



McKenzie Centre
Realising a child's potential

Term Four 2023

Whānau Newsletter

Welcome to term four, the last term of 2023! We are all looking forward to time in the sunshine, digging in the sandpit and splashing in the water troughs with your tamariki.

Kia ora to the new families that are joining us this term.

Dates for Term 4

24 – 30 Oct.	Parent Focus week
entire Nov.	Wellness month
18 Dec.	Final Session for Term 4
19 Dec.	End of Year Party
30 Jan. 2024	First Session Term 1, 2024

Sensory Spaces and Resources



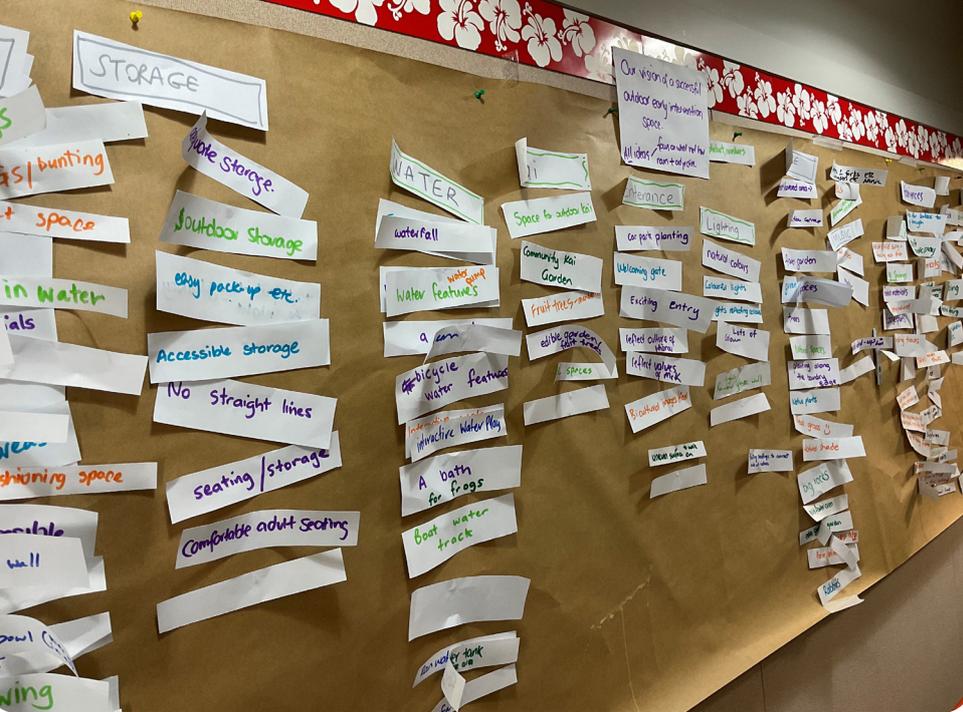
We recognise that many of our tamariki are better able to regulate and get back to playing and learning when their sensory needs are met.

We recently purchased a range of items for you to use and to borrow. Please chat with us if you'd like to try out a weighted blanket or sensory toy at home.

One of our focuses this term is to make environmental changes to create a variety of withdrawal spaces for children to retreat to.

We have plans for the little whāre outside – bean bags, fluffy blankets and cushions and sensory toys. A space for tamariki to be by themselves to calm and relax.





Outdoor Redevelopment

Time to think wild and wonderful! Our outside space is overdue for a total revamp. We want to create the BEST early intervention space.

Our mission this term is to collect all ideas for what it could look like, feel like and be for tamariki and whānau.

Check out the collection of ideas on the wall in the hallway to the bathroom. At this stage no ideas are too far-fetched or crazy. It's about creating a vision of 'what' for our outside space before we get to the 'how'.

How to Have Your Say...

1. Write your idea on a piece of paper
2. Add it anywhere on the wall with blue tack
3. We will then work through with some sifting and sorting to identify what next in this journey.

Please talk with us if you have any questions.



Sign In & Out Every Session

We encourage you to stay for the full session, there are a lot of important learning opportunities for you and your child. Please sign in on arrival, and out when you leave as this is an early childhood licencing requirement from the Ministry of Education.

When needed, Henny will provide friendly reminders.

NZ Down Syndrome Association Virtual Event

NZDSA have organised a virtual event that you might be interested in joining.

The full programme is on their website. Some sessions require registration and others are direct open via Zoom links.

Have a look [HERE](#)

The programme has a range of topics with something for all ages. This year a key theme is supported decision-making as they are supporting the DSI campaign calling for the recognition of the right to Legal Capacity for people with Down syndrome.



Be Green & Be Seen

Annual appeal
THIS OCTOBER

Go green with us and support Kiwis living with Cerebral Palsy.

