

PLAYHOUSE NEWSLETTER

June 2010



Dear Families/Whanau

Wow, it's hard to believe that we are half way through 2010 already!! This year seems to be flying past and we hope that it continues that way so that we can see the end of all this horrible cold and wet weather. With winter time comes the inevitable winter sniffles and bugs - the old wives tale that being outside in cold weather is what makes us sick is being increasingly proved to be false and ironically it is actually spending more time inside in the warmth and being closer to other people that allow the airborne bugs and viruses to spread!! We love to get outside and make use of our backyard in all year old so please make sure your child has lots of NAMED warm clothing so that they can join in the fun no matter what the weather ☺

ILLNESS AND CONTACT DETAILS

We recently had a medical incident at the centre that reinforced a few things for us #1 Please make sure that you (or a reliable emergency contact) are contactable AT ALL TIMES when your child is in care. #2 If your child has been at all unwell please let the staff know and remember to respect and abide by our Illness and Medication policy. We understand that taking time off work can be difficult but HOME is the best place for a sick child as it allows them time to rest and get better sooner this also reduces the spread of bugs/viruses to other families.

POCKETS

Thanks to all the parents who regularly check and empty their child's pocket in the foyer area ☺ However, please make sure that the pocket that you are emptying belongs to your child - we have had a few incidences lately of missing birthday invitations that had definitely been put in the correct child's pocket yet had mysteriously disappeared!!

BIRTHDAYS

A big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all the children celebrating birthdays this month ☺ Jessica K (3rd) is turning 3, Poppy (12th) and Daniel (16th) are turning 4 and Findlay (5th) has turned 5 and headed off to exciting new adventures at school.

STAFFING

We are looking forward to having Andrea back from her final practicum on 15th June. Melanie is leaving the cold winter weather behind and heading off for a week in sun on the Gold Coast from 14th-18th June and Alisi is off to Tonga from 21st - 29th June (Yes...we are all very jealous that they're headed for nice warm weather!!). We have 2 students here from 14/06 on a 2 week practicum from New Zealand Career College - a big welcome to Lucy and Georgia ☺

PYJAMA DAY

We love centre fun days and have decided that we need another one to put a smile on our faces in the middle of winter so



WEDNESDAY 30th JUNE is PYJAMA DAY ...Hooray!!!

Come along in your pyjamas for the day (all the teachers will be too!!!) We will be having a "breakfast" themed morning tea with yummy porridge, toast and Milo too ☺ The teachers are putting on a special pantomime show for the children's entertainment - don't worry we'll make sure there are plenty of

photo's so parent's won't miss out!!!

Ps: Parents are more than welcome to join us for some fun - YES PYJAMAS ARE COMPULSORY FOR YOU TOO!!!

BABIES NEWS

We would like to say a big welcome to Aiden who is joining us this month ☺ A big welcome also to Pam who has joined the under 2's team to cover Tracey's 3 months maternity leave. Pam has many years of experience working with children and we are lucky to have her wonderful energy and enthusiasm in our team!!

Over the past month we, as a team have been focusing on the children's interest in animals. As part of our program planning we have been doing lots of activities and setting up heaps of experiences for the children around animals. We have been singing animal songs such as "Old McDonald had a farm", dancing and moving like animals, reading books about animals, having visits from home pets such as a frog and rabbits, puppets, doing animal paintings and drawings. We are also learning with the children the names of animals in Te Reo Maori. Thank you to the parents who have responded to the letter sent home asking for the names and type of pets (if any) your child has at home and sending in some fantastic photos of your child's pets. We have had a great response and we are now able to start displaying these for the children to see and explore. We are also exploring the possibility of a centre outing to Kiwi Valley Farm in the near future - we will keep you posted ☺



UPSTAIRS NEWS

Tena koutou e te whānau / Greetings to our parents and families

We welcome Marley our upstairs room and we farewell Pedro and Jesse who have graduated to the Preschool room ☺

The children have been enjoying the cooking experiences we have been planning lately - especially making and decorating the cupcakes for mother's day and we are constantly being asked to repeat this activity ☺!! So far we have made vege soup, pikelets, jelly, muffins and the very cool microwave chocolate chip cookies that they got to make and watch cook right at the table. They have experienced the interaction of different ingredients, measured the ingredients and used the tools and cooking equipment eg. Hand blender, knives, wooden spoon - We have some great budding chefs in the making!!

We would like to further extend the children's interest be preparing food from different cultures. If you have some simple recipes or cooking experiences/photographs with your child cooking at home feel free to bring them in. This would be a great opportunity to learn about customs, traditions and cultures from around the world ☺



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Kia ora Koutou

This month we farewell Findlay who is off to school and we welcome Pedro and Jesse to the Preschool.

We are nearing the end of our 'Community Helpers' and 'Working Dogs' study, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. There has been lots of support from a variety of organisations such as the Police, Fire Department, local SPCA and Waitakere City Council who sent in the information regarding dog safety.

We are currently collecting donations in support of St John Ambulance which was initiated by Cedric and we have so far collected \$11.10 ☺ If you would like to contribute to the St John Ambulance appeal you may send your child along with a gold coin to pop in the envelope.



BOOKED TIMES

The hours that your child is "booked in" to attend care need to be as accurate as possible as this is what we base our staffing count on. If children turn up early or leave later it can put pressure on our high child:teacher ratios. Staff will be keeping an eye on this especially those children starting earlier and leaving later than their booked times.

CONFIRMATION OF ENROLMENT FORMS

From time to time we may need you to confirm your child's enrolment as our computer system picks up frequent absences or because booked hours do not match hours of attendance. If you find one of these forms in your child's pocket PLEASE SIGN IT AND RETURN TO THE OFFICE ASAP!! These forms are a very important part of our required record keeping and failing to return these may result in your child's funding being withheld.

CONTACT

Please feel free to contact us anytime on 827 7833 or email info@playhousechildcare.co.nz

From all the team at Playhouse

Greg, Lynnette, Tiffany, Sandra, Andrea, Tracey, Melanie, Marjorie, Pam, Tui, Vanessa, Alisi, Molly, Sam, Alisha, Nicole, and Helen