

November 2011

Dear Families/Whanau

Wow...November already!! With the Rugby World Cup celebrations October seemed to just fly by ☺ Seeing the awesome All Blacks come through with a much deserved win put big smiles on all our faces - hooray!! Christmas is now racing towards us and plans are already underway to help us celebrate this fun time of year - see below ☺

Welcomes, Birthdays and Farewells

We would like to welcome Nailah to the Playhouse family ☺ A huge HAPPY BIRTHDAY to - Dillan (27th) who will be 1, Isla (20th) who is turning 3, Cassidy (1st), Nailah (1st), Zac (10th), Lily (14th), Madison T (22nd) and Marley (27th) who are all turning 4 this month and James (10th) will be celebrating the big number 5 and heading off to new adventures at school!! We wish you many happy school days James ☺

Centre News

We are currently reviewing the following policies -Privacy, Philosophy, Sleep Times, Fees, Terms and Holidays. These policies can be found in the policy review folder on the parent information board - feel free to read these and make comments/suggestions if you wish ☺

Our students have a busy month ahead of them! Lupe is on a 4 week practicum placement from 24th November and Suranji, Rita and Jade will also all be away on practicum placement at other centres from 14th Nov - 2nd Dec. We also have a new reliever - Fiona ☺ Fiona is in her 2nd year studying her B.Ed ECE at Unitec with Molly. The 'Hearing and Vision' testing lady will be at the centre on Tuesday 29th November to do the B4 school check for those children who have turned 4 since her last visit in the beginning of August - if you have not yet completed a B4 school check consent form we will be asking you to fill one out in the next few weeks ☺

Sickness

In order to keep the spread of bugs/viruses to a minimum we have a strict 24 hour stand-down from the centre for any children with signs of vomiting, diarrhoea or high temperatures - this is in place for the greater good of all and we appreciate your honesty and support of this policy ☺ We have also had a reported case of Chickenpox at the centre - Chickenpox is a highly infectious illness and those infected are not allowed at the centre until all sores have completely scabbed over. If you would like any info on what to look for please ask one of the staff or read the info sheet in the foyer.



Booked Hours / Late arrivals

We have noticed a number of parents are regularly arriving before or collecting after their child's booked times - we use the children's booked times to allocate staffing so that we meet our required ratio's at all times and arriving either side of booked times can cause problems with this balance

If your child is going to be arriving at the centre later than usual please call and let us know in advance - especially if you would like lunch saved for them ☺ Please keep in mind though that late arrivals can cause disruptions to settled children so please try to stick to your booked times as much as possible - thanks!

Christmas Info.....so far!!

The date for our annual centre Christmas party here at Playhouse has been set for Thursday 22nd December from 3.15-5.30pm - please write this important date on your calendar now as we look forward to seeing all our families here to join in the fun ☺

In a few weeks we will be sending out forms for the Christmas holiday period - we need to know this information early so we can work out staffing over this time. Please remember that the centre only closes for statutory holidays and that we run on reduced hours of 8.00am-4.30pm for the 3 days of each week following the Christmas and New Year holidays



KIWI ROOM NEWS



Kia Ora, Welcome

Congratulations to Melissa and Terry (Ava's parents) on the arrival of their new baby girl ☺

We would like to say a big thank you to all those parents who helped us by dressing up the children on "Supporters Day". It was a big success here at Playhouse and the children had lots of fun - especially with the "Kiwi" lunch that we ate.

Don't forget to get your orders and payment for calendars in by 11th November. They make great Christmas presents and Christmas is coming up fast!! The cost of the calendars is \$10 each the diaries \$15 each.

We finished up our last programme planning on "Creative Moments", the children have loved sitting down at that times and sharing together their favourite songs and also joining in the fun of doing the actions - you may have noticed your child coming home and sharing these with you. We are now focusing on "Our Outdoor Environment" as many children are enjoying spending more time outdoors and this is a great opportunity for children to discover their world outside and engage with the older children.

If anyone has any old switches, doorbells, door knobs, chains or anything else lying around at home we would love to have them to use on a gadget board we would like to create for the children to explore.



PUKEKO ROOM NEWS

Kia Ora everyone!!

We would like to say a warm welcome to Nailah who has recently joined us in the Pukeko room ☺
The All Blacks have really done us proud and the children were so happy to share news about their favourite star in the rugby team ☺ Thank you for getting the children dressed for our "Supporters day". We were anticipating a victory and were celebrating by having a Kiwi lunch of Fish and Chips, L&P and good old Hokey Pokey ice cream-yum!

Over the past month we have noticed an interest in the children wanting to make pirate maps. We have decided to follow this interest and develop it further by introducing street maps, world maps, site maps and drawing plans. Our dazzling new photo wall for the Pukeko children is centred around a map of Green Bay and neighbouring suburbs. Have you seen your child's artwork? Come in and see if you can see your house!

The recent wet weather enabled us to create a big puddle down in the back garden, which the boys immediately turned into their fishing hole. We now find that another focus has emerged in the children's play - Fish! Many children are relating stories about family fishing trips and sharing what they know about the different types of fish. The computer is being used a lot to research scary pictures of moray eels, sharks and other deep sea creatures. Have you got any fishing trip pictures that you can share with us? Email them to us and we will display them ☺

It will soon be Christmas and we are going to be busy learning Christmas songs and doing a whole lot of fun activities. We are planning a little concert for our parents at the centre Christmas party - more details to follow later



Emails

Emailing the learning stories, invoices and newsletters is going really well and we have had lots of positive feedback ☺ If you are not receiving any of these in your inbox please check you junk mail folder as there have been a few cases where we have been lumped in with the spam mail. Don't forget to 'LIKE' us on Facebook to keep up with current centre happenings!!

From all the Playhouse Team ☺

Greg, Lynnette, Tiffany, Sandra, Tracey, Sam, Nicola, Melanie, Vanessa, Alisi, Molly, Suranji, Lupe, Jade, Rita, Fiona, Jenna and Catherine