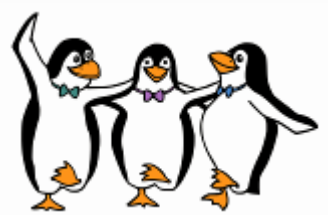


Monday, 3 January – **Centre Closed**

Monday, 17 January – **Kid Inventor's Day**



Thursday, 20 January **– Penguin Awareness Day**



Tuesday, 25 January –**Australia/ Survival Activities**

Wednesday, 26 January –**Australia/ Survival Public Holiday Day**

Saturday, 29 January –**World Puzzle Day**

Monday, 30 January— **World Puzzle Day Activities**



February

Saturday 12th February – **Chinese New Year/Lunar New Year**

Sunday 13 February – **Apology Anniversary**

Monday 14 February – **Valentine's Day**





Thursday 17 February – **Random Acts of Kindness Day**

Sunday 20 February – **National Love Your Pet Day**



Monday 21 February – **International Mother Language Day**

Monday 21 February – **World Harmony Day**



Monday 28 February – **Summer's Day Kid Safe**

Monday 28 February – **Last Day of Summer**



Policy Reviews

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



- Death of a Child
- Health & Hygiene for Enclosed Outdoor Spaces
- Transitioning Children between Environments
- Centre Presentation
- Physical Environment (Workplace Safety, Learning and Administration)
- Smoking, Alcohol & Drugs
- Staffing & Supervision
- Privacy & Confidentiality

<u>Ways that you can provide feedback are:</u>
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 ...

Welcoming Risdiyanto



Mr Risdy is our new exceptional Educational Leader which will be working closely with the team to continually promote positive educational program and practice for children and families. He has several years' experience working in childcare sector and in the past four weeks since he joined in with Little Ducks Wilston, he has building positive relationships with children across the centre. Mr Risdy is currently finishing his study and will be qualified Early Childhood Teacher in early 2022.

He believes children are competent and confident learners that us, as early childhood professionals need to continually nurture through positive interactions, role modelling, providing stimulative provide them with safe and supportive, and stimulative environment around them. When they feel confident, they will easily connect with the world around them and feel belong to their community.

Nursery Notes

Hello families,



For those of you who don't already know me, I'm Miss Kailah, your lead educator for the Nursery in 2022. I've been part of the Little Ducks team over this past year and early childhood is my passion. I'm currently studying my Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care and am a mummy to a one-year-old boy! My son is what inspired me to make a career change into early childhood, watching his growth and development has shown me the importance of early years learning. I am passionate about working towards improving the educational standards for young children. My son has taught me so many important life lessons, most importantly of all, is to enjoy being in the moment. It is so much more beautiful seeing the world through a child's eyes and taking the time to observe all the beauty around us.



Joining us in 2022 is Miss Olivia our assistant educator… I am a highly passionate person who loves educating children. It is so rewarding to see and work alongside children as they meet developmental milestones. I am currently working towards a Bachelor of Education to further my knowledge and understanding of providing education and care for children in the early years. Being an educator is really important to me and a job I do not take lightly.

As we begin to welcome back everyone from the holiday break, we embrace the children who are new and ones who have been with us over this past year, and we thank you for allowing us to provide care and support for your children as they learn and grow. We will primarily focus on building connections and sense of belonging, as well as fostering partnerships with families. By doing this we aim to create a home away from home environment, bringing routine from home into care. Furthermore, we aim to create a holistic approach into care to promote a happy, warm, positive, and safe environment that fosters the child's day, filled with learning and fun whilst meeting developmental needs. Basing play and activities off the Early Years Learning Framework to ensure we maximise individual potential.

Our priority within these first few months will be to work on building secure attachments and forming a circle of security within the nursery, recognising that through forming a widening network of secure relationships, children develop confidence and feel respected and valued. Through genuine connections and interactions, children are supported to build and strengthen their individual identity letting their personality shine.

All our love and dedication

Miss Kailah and Miss Olivia.

Senior Nursery Natter!



