

Kids 1st Childcare & Learning

Centre Ph: 4321411

NEWSLETTER February 2018

Tena koutou katoa. Warm greetings to you all. A big welcome to Carter Diamond, Clara Chaves, Eliza Laidlaw, Jacob Rose and Taylor McLennan. We look forward to getting to know your children and their whanau. Haere



ra to Tyler Lunjevich who is off to school in March! Waipu Primary new entrants are visiting us on Wednesday 14th March! We invite those of you who have a child starting school this year to come along, meet the teachers and have a nice

morning tea with us. If you are handy in the kitchen it would be lovely if you could bring something along to have a shared morning tea. This is a great opportunity to meet the teachers, connect with the other parents and see who your child plays with.



Healthy Heart "Eat a Rainbow a Day and Hat Parade"

Friday 23 March from 10.30 to 12.30. We will be making healthy foods the colours of the rainbow, we need parent helpers please. Children are to wear a decorated hat, the theme being "Eat a Rainbow a Day" for the parade which will be at 11.30a.m. followed by the hakiri (feast.) Take a look at "Pinterest" it has great ideas for simple hats. We will need helpers for the food stations and some recipe ideas please.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday 14 March February **Monthly Coffee Morning with Waipu Primary New Entrant Classes Visit, around 9.00a.m.**

Nature Programme Dates: for the eldest nine children 16th March, 6th April

Please be here by 8a.m. so we can make the most of the morning. We need at least one parent helper. Please see one of the staff to let us know when you can help.

Saturday 17th March - Pukapuka Party

Bream Bay Village Green (beside the supermarket) We will be there along with others from our community of schools and early childhood centres. Lots of free fun activities. A great day for the family. Bring a picnic and join in.



Friday 23rd March Healthy Heart Day and Hat Parade

Helpers required please. 10.30-12.30

We are closed Easter Friday 30th March and Monday 2nd April as these are Public Holidays. We are open throughout the school holidays.

REMINDER: All clothes, bags and lunch boxes need a clear name on them please.

Maori Language

To promote Te Reo Maori we include some ideas in our monthly newsletters for you to try at home with your whanau. How did your Te Reo Maori go from the last newsletter? Try these.

Aniwniwa = rainbow Whero = red
Karakā = orange Kowhai = yellow
Kakariki = green Waiporoporo = purple



Staff Update: Amber is currently taking part in the Incredible Years Programme, a course in behaviour management. Our team will be attending a series of neuroscience workshops being held over the next few months, we will keep you informed of our learning.

Our Nature Programme Programme:

The eldest nine children take part in this every second Friday. We have several sites to visit; a bush area, an estuary area, the beach and adding to this Whangarei Harbour (One Tree Point), to learn about our harbour and maunga - Mount Manaia. The children learn about respecting and protecting our environment; we aim to grow their environmental conscience and uphold the Treaty of Waitangi principle "Protecting our treasures." **Why we are doing this as part of our programme?**

The natural world invokes inspiration, awe and wonder. It is an enormous learning facilitator. The natural world is a natural classroom, inviting learning physically, socially, emotionally, cognitively and spiritually. *Above: Flynn and Lucia looking at an insect. Below: Noah crosses a mud patch.*



If our younger generation can develop a love and respect for nature we hope they will grow into the next caretakers of our natural environment and have a life-long love of the outdoors.

Learning to take risks within a managed environment will benefit children's thought process when managing risks in less safe environments later in their lives.

The opportunity for the children participating to be extended to develop the dispositions we so aspire for them to be competent in such as trust in others, leadership skills, problem solving, decision making, team work, resilience, determination, perseverance, can-do attitude, sense of belonging, environmental awareness,

sustainability awareness, upholding the Treaty of Waitangi, curiosity, creativity, explorative, courage, responsibility, confidence, playfulness, communicative and more! **Research has affirmed our beliefs. Here is a summary of some of the research and their findings:**

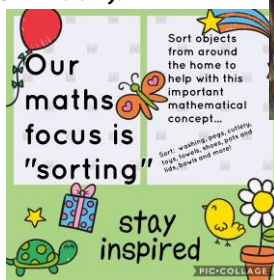
Children who play regularly in natural environments show more advanced motor fitness, including co-ordination, balance, agility and they are sick less often (Grahnet al. 1997, Fjortoft & Sageie 2001).

When children play in natural environments their play is more diverse with imaginative and creative play that fosters language and collaborative skills (Moore & Wang 1997, Taylor et al 1998, Fjortoft 2000).

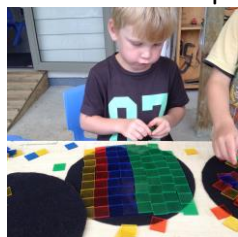
Spending time in nature has been shown to reduce stress and benefit treatment of numerous health conditions (Kahn 1999).

Early experiences with the natural world have been positively linked with the development of imagination and the sense of wonder (Cobb 1977, Lou 1991).

Maths: Our current maths focus is "Sorting." Matching and sorting are early stages of maths development. Naturally when children explore their environment they notice how things are alike and different. Once a child is matching more than two objects, they are sorting. Sorting involves separating objects into groups



according to their similarities. Children may have their own ideas about how they will sort, encouraging this with everyday objects at home will help children make sense of this concept. Left: Liam sorts the mosaic squares. Right: Lucy sorts the wooden pegs.

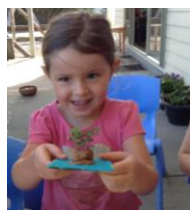


Literacy: Literacy is all around us. We make it meaningful and fun! Left: Reade, Amber and Abram writing with chalk on the concrete. Reade is making marks, Abram is forming the letters of



his name.

Sensory Experiences: Left: Zoe is stirring the kids concrete and right Mila shows her clay creation decorated with herbs. Great sensory exploration and creativity. As our senses are provoked they send rapid messages to the brain, great for brain development.



Puppet play... provoking oral language, turn taking, leadership, imagination, creativity, independence, early literacy through story telling and more!

Above: Peyton, Mackenzie, Lila, Otis and Lucy.



Painting... Clara gets creative with paints.

Sand play: Clockwise: Will, Indi, Neko, Edward and Otis.



Signing in and out - It is a Ministry of Education requirement that you sign in and out every time your child attends. It is very important that you enter the time and your initials (in pen). "Dad" or "grandma" is not enough, initials are required please.

If your child is being picked up by someone other than yourselves, please remind them of this requirement. Have a great month. Ka kite ano. Noela, Sally, Sarah, Robyn, Christie, Amber, Katy and Jordan.