

Good Beginnings Educare Centre

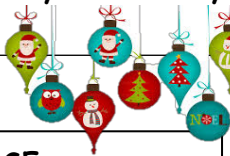
OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME / FAREWELL

A big welcome to the new families that have joined us over the past few weeks - Blake, Esme, Sienna, Fletcher and Lilly. We look forward to watching your child learn, grow and to sharing many special memories with you. We hope your time with us is both exciting and rewarding. We will soon farewell Mason and Nevaeh who will be starting school in term 4.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

With the end of the year fast approaching we thought it would be timely to let you know that our last day for 2018 will be **Friday 21st December**. We will re-open on **Monday 7th January 2019**.



INTERNAL REVIEW

Documenting children's learning:

During this review we have streamlined our processes so we are using deliberate teaching strategies which will continue to guide and build children's developing competencies.

Staff appraisal:

Our literature research has shown that effective staff appraisal is a positive means of improving the quality of teaching and therefore benefits the positive learning outcomes for children. We are currently implementing an action plan to improve the appraisal process and will evaluate the impact in early 2019.

SAMOAN PHRASE

This month's phrase is:

Tusi Tala - Story teller.

We are using this phrase when reading a book for mat time. Please don't hesitate to let us know if there are any phrases that your child is familiar with at home so that we can learn these too!

ONESIE DAY

Thank you to all those that helped support this. We were very impressed with the turnout and all the different onesies! Between the two centres we raised just over \$90, which the centre matched so a total of just over \$180 was donated.

SAVE THE DATE

This year's **Christmas party** will be on Saturday the 24th of November at 10.30am. More details will follow closer to the time.

TEACHING TEAM

Mikayla who was a student at the centre in August has joined our teaching team as a casual reliever.

LUNCHBOXES

Please place lunchboxes on the trolley and single items of food that need chilling in the fridge. Unfortunately, we don't have enough room for entire lunch boxes to go in the fridge.

WARMER WEATHER

With the warmer weather approaching don't forget to check your child has a variety of **spare clothes** in their bag for both warmer and cooler days. As it gets warmer the children will most likely get messier (the more mess the more fun!) as they explore the sandpit and water play. We still have **wet bags** available at \$5.00 each - please see teachers if you would like one.

As summer approaches we will also begin to apply **sunblock**. We have some of our own but please provide your own if your child has sensitive skin. We apply the first lot of sunblock at approximately 10.30am if you would like it applied before then please do so at home. Although we do encourage children to wear hats during the summer months this is not compulsory.

HEAD INJURIES

With recent events in the media regarding head injuries we have reviewed our procedures around these. If your child receives a 'substantial' knock to the head, we will ring you to advise you. This does not necessarily mean that you need to pick your child up, in most cases we will be happy to keep them here and monitor them closely.



PROGRAMME

In September we celebrated Māori language week which focused on Kia Kaha te Reo Māori - let's make the Māori language strong. The tamariki were involved in a variety of experiences such as: **mahi toi- he korero auaha** discovering different ways to be creative and expressive when making wheku (masks), the teachers supported **rangatiratanga**- where groups of children practiced the role of kaea to lead and to perform kapa haka, many familiar and new waiata were sung, **manaakitanga** was celebrated as we invited whānau to share kai that the children had prepared, a small group of children also visited **Aratoi** to hear local stories and create tukutuku panels, learning about different parts of the **Marae** using an interactive board which will support our outing to Papawai Marae in term four. As a result of our focus we have noticed that te reo Māori has continued to become a natural part of the programme with children spontaneously using the language.

There is still a huge focus on **mathematical concepts** throughout the programme with children exploring concepts with a variety of resources from measuring how deep the hole is they have dug in the sandpit to counting the blocks on the tower they have constructed.

Teachers feel very proud of the **empathy our children show one another**, often saying sorry if they have bumped one of their friends by accident or rushing to get a child a cold cloth if they are hurt. The children have also been supporting the children who are transitioning into the centre by showing and helping them with routines and areas of play.

The children are showing confidence in **taking risks** to continue to develop their physical skills. With the warmer weather there has been a lot more **sensory play** which has been enjoyed by all. These open ended resources allow children to develop hand-eye coordination, practice pouring, measuring, mixing, predicting as well as being part of a group.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The teachers recently attended some professional development in regards to boys and social competence and resiliency. We thought we would share some of the interesting information with you...

Challenging Boys

This workshop was very interesting to learn just how different male and female brains are. Everyone has the four main emotions happy, sad, angry and fearful, all children especially boys need to know that they have a safe place to express these emotions. As adults we know it can be hard to separate anger from one situation to another, keep in mind it is harder for children. Talk them through their feelings by acknowledging them and calmly sitting together, or apart, you know what works for your child.

Researchers have found, compared to girls: boys can be less sensitive to faces, between 4-8years they have less serotonin (increased aggression and impulsiveness), less sense of touch (rough on things), they grow faster and stronger, can be more troubled by separation (boys can have trouble after a couple of weeks), need more space to move, have significant growth spurts (have trouble hearing around 4 years), enjoy rough and tumble. They can also be kind, gentle, caring and very sensitive to others. It is important to have good male role models in boys lives too because they will mimic off who is around them. Having challenging boys can be hard but the rewards are great too!

Resiliency and Social Competence...

is being self-assured and interested, managing impulsivity, being able to wait, following instructions, turning to others for help, expressing one's needs, confidence within one's body, curiosity, intentionality and relatedness

In life there is a saying "it's not what you know, it is who you know" - being socially and emotionally intelligent is much more rewarding in life than having a high IQ. You can always learn more content knowledge but fundamental social skills are developed as children.

May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!

Author Unknown