



McKenzie Centre
Realising a child's potential

Term Three 2024

Whānau Newsletter

Welcome to Term Three 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 supports 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 and we give you ideas to try out at McKenzie Centre, which you can then continue to practice at home.

We work alongside you towards 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 in the table above for important dates and events this term.

Dates for Term 3, 2024

22 July	Term 3 starts
5 - 9 August	Parent Focus Week
9 August	Dads' Hangout (online)
15 August	Hangout
28 August	Diversi-Tea Night
5 September	Hangout
13 September	Dads' Hangout (online)
16 - 20 September	Te Wiki o te Reo Maori
23 - 27 September	Mental Health Awareness
27 September	End of Term 3
14 October	Start of Term 4



www.mckenziecentre.org.nz



Matariki Celebration

During Term Two we held a Matariki Celebration evening at McKenzie Centre, which was a great success. Matariki is the Māori New Year, celebrated in Aotearoa (New Zealand) when the Pleiades star cluster, known as Matariki, rises in the winter sky. It is a time for reflection, remembrance of those who have passed, and celebration of new beginnings. Traditionally, Matariki is marked by feasting, cultural activities, and the sharing of stories and knowledge, fostering community and connection.

At our celebration whānau had an opportunity to swap and take home donated clothes and toys. The families that attended our celebration said they really enjoyed connecting and meeting with whānau that are coming to sessions on a different day. We had a fun night eating hotchips, buns, and brownie.

The children enjoyed making and colouring in Matariki stars to hang on the tree and finding hidden stars around the playground.

**Coming
Up**

Diversi-Tea

**Wednesday 28 August
4.30PM - 6.30PM**

Diversi-TEA is our term three whānau celebration. All members of your family are welcome. This celebration helps us build a stronger, more cohesive community by highlighting what we have in common and celebrating differences. It also helps us learn about different cultural practices and perspectives.

Please bring some food, music or symbols from your culture to share.

Talk to one of the staff for more information.



28 AUGUST





About - Speech Language Therapy

The entire team at McKenzie Centre is highly skilled, experienced and passionate about early child development.

We all help whānau identify their unique priorities for support and learning. The McKenzie Centre team works together with whānau to help children develop their interaction and play skills, their non-verbal and verbal communication, their understanding, expressive language, learning, emotional regulation, sensory awareness and social skills.

Speech Language therapists also offer specialist skills to assess and work on speech and language development, use of communication devices and oral/feeding/swallowing skills. The main aim of Speech Language Therapy at McKenzie Centre is to support you, your whānau and your child to develop skills to communicate more effectively. While therapists have specialist skills, we also acknowledge it takes a village to raise (and teach!) a child, which is why we work so closely alongside whānau, the whole team and the Early Childhood centres.

Getting To Know: Siobhan



I have been a Speech Language therapist for 25 years and a mum for seven.

My focus for Term three will be on whānau connection and education.

Together we will explore effective Hanen techniques and strategies and how these can be used to help with specific play and communication goals that you can use with your child every day at home.

Term three will be all about using the “R.O.C.K.” strategy:

R = Repeat what you say and do to introduce a familiar game or routine

O = Offer Opportunities for your child to take a turn, to participate

C = Cue him/her e.g. by pausing, so they know when to take a turn

K = Keep it going, Keep it FUN!!!!

I will also be available for speech, language and communication support. Please don't be shy, bring your thoughts and questions to me anytime.

By Siobhan



What Do Speech Language Therapists Do?

SLT stands for Speech Language Therapist (you might also see SLP which is the new title Speech Language Pathologist) - we also get called "speechies" for short.

We are a branch of Allied Health medicine and often work alongside other professionals like teachers, early intervention, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and psychology.

We can provide assessment, recommendations and therapy to children and adults who need support with talking and feeding.

In the wider world you might find speech therapists:

- In hospital settings if a family member has had a stroke or brain injury and needs help re-learning how to talk or eat.
- In maternity settings you may have come across us if your baby is pre-term and needs help learning how to breast feed or bottle feed.
- In schools or preschools if your child needs help with their talking, understanding or help making friends.
- In a community setting like the Child Development Centre if your child is being assessed for autism.

At McKenzie Centre you might want to see a speech therapist if you are worried about what your child is saying (gaining words for language),

how your child is saying things (articulation and speech clarity), what your child is hearing or how they are engaging with others (social communication).

