



Bright Star News

Kia ora!

Welcome to all our new families. We are happy to have you join our whānau.

This is our first newsletter! We have already been open for a month. Where has the time gone? In this month, we have staggered the settling in of our new children, as it is important for each child to build a sense of belonging and

wellbeing with their teachers and environment. Part of the settling in process involves settling into new routines and customs. The teachers have noticed that the children are beginning to form some lovely friendships with each other.



Group-time provides opportunities for the children to learn to participate, be involved and gain a sense of belonging .



Regular excursions allow the children to connect with the wider community around them.

Whānau Board

Please remember to bring in a photo for our whānau board. While your child is settling into the Centre, it is a very important part of that process for them to see a photo of their family. The photo helps with the child's sense of well being and belonging. It also provides a connection between home and Centre.

Whānau Evening

We will soon confirm a date for our whānau evening and celebration of the opening of the Centre. Whānau evening will be a time for the families to meet each other over a shared meal and for you to meet the teachers.

Routines

Everyday, the children and teachers come together for mat time in the morning, when the children revisit what they have done over the past days. Favourite songs are sung, a story is read and we explore music and movement. At Bright Star, we value the importance of an unhurried day, so af-

ter mat time the children have morning tea, and then are able to explore their environment. There are a number of different activities to foster their thirst for learning and allow them to learn about the world around them. For example, outside we provide water play, boxes, slides, sandpits and

trolleys. Inside we have collage, music, art, books, play dough and dress ups. The children at Bright Star also go on regular excursions that allow them to connect with the wider community around them, which provides opportunity to extend their learning and working theories about the natural world.

Early Literacy

When we think of literacy, we think of reading and writing. Literacy, though, is a lot broader than this. This is evident in the various ways the children have chosen to explore early literacy.

Over the past month, the teachers at Bright Star have noticed that

some of the children have shown a strong interest in early literacy. We have seen this interest displayed in various key learning areas. One child is using the sandpit to practice his letters, while another child is practising his name in the drawing area. To extend this

interest the teachers have introduced a sign-in chart, in which the children can sign themselves in the morning. The teachers at Bright Star will continue to foster this emerging interest.

Early Programme Planning

Over the past month, the teachers have noticed that the children have shown a strong interest in messy play - particularly water play. We have responded by putting out resources to extend this

interest. We have set up the water trough outside and gloop and painting inside.

When you come into the Centre you will notice the 'Our learning Journey So Far' wall. We have

stuck photos and anecdotes on the wall, which document this interest. There are also photos that show the other interests that your children have been exploring while settling in.



Having fun digging around!



'Water' do you think we're doing?

We hope you enjoyed the first issue of Bright Star News!