

# Good Beginnings Infants & Toddlers

## FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

### WELCOME / FAREWELL

A big welcome to the new families that have joined us this year and welcome back to those families that have returned for 2018. We look forward to watching your child learn, grow and sharing many special memories with you. We hope your time with us is both exciting and rewarding. We have also recently said farewell to Neraiah, Charlotte, Ruby, Tawhiri and Kaiya who have transitioned to the big kids centre (GBEC)



### THANK YOU

To all those that attended our centre Christmas party back in November. We would also like to take this opportunity to extend a special thank you to LJ Hooker for letting us borrow their gazebo, to Dave Dale for his appearance as the man in red and to Joe for all the time and effort he put in organising it all.

### ROLL

Currently our roll is full. thank you to those that have recommended the centre to family and friends. Our staff roster and ratios are worked out around the children's booking times. It is therefore important that your child is dropped off and collected on time to maintain legal and safe ratios. We are only too willing to help with extra hours when we can but this is unfortunately not always possible. Please see staff when necessary.

### POLICY REVIEWS

Throughout the year, we will be reviewing one of these a month. These will be displayed on the whiteboard outside the front door – we value your feedback and opinions on these so please read the policy on display, make suggestions and sign the attached piece of paper.

### TE REO PHRASE

To continue to support the teachers growing vocabulary of Te Reo Maori we will be learning a new phrase each month. This months phrase is '**Tino pai manaaki e hoa**' which means great sharing with your friend. Please feel free to let us know any phrases that your child may be familiar with at home so we can learn these too.

### STAFFING

**Alex** will start the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of her Diploma in Teaching (ECE) at the end of the month.  
**Relievers** - we have recently welcomed **Jess Collins** who is currently in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of training through the open polytechnic and **Luana Reiri** who was a teacher aide at MIS and has chosen to start her training as an early childhood teacher this year.

### NOTEBOOKS

As you will probably be aware due to parent request we will be changing from our current daily charts to a notebook, that will be kept in your child's information pocket (located in the hallway). These are optional if it is something your family values and will be supplied by the centre. We will continue to record your child's basic needs and a blurb about what they have done at the centre. Books can be read and left at the centre or taken home each night/weekly. Please feel free to decorate your child's book if you want to personalize it. The advantage of having a book is that you can also keep it for years to come.



### **SELF - REVIEW**

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing the best care and education for our children and families we regularly conduct internal self-reviews. Throughout the year you will be asked for your feedback and input into these and we appreciate your time and support with this. Our current self-review question is '**How effective is our documentation in recording children's learning over time?**' We will be seeking your thoughts on this in the coming few weeks. We will keep you updated with these reviews as they progress.

### **OPEN DOOR POLICY**

Please remember that the centre has an open-door policy at all times. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to approach us at any stage. We also love parent involvement in our centre programme so feel free to share any skills you have with us!



### **FRIENDLY REMINDERS**

- Please check your child's information pocket regularly – for art work and important information.
- With 21 children at the centre you can imagine how difficult it is for us to remember each child's belongings. It would be greatly appreciated if you could help us out with this by naming your child's belongings. We also try to ensure that everything is ready in their bag for home time but this is not always possible so it pays to check.
- Please ensure your child has a variety of spare clothes in their bag for messy play, accidents and changes in weather.

### **PROGRAMME**

With the heat water play has become a favourite past time with both the infants and toddlers at the centre: nothing beats splashing in water on hot summers days.

Music and movements continues to be a strong interest at the centre from making music with the bongo drums and other instruments, ballet, to jiggle jam and our favourite CD's and songs such as the wiggles and Mrs Bunny. Music and movement sure is a great way for the children to develop ways to be creative and expressive, to gain confidence in group situations and to develop confidence and control of their bodies.

Books also continue to be a huge part of our centre programme: particularly those about vehicles and animals!

Vehicles of all sorts continue to amaze the children: Friday's are often the highlight of our week as this is when the rubbish truck goes past! We are also regularly plane spotting whilst outside.

We have also enjoyed making links with the wider world – with a trip to the park to ride the train for some of the toddlers and a surprise visit from Lilly's Dad, Cain, and one of their baby rabbits.

The sandpit has recently been topped up with new sand which has proved to be good for baking and making sandcastles!

### **SUMMER HEATWAVE**

Unlike last year we certainly can't complain about the lack of hot days this summer.

Unfortunately, this has meant that it has at times been unbearable to be outside with the children as the equipment and ground gets very hot. On hot days we generally retreat inside to the air conditioning after lunch.

We apply the first lot of sunscreen at approximately 10am, if you wish for your child to have it on before then please apply it at home. Sunscreen is reapplied again after lunch and afternoon tea. Although we encourage children to wear a sunhat this is not compulsory.

What one  
loves in  
childhood  
stays in the  
heart forever.

Mary Jo Putney

*May 2018 be all that  
you wish for and more.*

*From the team at Good  
Beginnings Infants &  
Toddlers*