



Newsletter

September, 2014

Kia ora, dear families and whānau! After a cold and long winter, the daffodils are blossoming in the fields. We are finally getting back into spring again!

This month, we welcome Allyssa, Prithvi, Joyce, Renale and their families to the over 2's room from the under 2's, along with Yichen, Ayva and their families, who are new to the centre whānau. We also say a fond farewell to Bella and Suri, and wish them all the best on the next part of their learning journey.

Friendship programme

Over the past 3 months, the Tui and Koru groups have been exploring the concept of friendship in their play. Friendship dynamics can often change. Dealing with these changes is important for a child's social development. It can help them form positive relationships with their peers.

Through their daily play, the children are learn the skills needed to establish and maintain friendships. These include negotiation, turn-taking, reciprocity and conflict resolution.

During our friendship programme, the children engaged in many activities to explore what being a friend means. This included making friendship bracelets and watching puppet shows about different scenarios they may encounter everyday with their friends and how to work through them.



We are happy with how the programme has wrapped up and as a result, new friendships have formed at the centre. The children have voiced their ideas more about what it means to be a friend: being kind, sharing, not hitting and playing together. They are continuing to use the new skills they have learnt in their play.

Current programme: Exploring our imaginations!

The children are currently interested in socio-dramatic play, especially through role-play. Some children have been dressing up as popular characters, from super heroes to fairy-tale characters.



The older children especially have been influenced by the movie 'Frozen' and the recent Disney on Ice production. Inspired, they have been acting out their rich imaginations in their role play. We have children performing *Let it Go* at the centre with their audience applauding and calling for encores.

The children are extending their working theories about what it means to transform into different characters. Some of the children understand that in order to transform, you need to change your voice, mannerisms and dress up in different costumes.

For the toddlers, teachers have supported this interest by putting out more resources and a variety of activities. We have set up picnic camps in the playground, tea party scenes in the sandpit, and a shopping corner beside the playhouse.



Self review

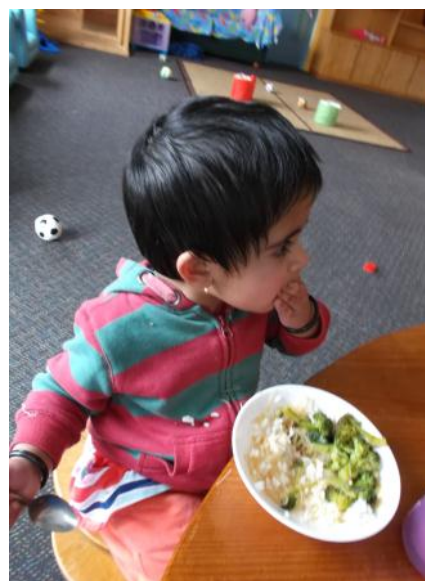
We have currently been self-reviewing a wide range of aspects in our centre, and the main reason being is that our staffing team is always looking at ways to improve our practice and make learning really enjoyable, authentic and meaningful to all children and their families.

We are reviewing four aspects in our centre, and they are:

- * Our bi-cultural practice (honouring Maori culture at Bright Star)
- * How natural and sustainable is our practice indoors and outdoors
- * Our transitioning for children between the under 2's room to the over 2's room
- * The vegetable intake in daily lunch meals (under 2's room only)

We are currently still in the process of reviewing our bi-cultural practice, and also the second review on the natural and sustainable environment here at Bright Star. We thank those of you who returned the surveys. It is extremely useful when our families return surveys as it helps us to find out what your aspirations are for our centre and for your children. Please feel free to contribute any resources or knowledge you may feel is appropriate for these two self-reviews.

The findings for our self-review on smooth transitioning to the over 2's room for children turning two years of age showed us that parents really appreciate a lot of communication about what occurs in the over 2's room, and that a key teacher be assigned for their child before they come over. We have decided to continue with strong communication with all individuals involved in the process, along with



assigning a key teacher in the over 2's room during the transition and settling in process.

In our self-review for our vegetable intake in daily lunch meals for the under 2's room, we found that the children tend to eat each vegetable depending on their own individual preferences, and we will continue to provide them with a wide range of vegetables every day, along with support and encourage their love for healthy eating!

Let's learn te reo Māori together

Ngā Mihi - Greetings (lesson 1)

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Kia ora | Hi |
| Tēnā koe | Hello (to one person) |
| Tēnā kōrua | Hello (to two people) |
| Tēnā koutou | Hello (to three or more people) |

Centre Reminders

We would like to ask you to provide a named sun hat for your child. We also provide sunscreen, but if you would like to use your own, can you please bring it in. There will be days when the weather will be warmer and the teachers would like to provide water play and messy play for the children, hence, it would be great if you could continue to provide enough changes of clothes for these occasions, thank you.