



McKenzie Centre  
Realising a child's potential

**Term Two 2024**

# Whānau Newsletter

## Welcome to Term Two Whānau

We hope that you have enjoyed a lovely break and feel fresh to start a new term at McKenzie Centre. A special welcome to our new whānau who will be starting this term or have recently started.

At McKenzie Centre, you are part of a community of support, and develop relationships with our team of specialists as well as other children and families.

The McKenzie Centre team support your child to learn through play and by using everyday (naturally occurring) routines, which research has shown is the most effective way to engage children.

Many of our strategies and therapy tools are embedded within our interactions with your child. Often, we give you ideas to try out with support at McKenzie Centre, which you can then continue to practice at home.

We work with you towards the goals which are important to you and your whānau. We will check in with you during session times to review goals and reflect how you are progressing with these.

Check above for important dates and events this term.

## Dates for Term 2, 2024

6 - 10 May	NZ Sign Language Week
17 May	Pink Shirt Day
20 - 24 May	Parent Focus Week
27 May - 1 June	Samoa Language Week
30 May	Hangout
3 June	Public Holiday : King's Birthday
20 June	Hangout
25 June	Matariki Celebration
28 June	Public Holiday : Matariki
5 July	End of Term 2
22 July	Start of Term 3



# Updated Early Learning Curriculum Framework: Te Ara Whānui

From 1 May, early learning services must use the updated Early Learning Curriculum Framework. All licensed services and certified playgroups (except ngā kōhanga reo) choose and implement either Te Ara Whānui or Te Ara Māori.

McKenzie Centre has chosen Te Ara Whānui. Te Ara Whānui means the broad, wide, extensive path. It is the existing pathway in Te Whāriki, he whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa that was refreshed in 2017 and will be used by most early learning settings.

## Curriculum Updates And Areas Of Focus For Term 2

As a team, we enjoy meeting the diverse needs of McKenzie Centre children. We plan together as a team 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. We will also have a top tip for the week on the whiteboard for ideas or strategies for you to help your child.

This term you will find a particular focus on using music as a teaching tool, supporting our tamariki with transitions and mini workshops for our parents during sessions. We continue to have mini workshops during sessions, as well as our usual Parent Focus week in Week 4. 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 chat about a topic that is relevant for a group of parents.



Please let a team member know if there is a particular topic you would like discussed.

We will be encouraging children to attend and participate more in music and mat times at McKenzie Centre to support and transfer these everyday routines to early childhood education settings.

## 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 licensing requirement from the Ministry of Education.

When needed, Henny will provide friendly reminders to help you sign in and out.

## 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 centres have changed as this affects funding claims.



## 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 February, May, August and November. This is an early childhood licensing requirement so we are all prepared should an emergency event occur. If you are unsure what to do, please talk with the staff.





## New Year BBQ

To begin the new year, we held a BBQ at McKenzie Centre, which was a great success. Whānau shared with us that they really enjoyed connecting and meeting with whānau that are coming to sessions on a different day.

We had a fun night and special thanks for the donation of our delicious sausages by Dean and Tennielle Hawkins and Holly Smith.



Our Hangouts this term will be in weeks 5 and 8.

We are looking forward to gathering together for Matariki on June 25th.

Also, this term we are developing a welcome leaflet with information for new whānau and we are collating a list of entitlements to share.

Don't forget to follow the Families Empowering Families FaceBook page for more information.

This is a closed FaceBook group for our McKenzie Centre whānau, past and present.

Click the Facebook icon for access



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

## Loan Items

Please remember to bring back any toys or items that your whānau borrowed over the holidays. If you're still using them, please touch base with your contact person.

***We are currently missing compression garments and wobbly cushions and are wondering if these haven't been returned after borrowing?***

If you are interested in buying a wobbly cushion, then we refer you to Kmart where they have them in the sensory section for \$15.





## Music Therapy

By Joanna



Music Therapy New Zealand describes a music therapist as someone who “uses the special qualities of music in a shared relationship with their participants, to meet personal needs, support learning and promote healing and change.”

It goes on to say that they “work with people of all ages and abilities with individuals and groups, and in many different settings.”

What do we do? Musicking! Which can be interacting with music, listening, creating, or just being nearby. It’s all part of engaging with others in a musicking experience.