Additionally, you may want to talk to us if you have concerns around what your child is eating particularly if they have limited diets, difficulties swallowing, or challenges trying new foods etc.

Here at McKenzie Centre, we have three 'speechies' that can help you with these different things. You might like to talk with me if you need help with feeding assessments and recommendations.

Or you can attend a workshop Siobhan is running to learn more ways to play and feed in language with your child or have a chat to Liesl about what AAC devices (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) might help your child to communicate.

AAC is just a fancy way of describing other ways to communicate besides talking. People of all ages can use AAC if they have trouble with speech or language skills. Augmentative means to add to someone's speech.

If you think you would like some help or further information in the areas of feeding or communication, come and have a chat with us or let your contact person know, and they will be able to touch base with us.

By Chrissy



Other Ways of Communicating

Communication is an integral part of our connections with others for example our parents, siblings or teachers. It's also our main tool to request, decline, protest and to express likes and dislikes.

For some children at McKenzie Centre using speech is challenging and an alternative or augmentative way needs to be used. The term AAC gets used to group all the tools that we use, it stands for Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

It consists of three groups:

1. Low tech which means it's paper based e.g. coreboards, PECS, choice strips, visuals on lanyards.



2. Mid tech is devices with a speech output but is limited with regards to the words it can contain, e.g. GoTalks, BIGMack and LITTLEmack with levels.



3. Lastly, high tech and this is mainly iPads with communication apps such as LAMP, TouchChat and Proloquo2go.



LAMP was set up especially for children with ASD. It consists of two pages and children get immediate auditory feedback (words) when they touch a button.

TouchChat and Proloquo2Go involves more navigating and has the option to include a variety of descriptive words and location words. It's set up to encourage phrases and short sentences from the start. Children who are non-verbal can use either of the three forms, low, mid or high tech for communication.

Visual challenges such as cortical visual impairment would mean that symbols would need to be bigger or on a contrasting background and less detailed pictures.

Physical delays can impact a child's ability to access a device since an iPad needs to be touched, there are ways to support this by placing a grid on the device or scanning options can be used for most communication apps.

Like typical developing speech, learning how to use a device or a coreboard does take time and for everyone to be onboard to support the child whether at home, daycare or McKenzie Centre.



By Liesl

Curriculum Updates And Areas Of Focus For Term 3

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

Please check our Te Whāriki Curriculum goals which are on display on the whiteboard beside the sign in sheet. We will also have a top tip on the whiteboard for ideas or strategies for you to help your child.

This term you will find a particular focus on kai and social communication skills.

You will notice that we will be offering kai during our sessions as we are aware that there are many children who will benefit from this experience. Siobhan will continue to have her 'fast focus' workshops during sessions.

Please take advantage of these workshops as they are a fabulous opportunity for connection and sharing of ideas and resources. Let a team member know if there is a particular topic you would like discussed.



Welcome...



Shanayd Duncan is our newest staff member! She will be working as a Tuakana on Fridays and will be hosting the hangouts. Shanayd has been with McKenzie Centre as a parent and now we are thrilled to have her join the Tuakana team.

"Kia ora, my name is Shanayd. I am a mother of three, two with extra needs. My hobbies are cooking, baking and I also love a gardening mission."



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.



Our Hangouts this term will be in weeks four and seven and Dads' hangout is week eight.

We are looking forward to gathering together for Diversi- Tea on 28 August.

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

Families Empowering Families | Facebook:
This is a closed FaceBook group for our McKenzie Centre whānau, past and present.

Click the Facebook icon to request access



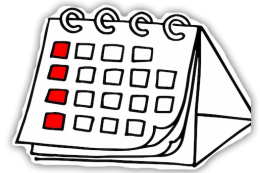
Sign In & Out Every Session

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.



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.

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.



Health & Safety at McKenzie Centre

Measles

Te Whatu Ora is warning of a Measles outbreak. The best protection against measles is two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine – which is free for all children aged 18 and under in New Zealand.

The first symptoms of measles are fever, cough, runny nose and sore red eyes. This is followed by a red or dark pink rash that usually starts on the face or behind the ears three days after the first symptoms before moving down the body. If you observe these symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider or for free advice contact Healthline immediately 0800 611 116.



Emergency Drills

We practice fire and earthquake drills in session and lockdown

drills with the staff only. These drills are practised 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.

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

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.



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, Shanayd, Liesl, Chrissy, Joanna, Michael and Trisha.

