

Parent Newsletter



Term One Newsletter, 2013

Welcome to a sunny and warm 2013. We have all arrived back to work having relaxed and energized with different tales to tell. We hope that you have all had a great start to your year and are ready to enjoy the fun and challenges ahead.

Some thoughts to ponder....

The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra.
- Jimmy Johnson

When ending a day you should never say "I could have", "I should have", or "I would have".
At the end of the day you should always say "I did".

At the end of the day let's reflect and say "I did..." and avoid "I should have", "I could have", and "I would have..."

Dates for 2013 to diary:

- Sessions start on **Monday 4th February 2013**. Term 1 finishes on **Friday 19th April**.
- Easter break is **Good Friday 29th March- Easter Monday 1st April**.
- **Premmie Playmates group** is beginning on **7th February**. Sue Scott, Physiotherapist runs this group monthly with children born prematurely. Children 'graduate' from this group once they begin to walk and are meeting their milestones. If you know of families who would like to attend get them to contact the Centre.
- **Lollipops** have kindly offered McKenzie Centre families another free family evening on **Tuesday 26th February 2013 from 5.30pm until 7pm**. Families who have recently graduated from McKenzie Centre are also welcome to come and enjoy the fun. Pop this date into your diary as it is a lovely chance for children to have some fun in a really cool place, and for families to meet each other as well. The cafe will be open. There will be a flyer in the foyer for more details. Children are required to wear socks while playing.
- **Education Review Office, ERO**, will be at the centre on **27th and 28th February**. ERO want to know how well McKenzie Centre is placed to promote positive outcomes for all children. To find this out ERO will explore how well governance, management, leadership, partnership with parents/whanau, curriculum design and teaching practises are contributing to children's learning and well being. ERO will talk to adults and children, look at documents and observe aspects of the programme, they will be present at the Thursday session. Copies of a letter from ERO to parents are in the foyer and have also been emailed.
- **Parent Focus Group 18-22 March**. This is a time for parents to meet up for a chat and a little bit of 'time out'. The session will run differently as staff will be playing and minding the children rather than focussing individually on each child, as typically happens during your 1-1 time together.
- **Parent Support Circle-** a chance to meet with Marcia in the family/whanau room and share a time to relax, share ideas, successes and challenges. **12 April @ 10 a.m. during the session**. It is a chance to get information and support from Marcia and other parents. Marcia is our Social Worker. If Friday is not your usual session, come along anyway, staff will be available to care for your children.



- If you do not receive information from us via email check we do have your address. See Sandra in the office.

- **Hanen More Than Words Program**

Estelle will be running the More Than Words Program during Term 1 and 2, with Annette assisting. Families have attended the introductory session and are looking forward to beginning.

- **It Takes Two to Talk**

Anita is planning on running It Takes Two to Talk with a small group of parents in Term 1 and 2. This is another exciting parent education programme to encourage children to extend their language and communication skills.

- **Early Learning Information System (ELI)**

The ELI is an electronic information system for early childhood education. Each child will be allocated a national student number during 2013. To prepare for this we need to ensure we have a copy of an official identity verification document such as; NZ birth certificate or passport or a foreign birth certificate or passport. Can you bring these in for your Key Worker to copy. This will be held on your child's file.

General points to remember.

- ✓ With this very hot weather we all need to be very aware of using sun screen and hats. As staff we will try to model the wearing of hats!
- ✓ The grey matting becomes extremely hot in the sun so we recommend that your child wears shoes when playing out doors so he/she does not burn his/her feet.
- ✓ Remember to bring a change of clothes for your child during the sessions as we will have lots of water play. Children may like to come in their sun/swimsuits.
- ✓ Please remember to name lunch boxes and drink bottles so that staff can also identify children's property when parents are out of the room.
- ✓ A general reminder that, if your child is sick then please stay home rather than coming to the session. If your child is unwell, staff will request that you take them home.