Where can we use music? Everywhere! Pots and pans can become drums. A stick running along a fence line can be the rhythm to a made-up song. Rubber bands over an empty tissue box becomes a guitar! Clapping hands or blowing a raspberry... You can even make waiting in the car a musicking moment to help them through the process of waiting.

Music has so many functions from being educational and fun, to exploring the sounds

around them. What does a pole sound like when you tap it! Some songs talk about counting “how many monkeys jumping on the bed”, and some songs are about body parts “head, shoulders, knees and toes!”

Music is ready and waiting to be the medium you choose to interact and engage with your young one. Try making up songs with funny words or putting new words on top of a well-known tune! You can do it all. Repeating vocalisations from our children can be a great way to model communication and conversations. They say “ahh”, we say “ahh” in response! Echo what they have to say.

R.O.C.K. is a technique you can use at home to help with communication and engagement.

Repeat, offer opportunities, cue them, and ‘Keep it simple’! You can sing ‘Row, Row, Row your boat’ any time of the day – offering eye contact, body movement, physical closeness, and then in time allow them the space to fill in the missing word... like this:

“Row, row, row your...” Leave space and give them time. Any physical or vocal communication can indicate that they’re ready to carry on with the song.



Research shows that musicking together with your child can help with ranges of communication, eye contact, shared attention on a task, and joint play to name a few. Music can also help your child stay “on-task” for longer periods of time.

Music is a tool that readily supports other therapies – speech language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, etc. You can do it in the home, in the car, in the supermarket, absolutely anywhere!

At McKenzie Centre, one of the ways we’re using musicking is to engage children in a routine (mat time) that they would find in an ECE. This musicking time is an opportunity to play with others in a shared meaningful experience. And as the parent/caregiver, you have the chance to model the activity and have connection with your child using musical instruments, funky dance moves and fun songs!

Dance to the hello song, ring bells to twinkle, twinkle little star, point to your head, shoulders, knees and toes! It’s all building on what they can do and what they are learning to do.



## Welcome...

Joanna McIlroy, Music Therapy student, is doing her practicum at McKenzie Centre. She is with us every Monday and Tuesday throughout this year.

“Kia ora, my name

is Joanna and I’m a music therapy student. Music Therapy is all about connection and building on strengths (while having a lot of fun) with whatever sounds we can find and make.

I have the joy of sharing music making fun with you all over this year.

Looking forward to meeting you all.”



Childhood Curriculum and processes here in New Zealand. Before coming to New Zealand, I lived and worked in the United States as an Early Childhood Special Education teacher for 14 years; being the lead teacher in a classroom of 15 three to five year olds; eight with special needs, and seven typically developing peers. I am thrilled to be returning to the Special Education space and working with the team here at McKenzie to support our tamariki and whānau.”

Christina Douglas, Speech Language therapist, has returned from maternity leave. She will be working this term on Mondays and Tuesdays. - photo



Keren Edwards, Tuakana, will also be joining us on Mondays from Term 2. Keren has been a Tuakana for McKenzie Centre on Wednesdays and Thursdays for quite some time. - photo



Michael McLaughlin, Early Intervention Teacher, has joined our team in April. Michael works full time and comes with a wealth of experience and knowledge that he has gained in his home country America.

Some words from Michael:

“Kia Ora Whanau,

My name is Michael McLaughlin and I am a newly hired Early Intervention teacher here at McKenzie Centre. I’m fairly new to New Zealand, having only landed here in December of 2022. Prior to joining the McKenzie team, I worked as an ECE teacher in the Hamilton area to learn and adjust to the Early

## Congratulations ...

Susie Nyika, Physiotherapist, married Artie Jones in April. They have been together for about 10 years. Congratulations Susie and Artie!

Have a look at this gorgeous photo! >



## 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.

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.

## Health & Safety at McKenzie Centre

### 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 adjust our planning around safety. Many of you have done this as part of the enrolment procedure but let us know if there are any changes.



HEALTH  
&  
SAFETY

## 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, Rachael F, Richard, Susie, Linda, Eram, Victoria, Siobhan, Diana, Larissa, Keren, Tania, Liesl, Chrissy, Joanna, Michael and Trisha.

