

ESW Newsletter

TERM 3 2015



"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have" Maya Angelou



Welcome back to Term Three, we hope that you kept warm on the cold frosty mornings during the holiday break and made the most of the beautiful sunshine to get out and enjoy the many wonders that Hamilton has to offer.

Prior to the end of the term there were several cold and flu type bugs affecting the children's attendance at their early childhood centres.

According to the Waikato Times on 14.7.15, there is still a lot of illness in the Waikato, so please take care of yourselves and remember to wash your hands regularly while working.

Dates to Remember

- ✚ Term 3 dates: The term commences on 20 July 2015 and the last date for the term is 25 September 2015.
- ✚ ESW Workshop: 11 September at 1.15pm.
- ✚ Most contracts finish on 17 December 2015, so please bear this in mind when planning end of year activities.

House Keeping

- ✚ New contracts were sent out at the end of June for signing, if you have not already done so please return a copy to McKenzie Centre as soon as possible. The admin team can then enter your hours of employment into the computer system for the pay roll.
- ✚ Attending personal events and being away does have an impact on families and early childhood centres. Please consider the children, centres and families when requesting leave. Leave requests must be in writing, an email is fine, so we have a record of the request. Not all requests will be approved.
- ✚ Early Childhood Centre's have varying philosophies and this can make it challenging for you to implement the IP goals. You need to respect the philosophy that is used and work within this while supporting the children.
- ✚ Parents may ask you questions about their child, **always refer them to the Key Worker.**
- ✚ **Health and Safety:** you may be aware that there is a reform to this legislation. It is up to ECC to ensure all people are protected and this includes children and ESW staff. You may want to ask the Head Teacher about the most relevant H&S policies e.g. do you know where to go in case of fire or other emergency?

New ESW's

Kerry Waenga is working in the Hamilton area and Ruth Graham in Morrinsville. Welcome and we look forward to working with you.

ESW Workshop:

At the workshop on 5 June 2015, a refresher of previous workshops was discussed and an activity was done on the Foundation Skills for Formal Learning. This promoted some interesting discussion and was a good reminder to take time to reflect on previous topics.

The topic for our next workshop will be the Hanen strategy of using OWL (Observing, Waiting and Listening). You may want to do some research around this before the workshop to enrich your knowledge. A possibility would be to read information from the Hanen 'More than Words' or 'It takes two to talk' books when working your hours at McKenzie Centre.

Flu Vaccination

Just a reminder that the flu vaccination is still available until 31st July, and McKenzie Centre will pay the cost for anyone who wants one - just pop into Anglesea Clinic and mention our name.

An article in the Waikato Times on 14 July stated that the flu season has hit with a vengeance and they are expecting it to be the worst one we have had in a while. Both the A and B strains are very strong this year, and both are very bad news for the most vulnerable of us, namely children and oldies. The season doesn't end until September, so there is still a long way to go until we are "safe"! The article also mentioned that people who do become sick should do their utmost not to spread it, particularly those of us who work with vulnerable people. So that means staying at home until you are no longer contagious.

Police Vetting:

As part of the Vulnerable Children's Act everyone working with children will need to be Police Vetted every 3 years, as our staff have already been doing, and Lillian will contact you when it is your turn. This is part of the commitment to keeping our children safe. You do not have unsupervised access to the children, as the children remain the responsibility of the registered teachers at the early childhood centre.

Relieving:

Sometimes we ask you to relieve with a child in an early childhood centre who you do not know. Please talk to the early childhood centre staff and ask them for support. An alternative would be that a staff member uses it as an opportunity to work 1:1 with the child, while you engage with other children at the early childhood centre.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Trisha who won a very prestigious Rotary award, the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow award, for meritorious service to the community. Her nomination was suggested by Ken Williamson, Trustee, and several current and former families wrote testimonials in support. These awards are usually only presented to Rotarians, but they make exceptions for special people whom they believe have made an outstanding contribution to the community, and who exemplify the principles of Rotary which are based on service, high ethical standards and fostering goodwill and understanding in their daily life.

Fundraiser:

Hamilton East Rotary Club is holding a **Race Night** on Friday 31 July 2015 at St Andrews Link Community Centre. The \$25 ticket includes a finger food buffet. The evening is in aid of McKenzie Centre and other Rotary Charities. Tickets are available at McKenzie Centre.

McKenzie Centre Website

You will find our Parent and ESW newsletters online so you can keep up to date with us now and in the future: www.mckenziecentre.org.nz

Lillian does a great job of updating the website and Facebook. Take a look! Have a look at the family newsletter each term to keep you up to date with Centre news.

Remember to contact us if you have any concerns or questions at any time. We are always happy to hear from you. Have a great term!

Phone Extensions

Helen Gempton	ext 702, Business Manager
Anita Wilson	ext 703, Speech Language Therapist
Sue Scott	ext 703, Physiotherapist
Suzanne Kok	ext 704, Early Intervention Teacher
Stephanie Wacker	ext 706, Early Intervention Teacher
Estelle Pretorius	ext 707, Speech Language Therapist
Claire Hintz	ext 708, Occupational Therapist
Trisha Bengé	ext 710, Centre Director
Teresa Blake	ext 712, Early Intervention Teacher
Ruth Michels	ext 713, Early Intervention Teacher, Assistive Technology

Useful Websites:

www.suelarkey.com

www.pushplay.org.nz

www.downsyndrome.co.nz

www.autismhouse.org.nz

www.nzgg.org.nz/asd

www.asdguidelines.com

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