

Little Orchard Preschool

April 2017 Newsletter



Kia Ora o te whanau.

What a busy year it has been so far. At the end of the school holidays we will be farewelling some of our children to embark on the next phase of their educational journey. We wish each and everyone of you the very best in this next phase of this exciting adventure. We thank you for choosing Little Orchard Preschool to have been part of the your child's development.

We would also like to welcome the new families that have recently joined us here at Little Orchard Preschool. We look forward to being part of your child's learning journey.

You will have all noticed that there has recently been some team changes and in the coming weeks we are looking forward to welcoming some new team members to our Little Orchard Whanau. We look forward to introducing these teachers to you all personally and will also be posting their introductions (All about me forms) on our classroom notice boards as well as the ones in the entrance way by the offices.

The recent cyclones have left devastating and lasting affects to many of our team and whanau. We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to those affected by the horrific events and sincerely hope that things start to improve soon. If anyone of our Little Orchard Whanau are struggling with anything at all please let us know as we may be able to help.

Ruru Room

The carpentry area has been a hive of activity since the children built and designed their new carpentry trolley. The trolley has new carpentry equipment, which the children are all eager to use. Carpentry is an ideal way of supporting children to work in their 'zone of proximal development'. They learn to problem solve, an important skill for children to develop from an early age. The children are also developing their hand eye coordination, their spatial awareness, and their sense of precision and an understanding of how to use potentially dangerous tools safely. All this learning while they are having fun!





Kereru Room

The children have been enjoying outdoor exploration with water in both the sunshine and the rain. We have been having fun exploring science concepts in the sandpit using water. We have also been supporting mathematical theories through pouring, scooping, measuring and problem solving with a variety of containers. So exciting!!

We have been constructing rivers, dams and mountains and directing water flow using the hose and trucks/diggers. And best of all we have been jumping, splashing and running through big puddles left by the rain! We have been having an absolute blast supporting our learning in our outside environment with water ☺



Pukeko Room

The Pukeko Room have had two very special visitors this week. They were a Kereru bird and a Tui bird. Some of our children remembered these birds visiting last year.

Tanēmahuta (God of the Forest and Birds) has made himself very well known in the Pukeko Room, allowing our tamariki to explore his children and gain a great interest in searching for bugs (pāpapa) and birds (Manu). We are all looking forward to learning more about these two very special visitors. We are going to make bird feeders for our new friends the Kereru, Tui and all of the other birds that come to visit us.

We are also learning how to look after some tadpoles. We are making special food using silver beet for our tadpoles so that they will grow into frogs and this is teaching us about life cycles ☺



Kiwi Room

The tamariki are really enjoying art and are becoming quite creative. They are really enjoying painting, sometimes with brushes and other times with their hands. We have started introducing them to collage and they are enjoying this also. They recently enjoyed making their own playdough, and are enjoying other messy play activities, helping them to explore their senses.

Painting allows our tamariki to experiment with colour mixing, helps develop hand-eye co-ordination and small motor skills. They can use a variety of tools and mediums and helps develop their creativity and imagination. But most of all they have fun.



Loose Parts

What are loose parts you might ask? Many of you may have seen a pile of things, such as tyres, pallets, cable reels, crates and tyres under our carport area. Sometimes it looks like a pile of junk and at times can look a bit messy.

In a preschool, loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways.

They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials. There are many benefits for children when their play space includes loose parts; there is no right or wrong way to use any of these materials, they can be used any way the children choose to use them.

This then encourages creativity and imagination with open ended learning. Our children are developing amazing problem solving skills, negotiating and sharing skills whilst working together with a common goal. We are seeing so many examples of this as their play space regularly changes.



General Housekeeping

- Please remember to sign your child or children in when you arrive and when you leave for the day. All our sign in sheets are located at the office or in the entrance to the Pukeko Room.
- With us moving into Autumn and then soon into Winter, we would like to remind you that our children need spare clothes so they can continue to learn and explore. We get some great puddles here on wet days and the children also love mud play. Can you please send your child to preschool with several changes of clothes so that they can do this 😊

- From time to time contact details may change, we ask that you please update your contact information with Trina, our Office Administrator; particularly emergency contact numbers, so that we can keep in touch with you, this has recently been highlighted to us with us having to phone you all to collect your children early and some contact details had not been updated.
- Since enrolling your child with us, you may discover your child has an allergy. Can you please ensure your child's documentation is updated with Trina and we can ensure all our team are aware of the changes.
- Likewise if you have changed your views regarding social media and you would like to ensure your child does not appear on our website, facebook page or on any advertising, please speak to Trina about updating your details.

We have an open door policy here at Little Orchard Preschool, if you are concerned about anything at any time or just want to pop in for a chat please do. Otherwise you can call me or email me on:

Phone: 3087 777 Email: mcgarveycentre@lops.co.nz

Rhonda Newton
Centre Leader

He taonga rongonui te aroha kit e tangata

"Goodwill towards others is a precious treasure"

