

ESW Newsletter
TERM 3 2020



Welcome back to Term Three, we hope you had time to relax during the holidays and are looking forward to supporting the tamariki in their early childhood centres to achieve their goals. Winter is upon us with a lot of rain, and also snow has hit areas of the South Island. We are certainly feeling that icy blast here in the North Island.

COVID 19 is still out there, confirmed and probable cases are still emerging, typically related to someone re-entering the country. However, for your own and others safety, please continue to be vigilant about thorough hand washing and hygiene routines. If an early childhood centre is required to be closed, then we will all do our best to let you know as soon as possible.

Keep a record of where you have been, using QR codes and do follow sign in procedures as this will help with contract tracing. If unwell, particularly, with flu-like symptoms seek medical advice. If the cause of your symptoms is non-infectious e.g. asthma, hay fever or other conditions you can attend. Have a conversation with the staff and confirm your symptoms are from a condition such as asthma. "Play it Safe".

Quote: "To know someone with autism is not autism", Sue Larkey

Dates to Remember:

- ✚ Term 3 commences on 20 July 2020 and the last date for the term is on Friday 25 September 2020.
- ✚ ESW Workshop is planned for Friday 18 September 2020, 1.00-2.30pm.
- ✚ Te Reo Language Week is 14th -18th September

House Keeping:

- ✚ Refresh yourself on the goals for each of the children, so that they are in your minds when you commence working with them again.
- ✚ If you have not already returned your new signed contract, please make this a priority, and have it back no later than Monday 20 July 2020.
- ✚ Time sheets are your responsibility, so please email them to Henny weekly on Fridays.

Staff news:

Welcome to Natasha Buckleton, ESW, who is working in the Cambridge area and Helen Coles who is working in the Hamilton area.

Resignation: Thank-you, Andree McGibbon, ESW, for your commitment as an ESW, you are greatly missed for your knowledge and experience.



Welcome back to **Marcia Ranginui Charlton**, Social Worker, who left us, and now has happily returned to our whānau. We are delighted to have her back supporting families, as a Social Worker, and to help build our Peer Workforce. This is an exciting new project for us where we have parents supporting other parents in our sessions and providing workshops. We think the lived experience parents

have is so valuable and should be shared while your children are young. Our Peer workers, Tuakana, are:

Eram Afroze. Hello, my name is Eram and I work as a Peer Worker for McKenzie Centre. My life revolves around my 3 beautiful children (Ayesha 9, Omar 5 and Hamzah 4) and a very supportive husband. It's been 3 years since Omar was diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum and as a mother of an autistic child I believe in the importance of following a child's interests and strengths, creating opportunities to foster their talents and most importantly listening to the children and believing in them from early childhood. I'm a strong supporter of a strength based approach and family centred practice which were introduced to me at the McKenzie Centre.

I love being a Peer Worker because it allows me to be part of an amazing team of parents who speak the same language of building relationships among families and supporting other parents and help them realise that they are the most important people in their child's life. My strongest signature strength has been my love of learning and my IT background which has been driving me forward on this amazing journey.

Fiona Fu. My name is Fiona and I have a daughter who is 6 years' old who used to attend McKenzie Centre before she began school. I come from China and have been living in Hamilton for 16 years. I can speak English and Mandarin and understand most of Cantonese. My family became involved with McKenzie Centre in 2016. After learning and getting support from the Centre for years, I now want to use my experience to help other parents. As a past - parent, I know the uncertainty and stress that most parents feel when they start their journey with "special needs" or "disability". I have been through it, learned about it, and I hope I can use my own experience and knowledge to help other parents navigate through this difficult time into a brighter future. Also, as a bilingual speaker, I am happy to help parents who are not comfortable communicating in English to settle into the Centre, so they don't lose this opportunity for early intervention.

Stacey Baker. My name is Stacey Baker and I am the Mum of 5 crazy kids (Ether 6, Taika 5, Belle 3, Asa 1, and Neo 3 months) and wife to an awesome husband. We have been a part of the McKenzie Centre for about 2 ½ years now, coming with my son Taika who was diagnosed with Autism at 2 years of age.

Through the amazing support of McKenzie Centre, I have been able to participate in the 'Now and Next' course and 'More Than Words' and have attended a number of other workshops and facilitated a couple myself. Because of this I recognise the gold that comes from parents, so I am eager to be one of part of this peer support group and give back what I can. I love to have a good talk and get to know others who can understand the struggles and triumphs that come with having a child with special needs, so come and say 'hi' if you see me around. 😊

Siobhan Patterson, Speech Language Therapist, joins our team and works on Monday mornings. "Kia ora I'm Siobhan. I trained as a Speech Language Therapist in London and graduated in 1999. Most of my work has been with young children with a range of communication difficulties. I have worked in clinics, preschools, schools, family homes and in the community. I grew up in Ireland and have worked there as well as England, France, Holland, Japan and Saudi Arabia.

New Zealand has been my home for the last 11 years. During this time, I worked for the Ministry of Education and ASD support services, before taking 3 years out to raise my daughter Cassandra. In the past I have worked in services alongside the McKenzie Centre and I am really excited to now be joining their team as a consultant. I have a passion for working with children and whanau, supporting the skills and knowledge families already have to help get the best outcomes for your child."

ESW Workshop:

During Covid-19 lockdown there were no changes to your employment. This was an opportunity for you all to expand your knowledge and enhance your professional development. Some suggestions were:

- ✚ Enroll in online learning to use as a goal you have achieved this year. There are free courses on topics like; Signing, Te Reo Māori, Autism that you can join. Read up on the children's diagnosis to extend your knowledge
- ✚ Work on your own individual goals and add to your appraisal document
- ✚ Practice using the Core Board, if you have one - could be a fun activity for the whole family

To provide you all with the opportunity to share your new knowledge, please prepare a 10-minute presentation which will provide peer to peer learning ready for our next ESW workshop. Your presentation can be in any format you prefer e.g. power point, a handout, verbal etc.

Have a look at McKenzie Centre's Facebook and Families Empowering Families Facebook pages. We are posting ideas and updates regularly on these to keep us all connected.

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:

Lillian Martin	ext 202, Office Coordinator
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Trisha Bengé	ext 204, Centre Director
Teresa Blake	ext 214, Early Intervention Teacher
Rachael Simpson	ext 214, Early Intervention Teacher
Estelle Pretorius	ext 215, Speech Language Therapist2
Suzanne Kok	ext 216, Early Intervention Teacher
Stephanie Wacker	ext 216, Early Intervention Teacher
Claire Hintz	ext 217, Occupational Therapist
Leona Birss	ext 217, Occupational Therapist
Jaime Campbell	ext 217, Speech Language Therapist
Laury Houghton	ext 218, Speech Language Therapist
Sue Scott	ext 218, Physiotherapist
Ruth Michels	ext 219, Early Intervention Teacher, Assistive Technology

Useful Websites:

www.suelarkey.com.au

<https://www.autismnz.org.nz/>

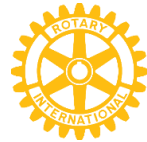
<https://nzdsa.org.nz/>

www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/disabilities/autism-spectrum-disorder

www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/nz-asd-guideline-aug16v2_0.pdf

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