Tell us what you think about....

We were thinking about beginning a 'family wall', a pictorial feature/record, to celebrate those children and parents who are part of the McKenzie Centre family. This would probably involve displaying a family photo to show each of our extended whanau, as a way of acknowledging the extended support group that enable us to have successful and positive experiences as we travel through each day.

- *Please let us know what you think of this idea...*
- *If we do this we will need to find a space to display it... (no easy task!).*

Here are 2 new songs which we will be introducing in Term 1.

I HAVE TWO EYES

I have two eyes 1...2
I have two ears 1....2
I have two cheeks 1.....2
But only one smile,
and so do you!

How many fingers? I have ten!
Wriggle them, wriggle them,
wriggle them again!
How many toes? I have ten!

Here we go again



I have two **hands** 1....2
I have two **arms** 1....2
I have two **shoulders** 1....2
But only one **chest**
and so do you!



I have two **feet** 1....2
I have two **knees** 1....2
I have two **legs** 1....2
But only one **tummy**
and so do you!



E RERE TAKU POI

E rere taku poi (flying poi)
E rere taku poi
Ke runga (above)
E rere taku poi
E rere taku poi
Ke raro (below)
E rere runga; E rere raro
E rere roto (inward)
E rere waho (outward)
E rere taku poi
E rere taku poi
Ke runga

- **End of year Party 2012.** Thank to all the families who attended, it was a lovely party and there are photos on the web site you may like to look at. Special thanks to Portia Johnson, a Year 13 Student from Hillcrest High School ILC, who shared her speech about what students with disabilities need from their peers. Her message was that she would like people not to judge those who have disabilities, but rather accept and value them for who they are.
- **Greetings from CCS Disability Action Toy Library,** looking forward to seeing many of you back in the Toy Library this year. For anyone interested in joining the Toy Library please phone Heather Turner 853 9761. It is important to phone Heather to arrange your first visit. This gives her the opportunity to do the sign up forms and explain how the library functions, the care of and return of toys. Heather Turner, Toy Librarian CCS Disability Action Waikato 0800 227 2255
Tel: 07 853 9761 Fax: 07 8539765 Email: Heather.Turner@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz
- **Thanks to:**
Grant Finlay Painters and Decorators who volunteered to come in and do some necessary touch ups to our MSR. Thanks Grant, if families need a painter you may want to contact Grant 0211919988

A special thank you to Elroy Liddington who has volunteered a huge amount of his time and



expertise to the Centre over the past few months to be complete a number of odd jobs for us. He is also largely responsible for assembling our wonderful new garden shed which turned out to be a lot bigger job than anticipated! Thanks also to Tim Michels and Nick Law for assisting with this complex task.

Beaut Pies, who kindly showed up on Friday 21st of December with a beautiful morning tea for the staff and made a generous donation to the Centre. They had heard about McKenzie Centre earlier in the year through a family and wanted to do something for the staff. Thanks John and Jennifer for thinking of us. We can recommend the savouries!

Crouch family, who generously donated the Spiderman two wheeler bike. We're sure a lot of the children will enjoy using this.

Ruby's - Cassabella Lane, who donated proceeds from a sausage sizzle held at their Christmas Market Day. Thanks for your support Eleisha, Shari and the team.

Helena Robcke:

Helena was an ex parent at the Centre and worked as an ESW for McKenzie Centre from October 2009 to December 2011. Unfortunately Helena had some health issues and she passed away on 14 January 2013. She was a devoted mum and a wonderful ESW who loved her children and always had a smile on her face. She will be greatly missed.

Best wishes from; Trisha, Claire, Sue, Anita, Estelle, Ursula, Annette, Teresa, Ruth, Helen, Sandra, Lillian, Marcia and Richard.

Funders

As always we would like to acknowledge and thank our funders, who help make it possible for us to provide an affordable and high quality service to families.



As well as these funders too:

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