

Good Beginnings Infants & Toddlers

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME/FAREWELL

Welcome to all our new families, your children are all settling in so well. We appreciate the collaboration when settling your children as you know them best. We strongly believe working together ensures the best outcomes for your children. Part of our centre philosophy is developing Whanaungatanga (relationships), where we wish to create an inclusive environment, and strong, harmonious partnerships. We are committed to each other and meeting the aspirations of all. Please always feel free to chat anytime so we can ensure we do the very best for you and your child.

We have just passed the middle of the year. For those of you who have children at school, you would know it is now school holidays. Some of you have made the most of our holiday deal and have taken time off to be with your family. For those of you that are travelling these school holidays please stay safe and have a fabulous time!



MATARIKI

What is Matariki?

Matariki is the Māori name for a cluster of stars (known as the Pleiades) which is visible in our night sky at a specific time of the year. In June/July, Matariki will reappear in the dawn sky - signalling the start of the Māori New Year. Matariki literally means the 'eyes of god' (mata ariki) or 'little eyes' (mata riki). According to myth, when Ranginui, the sky father, and Papatūānuku, the earth mother, were separated by their children, the god of the winds, Tāwhirimātea, became so angry that he tore out his eyes and threw them into the heavens.

Traditionally, Matariki was a time to remember those who had died in the last year. But it was also a happy event - crops had been harvested and seafood and birds had been collected. With plenty of food in the storehouses, Matariki was a time for singing, dancing and feasting.

We have been celebrating Matariki, the Māori New Year. Unfortunately due to COVID Level 2 our big shared event at Marist didn't go ahead. The children have still been celebrating this time at the centre, in a variety of ways. We made vegetable soup (thank you to those who provided vegetables) we also got to share the soup with the older children at the GBEC centre, who in turn made rewena bread for us. A group of children from GBEC also came down to help teach us the actions to the waiata we have been learning.

We have done many Matariki craft activities such as art and making a kite- manu tukutuku. We also made some stars to go in our quiet area in the main play room. This area also got a make over with beautiful illustrations of Ranginui, Papatūānuku and Tāwhirimātea.

WINTER CLOTHING

Please remember to bring some warm clothes including jackets for your children as well as a couple of spare changes of clothes. It is essential your child has a spare plastic or WET BAG for any wet or dirty clothing.



STAINABILITY TIP

Recycle old baby bottles:

Many baby bottles can be reused. With sterilisation baby bottles can be used again and again. If your baby bottles are still in good condition without cracks or damage, but you no longer require them you can either pass them on to another new parent or recycle them!



Most baby bottles are now made from recyclable materials, which means instead of throwing them away, you can pop them into the recycling for collection. Always double check the packaging or bottle itself, as it will sport the recycling symbol if it can be recycled.

If you have any sustainability tips you would like to share with us then you are more than welcome to have a chat, or email us at: gbit@goodbeginnings.co.nz

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)

Our Education Review report is now available for you to view on the parent notice board or www.ero.govt.nz. ERO found "the service has establish and is embedding coherent learning and organisational conditions (systems, processes and practices) and is consistently implementing practices and processes to enable improvement in quality towards realising equitable outcomes for children."

TE REO PHRASES

Kō to wa whakapai - tidy up time

Kei te pēhea tō kope - how is your nappy?

Āe, kei te mākū - yes, it is wet.

He maroke tō kope - your nappy is dry.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

As we're getting deeper into the winter months, and with the winter illness that are in the community, we felt it was a timely reminder of key points to note when children will not be allowed to attend the centre, or will be required to be collected. If we cannot contact you, your emergency contact will be rung particularly in (but not exclusively) the following circumstances:

- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in the centre activities.
- The illness results in a greater care need that we can reasonably provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
- Diarrhoea. Children should not return to the centre until 48 hours after they have had at least one normal bowel motion.
- Vomiting. Children should not return to the centre until 48 hours after the absence of symptoms.
- Fever over 38.4°C - we cannot administer pamol or nurofen for fevers.
- The child or any immediate family member has been tested for Covid- 19. Children will be able to return when a negative test result has been returned and they have been given the all-clear by the Ministry of Health.



Please remember that we are not doctors and we may require you to visit the doctor for clearance to attend GBIT.

We understand the commitments you have as working parents and it can be hard juggling sick children and work commitments. Please know we only ring you if we feel it is necessary. We appreciate those of you that have been keeping your children home until their symptoms have cleared and they are well again to attend and participate in the programme.

PROGRAMME

In this last month, we have been exploring sensory activities, looking at different textures by experimenting with playdough, painting, baking, soft plush toys and puppets, We were learning all about soft, hard, bumpy, gooey, gritty, and smooth textures. We will look at water play in the warmer months as it is too cold for water play at this time.

Animal Exploration: We have been looking at all different types of animals from farm animals and zoo animals to pre-historic dinosaurs. We have been using hand puppets, books and songs to learn all about different types of animals and where they are from. As an extension to our animal exploration we have been for a walk to the pet shop to check out some different animals there and another trip to the warehouse and added some more toy animals to our collection. Jess' mum brought in her puppy Hugo and Casey brought in her kitten Leo.

We have also been on a few other trips - Queen Elizabeth Park, Garlands Reserve or to visit our friends at GBEC.

THEY MAY
forget
WHAT YOU SAID,
BUT THEY WILL
never forget
HOW YOU MADE THEM
feel ❤️

