



Newsletter

May, 2013

We are almost half way through the year and already we are seeing a lot of positive changes!

Haere mai...

Firstly, we wish Barbara a safe and fun trip while she is away on holiday for the next four weeks. We also extend a big welcome to Jennifer, who has just completed and graduated with a degree in early childhood teaching, and is working with us full time as part of our teaching team. We also welcome Kirsten, who is also a qualified early childhood teacher and is joining our teaching team as a permanent reliever. Molly has moved over to our over 2's room and is in the process of studying towards early childhood teaching.

We welcome Macie-Rose, India, Bella, Nico and their families to our over 2's room. We say goodbye to Jimmy, Jake and their family and wish them all the best in their future endeavors in Auckland.

Teacher Sofia has joined the under 2's teaching team. We would also like to welcome Alexander, Sophia, Kareena and their families to Bright Star.

Upgrades

As you may have noticed, we are currently upgrading our outdoor play area once again, and have added a fiber roof to help to make the most of our wonderful Wellington weather, and offer the opportunity to children to have access to the outdoor environment.

This also ties in with our sustainability practices, where we are striving to implement a variety of ways in which we can look after our environment (for example, the sale of the reusable cloth bags for soiled and wet clothing). We will be sending out information on ways and examples in which you can help us develop our sustainability practices. We welcome your suggestions and feedback too. By being aware of these sustainability practices, we will be adding to our children's concepts of looking after our environment, nature, and community to a great extent.

In the under 2's room, you may have noticed the wonderful new table and stools along with our new play house which the children love using.



Programme

We have also been reviewing our curriculum planning, and the best way to meet each individual child's needs. After several discussions and observations, we have noticed that the current theme of interest for the children in the over two's area is socio-dramatic play (which involves pirate play and family relationships), along with traffic and the motion of movement.



The team have also noticed that some of the koru group children have been drawing maps and grids, either in their art or the maps have been incorporated into their role playing. To extend this current interest, one of the teachers drew a map of the local community, identifying important landmarks, like New World, the Newlands School for the children to allocate on their outing.



Following a map, we are looking for some significant premises in our Local community.

Later in the same week, some of the children were role playing being pirates and has drawn themselves maps. To extend their play, a teacher had printed out some treasure maps for them to use as a prop. The children also added to these maps. Books about maps were also brought in for

us to learn more. The children explore a variety of maps, from train maps, to the London tube, the local community and the world map.

Consequently, the children acquired a number of new skills, from learning that maps represent visual information concerning their own environment. Secondly, they learned about the geography of their lo-

cal community and that of other parts of the world. Furthermore, they are learning that maps show visual signs and symbols through which they can read them and analyse the information on them.



Our under Tui group children are having a Teddy bear's picnic.

In the Tui group, there is a current interest amongst the child in animals. As shown on our display board, we are following this interest by supplying resources and activities with an animal theme.

If you have a photo of a family pet we would like to include these on our board as the children enjoying seeing photos of things from home and the children can see the different family pets people have.

Review

We have been reviewing our "Illness and infections control policy", and we thank all the parents who have offered their feedback. Your queries and suggestions are very important to our partnership in developing our centre policies.

Centre Reminders

As the colder and wet weather is approaching a reminder for woolly hats, jackets and suitable footwear (gumboots) so the children may enjoy some time outside when the weather allows.

Nga mihi,

Teaching team at Bright Star