

Whānau Newsletter

Term Three 2025



Welcome to Term Three Whānau



“E tio te tui, e ketekete te kaka, e korihi te kokako”
It takes many instruments to make a symphony

Dates for Term 3, 2025

14 July	Term 3 starts
16 July	Sleep Workshop (part 2) with Richard
4 - 8 August	Parent Focus
13 August	Diversi-TEA whānau event
24 August	Creative Cupcake Hangout
Weeks of September 1 & 8	Special workshop on Grief and mindfulness with Richard
14-20 September	Te Wiki o te Reo Maori Moari Language week
19 September	End of term 3
21 September	Hangout - Details TBC
6 October	Start of Term 4

Welcome to:

Claire McDonald – Early Intervention Teacher.

Claire will be joining us starting in Week 3. We look forward to having her on the team, and she'll be able to give a greater introduction in our Term 4 newsletter.

Sign IN and 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.

To make the session flow, we have made some changes to the session routine:

10:15 – 10:45 am: Fast Focus workshops

10:45 am: music time

THURSDAY:

12.45: Music

1pm: Fast Focus Workshops



Music, movement, and time as a group

As part of our program here at McKenzie Centre, we incorporate a group mat/music time in session. This time is important to expose tamariki to skills they will need in school, and in life, how to be in a group, how to make choices, how to move with others, how to process the world around them, and how to regulate themselves.

This term, we will be making a more concerted effort for involvement in music and mat time, and we need your help! We would like parents to come over to the mat area after the chimes sound and help participate in the activities. You can help hold the parachute, copy the actions of the songs and sing along when you are comfortable. Join in and help model for your child ways to play, move, and have fun.

While music can be joyful, it can also be a bit overwhelming for some. To help address this, we are making sure we have a variety of seating options (wobble cushions, wobble stools, bean bag chairs, peanut balls, etc.) as well as sets of overear headphones for both children and adults to trial. Find what works for you, and feel free to experiment. If the group itself is too overwhelming, try and join in from the playdough table or the computer area. All the staff at McKenzie Centre help run and support Music/Mat time, so feel free to talk to anyone on the team about what may be the best way to support you, and your child's engagement during mat time here at McKenzie Centre.

In addition, please let us know if you have favorite songs you use with your whānau that we can incorporate into these group times. We would love to provide a stronger connection between what happens at McKenzie and what you do at home, and we all look forward to your active participation! 😊



Curriculum Updates and Areas of Focus for Term 3

At McKenzie Centre, we strive to adapt to the changing needs and supports of our community. At the beginning of each term, we plan together as a team to formulate goals for each McKenzie Centre session.

This term you will find a more targeted focus on our group times with music and movement. We will also be continuing the important work of supporting tamariki and whānau with communication modalities and strategies. Both of these goals will be focused on getting everyone involved and engaged during session times. There will also be some important workshops during the term that will help give you time to connect with others, learn valuable bites of information and practices to use at home with your child.

Please bring kai and a water bottle for your child's morning tea, to be enjoyed during the session.

We are starting to look at our larger Strategic Plan and would like input from everyone involved at McKenzie Centre! Talk with Beverley (Executive Lead), attend a workshop, or drop a suggestion in our suggestion box 😊.

Thank you to those who have already put forward your great ideas!

Mental Health Awareness Week (MHAW)



Kids don't come with a manual

Whakaata Māori TV has a programme called Kids Don't Come with a Manual with Nathan Wallis. It's a weekly show that talks with parents about their children and themselves combining neuroscience with Tikanga Maori to negotiate the prickly points of parenting. Past episodes can be found on their website: <https://www.maoriplus.co.nz/show/kids-dont-come-with-a-manual> until 29th July.

Farewell to:

Suzanne Kok – Service Manager.

Suzanne's time here at McKenzie Centre came to an end in June. She had been our amazing Service Manager for 12 years. During that time she had supported not only our whānau but all our staff as well. She was always very happy to share her knowledge, experience and compassion while eagerly learning from others at the same time. Her contribution to McKenzie Centre will be missed and we all thank her for years of care and service.



Larissa Alsemgeest – Early Intervention Teacher.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Larissa during Week 1. We wish her well on her new adventure in the primary school arena!

Health and Safety at McKenzie Centre

Emergency drills:

We practice fire and earthquake drills in session and lockdown drills with the staff only. These drills are practised every three months. We will have a Fire Drill on 21 August and Earthquake & Lockdown Drill 28 August. 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.

Medication:

If you are bringing any medication, including Paracetamol, Disprin or EpiPens 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.

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.

Loan Items

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

Early Intervention Fees

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. Household income threshold amounts changed on 1 April so if you didn't qualify beforehand, you might do so now. 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.

Policies and 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.





Tuakana Emma getting things ready



Hot soup was Yum!



Scavenger Hunt

Matariki FUN

Term 2 2025

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 what we do without you.



Best wishes from: Beverley, Rachael S, Henny, Lillian, Steph, Emma, Rachael F, Richard, Susie, Eram, Victoria, Siobhan, Shanayd, Liesl, Emma G., Chrissy, Michael, Nikki and Muriel.