



McKenzie Centre

Realising a child's potential

**Term One 2024**

# Whānau Newsletter

**Welcome to the first term of 2024!!** We hope that all of you have had a lovely summer break, amazing family celebrations and we do wish you lots of fun and joy for the year 2024.

We are looking forward to bringing you an eventful year with fun activities to strengthen connections and share experiences.

Check opposite for important dates and events this term:

## Dates for Term 1, 2024

|              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 30 Jan.      | Term 1 started for Tuesday families |
| 5 Feb.       | Term 1 starts for Monday families   |
| 6 Feb.       | Waitangi Day                        |
| 12 - 16 Feb. | Parent focus week                   |
| 29 Mar.      | Good Friday                         |
| 1 Apr.       | Easter Monday                       |
| 12 Apr.      | End of term 1                       |



## Mini Workshops are Coming!

Our staff have been busy brainstorming how we can improve our service. We are very excited to share with you that we are going to have more mini workshops during sessions. This means that one of our staff, which could be a Tuakana, Speech Language Therapist or one of our other staff members will take a group of parents into the whānau room to have a chat about a certain topic that is relevant for a group of parents in that time.



[www.mckenziecentre.org.nz](http://www.mckenziecentre.org.nz)



## A vibrant graphic with a light blue background featuring radiating lines. A large yellow sun is in the center. A red banner with the word 'TUAKANA' in yellow capital letters is positioned over the sun. Below it, a dark green banner with the word 'UPDATE' in yellow capital letters is also over the sun. A pink and white striped beach umbrella is to the right of the sun. Green leaves are scattered around the edges of the graphic.

Dates are to be confirmed, but we will get a calendar to you as soon as possible.

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Term 1:</b>   | Meet & Greet (reconnecting!) BBQ           |
| <b>Term 2:</b>   | Matariki                                   |
| <b>Term 3:</b>   | Diversi-TEA                                |
| <b>November:</b> | Wellness Month                             |
| <b>Term 4:</b>   | End of Year party, to finish off the year. |

## Outdoor Redevelopment

Thank you for your suggestions and feedback on our request for ideas for our outdoor environment. We look forward to sharing our further developments in this project.

The Early Childhood Education survey was sent to 35 centres with 12 responses.

The purpose of the survey was to gather feedback on the Individual Plan report sent to the centres that are part of the team around a child. The report is one of the aspects of the Individual Plan review.

Other steps of this are the Individual Plan meeting, which is often held at the centre, ongoing discussions with whānau, visits and consultation with other specialists involved with the child.

McKenzie Centre changed its Individual Plan report template in 2022, to make it more user friendly for all involved and to increase its use within centres.

Centres were given the opportunity to complete the survey anonymously.

The survey results show that most of the respondents refer to the report once per month or more frequently. Two respondents don't refer to the report at all.

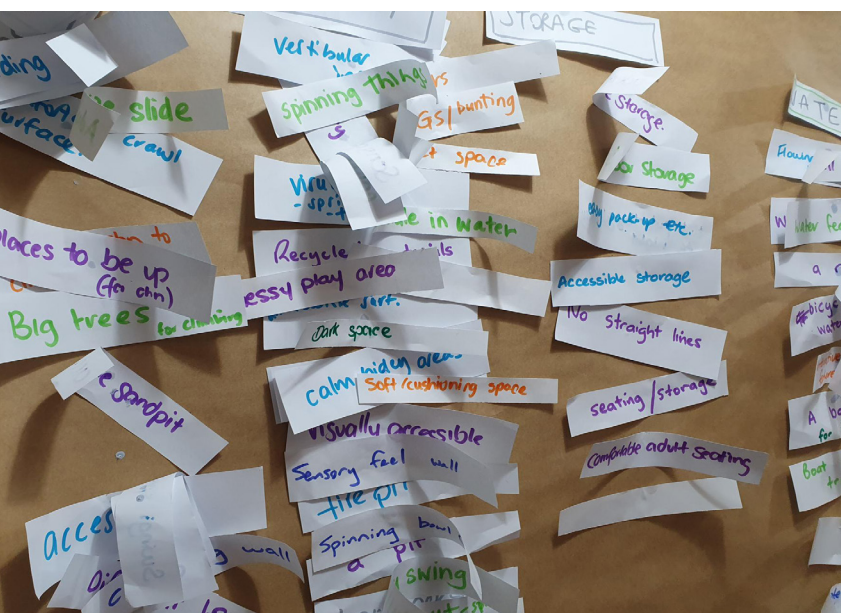
Most centres report that they refer to the report to record progress on goals and to refresh themselves on the goals or the strategies. This mostly happens during conversations with colleagues, during Individual Plan meetings and whilst having conversations with parents.

