



Playhouse News – March 2009

We would like to welcome our new families to the centre. We hope you enjoy being part of the 'Playhouse family'.

Upstairs News

Tena koutou te whanau! Our upstairs room looks bright and beautiful thanks with the children's learning stories and artwork on display. Come and spend a few minutes either in the morning or in the afternoon to read the stories or have a look at their work.

We are following several interests at the moment – insects, and with the weather getting warmer the children are interested in water-play. The children have observed that water in its liquid state flows and that water is colourless and tasteless. They observed the change in colour when liquid dye was added to it.

Our children are still interested in insects. The noisy cicadas seem to capture the children's interest, along with the ladybugs. If you would like to bring in any thing pictures or a parent voice on your child's interest at home, please feel free to do so.

In our family corner we plan to create a family wall to help the children feel a sense of belonging. Please bring in a family photograph for the wall.

Ka kite ano – we will see you soon.

Downstairs News

Kia Ora from the Babies/Toddlers Room! Now that we are well into 2009 we feel it's going to be a busy year and already have a few things planned over the next couple of months.

But first – we didn't last month get to thank Meera for loaning us her wonderful big fish tank, and Jessica's mum Alecia for helping us create a beautiful new home for "Ikanui" our gold fish (this is now his official name). Alecia is an expert in this area and we have her to thank for supplying the necessary filter, plants, and stones etc. And thanks to Greg and Chris for supporting this area and also adding six more little fish to our lovely big tank. It has been a central focus for many children every morning and numerous times throughout the day for our babies/toddlers. To extend this interest we intend to focus more on sea creatures and will look into the possibility of a full centre excursion to Kelly Tarltons in April/May.

We would also like to thank Leandro's mum Catherine for all the great materials that she has brought in from her work.

Sensory Exploration remains one of our current focus areas and the babies/toddlers have been enjoying the experiences relating to this. Nirmala has mounted some wonderful A4 size photo's on the board capturing the sensory learning experiences of water/ice with some relevant information alongside. The babies/toddlers have also recently been involved in other group learning experiences where they have been exploring the texture and the feel of bright coloured paints on their hands (and entire bodies!).

Over the next few weeks we plan to provide various other 'new' learning experiences involving all the five senses (sight, smell, taste, sound and touch) as part of our sensory exploration theme. This includes a morning trip away to Butterfly House at West Lynn Gardens where we can walk and picnic in the gardens while observing all the Butterflies. You should have received our flyer about this by now. If not please talk to Tracey, Nirmala or Tui to find out more.

Don't forget the parents/whanau evening on Friday 27th March at 7.00pm. We hope you can all make it – we look forward to seeing you and discussing/sharing information about your child/ren.

Ka Kite – Tracey, Nirmala and Tui.

Preschool News

Last month was an exciting month as children's interests were focussed in different areas. With the soaring temperatures children were more involved in water-play. Oh! Water on the slide, sprinklers, hose and water trough.

Indoors, we have been busy with art work. Some children helped the teacher to paint the preschool cupboard. That was a lovely experience for the children.

This children's interest in insects is continuing. Children have been bringing different types of insects from home. Next month we plan to take them for a trip to Butterfly Creek. Please check your child's information pocket for the consent form.

Some children have been interested in learning about different planets. The teacher brought books from the library and the children enjoyed reading and going through the pictures to gain more information. We will be continuing next month with the Solar System.

Resources

We still need cardboard, little boxes and interesting natural resources. We also need plastic bags as well as anything for collage.

Signing In and Out

It is imperative that you sign your child in in the morning and out in the afternoon. This is a Ministry of Education requirement and if we were to have an emergency (e.g. fire), we could miss your child if they have not been signed in. There is also a monthly roll, which needs to be signed each month. If you think you haven't signed it for a few months, please see Sandra or Tracey and they can help you with this.

Emptying of Information Pockets

Parents please remember to empty out & check pockets in appropriate areas at least once a week. Please ensure you fill out the enrolment form that Ebony has put into every child's pocket. This form must be completed and returned to Ebony as soon as possible so that we have updated parent information for our records.

Children's Bags

All children must bring a bag to Playhouse containing at least two changes of clothes. We are doing a lot of water play over the summer months and children also sometimes have toileting accidents. If this happens we need to be able to change your child's clothes. Although we have some spare clothing at the centre, this is really only for children who need to change out of their 2nd set of clothing as we have a limited supply. Please remember to name your child's clothing as it helps us in getting the right clothes back to the right child. Remember to a look at lost property and take anything that belongs to your child.

Bringing Toys to Playhouse

Please do not let your child bring their toys to Playhouse. We are still having a problem with children bringing toys to the centre; some are even hiding them in their pockets so that the teachers don't always realise they have brought their own toys. They often get lost or broken and this can upset the children. The best thing to do is to leave your child's toy in the car before dropping your child off, or leaving them at home.

Scholastics Book Club

Please place your Scholastics book order as it helps the centre buy discounted from Scholastics. Every order placed also gives us an entry into a draw to win additional books for the centre.

Have a great day.
From the Playhouse Team