Cerebral Palsy Month

Be Green & Be Seen is the Cerebral Palsy Society's annual fundraising and awareness campaign and it runs throughout October. Check it out and support them [HERE](#).

Curriculum Updates & Areas of Focus for Term 4



As a team, we enjoy meeting the diverse needs of McKenzie Centre children. We plan together at the beginning of each term to formulate goals for each McKenzie Centre session.

Please check out our Te Whāriki Curriculum goals which are on display on the white board beside the sign in sheet.



Policies & Procedures

All Policies and Procedures are on a review

cycle, so they always stay current and relevant. A full list is available in the yellow "Licence, Policies, ERO Report" folder in the Whānau Room. Those under review will be shared during Parent Focus week or listed on the wall in the Whānau Room and families' opinions are an important part of this review process.

If you want to know more about any Policy, Procedure or how they are reviewed feel free to ask Lillian.



Emergency Drills

We practice fire and earthquake drills in session and lockdown drills with the staff only. These drills are practiced every three months in March, June, September and December.

This is an early childhood licencing requirement so we are all prepared should an emergency event occur. If you are unsure what to do, please talk with the staff.



Health & Safety at McKenzie Centre

With the arrival of summer, it's time for sunhats and sunblock. While we suggest that you use sunblock for your child before arriving at McKenzie Centre, we always have extra sunblock and hats available if needed.

Medication:

If you are bringing any medication, including Paracetamol, Disprin etc. into McKenzie Centre, please leave it in the office for safe keeping. Little fingers can get into bags left unattended.



Allergies:
Please let us know if your child has any allergies (food and other) so that we can make adjustments to our planning around safety.

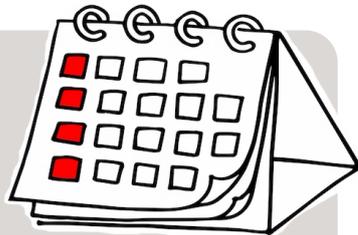


PARENT HANGOUTS

Dads' Hangouts: 10 Nov. and 8 Dec.
Chipmunks Cafe: 2 Nov.
Punnet Cafe: 30 Nov.

Please catch up with our tuakana for more information, or
VIEW OUR WEBSITE EVENTS PAGE [HERE](#)

Changes to Attendance



If you have or would like to make changes to the day that you attend McKenzie Centre, please talk with your contact person and have a chat with Henny in the office.

We also need to know if your child's enrolment days/ hours in ECE have changed as this affects funding claims for both the ECE and McKenzie Centre.

Early Intervention Fees

Eftpos: We have an Eftpos machine at McKenzie Centre, so you can make payments when you are here. Please see Henny or Lillian who are happy to help you.

Thank you for supporting McKenzie Centre with your payment of the Early Intervention Fees. They are essential to the running of our service.

The WINZ Childcare Subsidy is available for many families and may cover the entire cost of the Early Intervention Fee. We can help you apply for this, or find another option for you, so that your financial burden is eased.

Please see your contact person or the administration team – we are happy to help. Some people pay us a smaller amount every week – talk to Henny or Lillian and they will help you with this.

If you're a MSD/Work and Income client, you can now apply for Childcare Subsidy using RealMe on the SmartStart website. Or if you prefer, you can continue to apply through MyMSD or on paper.

The income thresholds for Childcare Subsidy increased in April so more families might be eligible.



Kanorau Consultants - Events Coming Up

Kanorau is holding a whānau get together for whānau who support taonga takiwātanga. Details are:

DATE: 9 November

TIME: 12.30pm – 2pm

PLACE: Trust Waikato

Kanorau is a whānau-based consultancy run by Jess Hita and Tuhoro Paki (who are also ex McKenzie Centre

whānau) who are raising their boy Te Aurere, a taonga takiwātanga.

Kanorau's aim is to provide support for whānau on similar journeys.

Come and meet other whānau Māori who support a taonga takiwātanga to connect and build relationships within the community. Kai is provided, all you need to do is bring yourself and your whānau!

Kanorau will also be holding a wānanga on Saturday 25 November in Hamilton on a Te Ao Māori perspective to takiwātanga.

Head over to their website to learn more and register [HERE](#)

Loan Items

Please remember to bring back any toys or items that your whānau borrowed last year or over the holidays.

If you're still using them, please touch base with your contact person.



THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS.

We are very grateful to the many people and organisations that support McKenzie Centre and the work we do.

We could not do it without you!



Best wishes from:

Suzanne, Rachael S, Henny, Lillian, Steph, Emma, Nicky, Rachael F, Richard, Susie, Linda, Eram, Victoria, Siobhan, Diana, Larissa, Keren, Tania, Liesl, John, Ange and Fiona.