Most centres print the report and share it with the team during a team meeting. The sections used the most are the 'goals' and 'how I will practice this goal'. The additional information section is used the least.

Most centres reported that there is nothing that McKenzie Centre could change to the template.

Overall, the current report template is meeting the needs of the centres and is fit for purpose as this survey shows it is used frequently in centres.

This is great news for all of us, to ensure we are all working collaboratively to reach the best outcomes for our tamariki.



# Outcome of Whānau Survey

Thank you for completing the whānau survey back in October 2023. The topic of the survey was our multicultural practice and our general practice.

We have collated the results, and we would like to share them with you in our newsletter.

McKenzie Centre scores well in respect to their multicultural practice. 96% percent of the respondents feel that their cultural background is well understood and respected by the centre's staff. Some respondents would be interested in helping us with culturally relevant activities and practices or sharing their culture with the centre's staff. This would be an activity that McKenzie Centre could undertake to further develop their multicultural practice.

Other questions related to the early intervention

service that McKenzie Centre provides. The respondents report that they can easily communicate with the staff. Most respondents report that the information about their child's progress and development is clear, however, this is an area that could be further strengthened. McKenzie Centre has strengths in the areas of providing a session time that suits the family, providing a variety of strategies and approaches to support the child's development, supporting whānau with transitions and making the sessions enjoyable for whānau to attend.

From the comments that whānau have provided it is evident that McKenzie Centre is strong in their practices regarding their three circles of Education, Connection and Advocacy. Education and Connection being the strongest.



## 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.

## Curriculum Updates and Areas of Focus for Term 1

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.





## 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.



## Staff Changes

We talked last year about some of the changes happening at McKenzie Centre.

### We said goodbye to:



John Brooker, Teacher. He has been with us for all of 2023. He has accepted a teaching position at Patricia Avenue Special School.



Ange Li Calsi, Speech Language Therapist. She has been with us for nearly two years, and she is going back to her role at the Ministry of Education.



### We will be saying goodbye to:

Nicky Lia, Early Intervention Teacher, will be having her last day on Friday 16 February. Nicky has accepted a position at the Ministry of Education in Whakatane.



### And welcoming:

Joanna McIlroy, Music Therapy student. Music therapy is all about connections and building on strengths while having fun with whatever sounds we can find and make. Joanna looks forward to meeting you all and making music together!

### We are in the process of recruiting other staff members to strengthen our team.



And welcome back Trisha Bengel, former centre director. She has returned to support our staff and our wonderful team.

Please be assured that we will continue to provide you with our great service. If you do have any questions or concerns, please contact Suzanne via email: [Suzanne.kok@mckenziecentre.org.nz](mailto:Suzanne.kok@mckenziecentre.org.nz) or phone [07 839 5357](tel:078395357).





## Policies & Procedures

All Policies and Procedures are on a review cycle, so they always remain 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.

## 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 Admin 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 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 last year so more families might be eligible.

## 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.



## 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 at Early Childhood Education have changed as this affects funding claims.



## Thanks So Much To All Our Volunteers & 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, and Trisha.