Hello, I am Miss Kealie, your lead educator in Senior Nursery, and I will be working alongside Miss Chloe. I have been working in the childcare sector for the past 10 years and loving it! As a childcare professional I support children in their social wellbeing as well as their emotional and physical wellbeing. Children develop a range of skills whilst being happy and inviting environments with adults and peers who accept the "whole" Child as a unique individual. I believe all children are unique and should be treated equally.
Another rewarding part of my role as an Early Childhood Educator that cares for your child is the wonderful relationships that are formed with you "the family". I believe family as the child's first teacher and how important it is to collaborate with you to co-construct your child's learning and development. I believe it is important to have ongoing communication with families to gain knowledgeable information and expectations about their child's/children's interest, family life, beliefs, culture, and tradition. Each child and their family should be respected, embraced, and involved as it is important to a child's overall development. I cannot wait to meet you and to be apart of your child's learning journey.



My name is Miss Chloe, and I am so excited to say I will be your Senior Nursery Educator for 2022! Though I am new to early childhood education, I am filled with passion and enthusiasm which I can't wait to share with the children. I have learned so much since the start of my journey at Little Ducks in January and I am really looking forward to showing you all why I became an educator.
Even as a child, I have always been the kind of person who finds joy in caring for and helping others, and I know I have found my calling in early childhood education; nurturing children and giving them the love and care they need to grow into kind, thoughtful young people while providing them with fun learning experiences to stimulate their brains and bodies as they grow and develop. I am so excited for what 2022 may bring, and experiencing it all with the children, as we grow and learn together.

In the Senior Nursery room, we develop rich and responsive relationships with each child as they explore their world. Our qualified educators recognise the richness of play as the core of children's learning and their engagement in authentic, meaningful experiences. Children at this age are competent and capable learners and are supported to make new discoveries, solve problems, explore and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

All our love and dedication

Miss Kealie and Miss Chloe

Toddler Tales! Continued

Hello families

We trust your all ready for the festive season, I know I am!
I'd like to introduce myself to those who don't already know me, I'm Melissa Simpson your lead educator for Toddlers in 2022. I've been a part of Little Ducks team for the past 10 years; early childhood education is my passion.



As a mum of three kids myself, I bring in the knowledge and compassion to provide a safe, secure, and nurturing environment to foster children's individual learning and development. I'm diploma qualified in Early childhood education and care with the drive to provide the best opportunities to challenge learning and growth through play -based learning and I'm humbled to share in your child's journey in 2022. Joining us in 2022 is Miss Louise Krete de Souza our Assistant Educator. Miss Louise, Brazilian born comes highly qualified, culturally competent and passionate about children's learning and development. Her partnerships and connection to children are a highlight with her bubbly and energetic personality a favorite amongst the children. Here's what you can expect from your Educators….

As we all begin to welcome everyone back from holidays, our transitions are complete from senior nursery. In the first few months, we will continue to build on children's connection and sense of belonging and build on partnerships with families. You will find all the relevant information on routine, things to remember and any updates on story park under "Welcome to Toddlers".



In term one, we will once again start children's individual goals and invite input from families to build that continuity and consistency in their development. This will establish the foundation for children's learning in conjunction with the early year's framework.
We will role over children's names and add them to Toddlers where you will receive our weekly curriculum and learning updates. If you don't receive this, please inform educators and see Kirstee in the office. The lay out of the toddler room is very similar to Senior Nursery, you will find lockers with child's name tags attached, this also follows through to nappy baskets located top shelf in the bathroom. Please don't forget to bring along sheets, hats and water bottles to keep the little ones happy.

All our love and dedication
Miss Mel & Miss Louise

Junior Kindy Jumble!

Hello Junior Kindy families,
A warm welcome to the families and children of Junior Kindy 2022, Miss Thuy and I are pleased to be a part of your child's learning journey during the year. Here's a little more about us.



Belmira – "I have been an educator at Little Ducks since August 2017 and since that time I have been in most rooms and I am a familiar face to many children. I have a Diploma and a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care but my passion in early childhood education comes from being Mum to a beautiful 9 year old and I endeavour to educate and care for children as I would want my daughter to be educated and cared for. I believe in supporting a strong sense of wellbeing in children by positively interacting with them. I learn more about their interests and skills and blend these into our daily curriculum because I believe that when children engage in an activity they are really interested in, their participation is more active and energetic. Please feel free to provide me with any information about your child in relation to their current interests and what activities they engaged in over the holidays or over the weekends."



Thuy – "I have been an educator at Little Ducks since January 2021 and though I have been mostly in the Toddler Room I know many of the children in the other rooms as well. I have studied a Diploma and a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, I believe that the foundation of learning and interaction that children receive in their early years greatly impacts their behaviours and learning in the future. As an educator I believe in creating an environment filled with learning experiences that cover varied interests of the children in my care, experiences that can be visited, explored and re-visited to maximize learning in children. The experiences will based on the social skills, communication skills, physical abilities and learning styles of each child and will provide them with opportunities to learn, explore and discover."

During first few weeks we will endeavor to build a secure attachment with each child so as to build or increase their sense of belonging in the Junior Kindy Room. Our weekly curriculum covers five Early Years Learning Framework Outcomes and will be shared with you on Storypark. In addition, each child will also have a goal for the Term and we will work with your child by engaging them in learning activities to help them achieve that goal.

We hope each child and their family has a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to the fun, laughter and learning 2022 has to offer at Little Ducks.

All our dedication,
Miss Belmira and Miss Thuy.

Preschool Pride!

Welcome to our new families for 2022. I look forward to getting to know all of you throughout the year as we learn and grow together.

Something about us.....

I have a passion for encouraging children to explore science, through practical, hands on experiences, like experiments, that engage and promote critical thinking. We have some great resources that will help us investigate reactions, living things and physics. We have a fortnightly loan from the Queensland Museum, which contains some great animal specimens and cultural resources that we use to inspire the children.

During the week you will also see Miss Abbey, who has been with our class since 2021. She is very creative and loves to get involved in the children's experiences.

What we will be up to....

During the first term, we will be concentrating on learning how to be a community.

Firstly, we will establish the routine and expectations of the room with the children. This will involve developing a Class Contract, which gets the children to contribute to how they should or should not interact with each other. This will also include taking on responsibilities in the classroom and taking care of their belongings.

Then, we will be get to know one another, learning about our families, likes and dislikes as well us what makes us feel certain emotions. Please bring in a family photo for our Belonging wall so that we can find out more about each other. We will learn how to recognise and write our names, this will also help us with our literacy.

Then we will learn how to interact well with each other by exploring our emotions, naming them, understanding how our actions impact others and how to respect other's rights.

I encourage the children to share with each other through Show and Share each morning. This works best on a roster so that we can make sure we hear from everyone. During the first few weeks, this will be focused on our families and learning more about each other.

Throughout the year, the children will be involved in literacy, numeracy and science experiences that complement their interest or promote their development as learners. We have some amazing incursions planned, including our Henry Penny chicken hatching activity, Street Science and health visits. Each week we have a French lesson, conducted by Playfrog. The children learn a new set of topic related vocabulary each week, including words for colours, emotions, vehicles and food.





We look forward to working together during 2022, as we help prepare the children to transition to Prep.

Regards
Miss Natasha and Miss Abbey

Healthy Habits!

Banana Ice Cream - One Step Prep

Place frozen banana pieces in the bowl of a food processor fitted with a steel blade. Turn on the machine and let 'er rip. Process bananas until they create a frosty, yet creamy puree. Serve immediately or place in a bowl covered with a piece of parchment paper to harden. The re-frozen concoction will have a less creamy texture but is still super refreshing and naturally sweet.
Each medium-sized banana will yield about a ½ cup of ice cream.



Top It Off

This low-cal goodie leaves room for some toppings. Each of the portions below will add 50 calories per serving:

- 3 vanilla wafer cookies
- 1 sugar cone (whole or broken into pieces)
- 2 teaspoons semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 teaspoons natural peanut butter
- 1 cup sliced strawberries
- 1 ½ teaspoons chocolate-hazelnut spread (such as Nutella)
- 1 tablespoon chopped walnuts
- ½ cup diced mango
- 1 heaping tablespoon granola
- 1 ½ tablespoons shredded coconut
- 2 chocolate covered pretzels
- 2 teaspoons chocolate syrup

If you want to keep the calories as low as possible, try flavor boosters. They're virtually calorie-free:

- Unsweetened cocoa powder
- Vanilla extract
- Ground cinnamon
- Freshly grated orange or lime zest