

HOPSCOTCH

Early Learning Childcare Centre & Preschool
Otorohanga



Giving your child a jump start



Early Learning Childcare Centre
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Preschool
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Diary Dates

2nd December: Preschool visit Beattie Home
3rd December: B4 School Checks—4 year olds
4th December: Otorohanga Christmas Parade
9th December: Children's Party for all Hopscotch families
10th December: Undercover Cody at Preschool
14th December: Santa visits Hopscotch
16th December: End of Term 4
23rd December: Hopscotch closes at 2pm
7th January: Hopscotch reopens at 8am

January Holidays

Please let us know as soon as possible if your child will be absent during January. Remember that "20 hours ECE" will stop automatically after a continuous absence of more than three weeks—on any day that your child is booked in. Full fees will be charged when the "20 hours ECE" funding stops.

Children's Christmas Party

Wednesday 9th December: We will be having our annual Hopscotch disco, which will include both centres at the **Preschool**. The party will start at **6pm**, there will be soft drinks provided and a sausage sizzle available for \$1.00.

Otorohanga Christmas Parade

The Early Learning Centre is planning and organising our float for the Otorohanga Christmas Parade this year. This has been set for **Friday 4th December** and usually starts at around **7pm**. Please let us know if your child would like to be part of the parade, by giving their name and the adult attending with them to a staff member at either centre. Please see the flier in your family pocket.

Santa's Visit

Monday 14th December: Santa will be visiting both Hopscotch centres. His sleigh is due at the **Early Learning Centre at 10.00am and then at Preschool at 10.30 am**. Please feel free to come along with your child to meet Santa. As in the past Santa will give a present to the children for the Centre.

A Date to Remember

Hopscotch will close at **2pm on Wednesday 23rd December**. Your children will need to be collected by 2pm at the latest so that staff can carry out the annual clean-up jobs. Hopscotch re-opens on **Thursday 7th January 2016 at 8am**.

Accounts

Just a reminder that accounts are to be paid weekly unless otherwise arranged.

Your account must be settled in full before Christmas. Failure to do so could result in losing your child's booking next year.

Preschool are winners

Our Preschool garden entry into the Beattie Home Rose Show won **FIRST PRIZE!!** The children's garden creations were presented within a recycled timber frame. There was a strong 'summer busy bees' theme which resulted in us receiving the winning entry! We won some great prizes that the children will gain valuable learning experiences from. *Awesome effort everyone!!*

ERO's visit at The Early Learning Centre

ERO attended the Early Learning Centre on 25th November. We will make their report available to all families/whanau once it's been finalised.

Water Play at Hopscotch

Now that Summer is officially here and the weather is becoming hot. We will be exploring with more water play. Could you please include a **NAMED** towel in your child's day bag and at least one change of clothing.



Absences

If your child will be absent please ring, or text the centre with the reason included. A lot of children have been absent over the past month and there has been no contact with the centre. We have children on the waiting list every day needing places. Therefore your communication with this matter would be appreciated.



B4 School Hearing & Vision checks

The vision/hearing technician from Waikids will be visiting the Preschool on Thursday 3rd December at 10.30am. Vicki Dixon will see four year old children who have not been seen for the above checks, or require re-checks from a previous visit. Parents will be notified of all outcomes from these checks and may be advised that their child requires a re-check or to seek further advice from another health professional. If you do not wish your child to be checked, or your child is currently under specialist care for their hearing or vision, please let us know.

Family Updates



Early Learning Centre

We welcome Xzavia, and we farewell Ruby who is leaving the area.

Preschool

We farewell our friends Bianca, Jasmine, Eden, Zoe K, Petra and Emily P who are off to continue their learning journey at school.

Staff Updates

- Please join us in welcoming Kristene Nicholls as the new Infants Head Teacher at the Early Learning Centre. Kristene has come from a centre in Taupiri. Please feel free to introduce yourself.
- We also welcome Nicole Duncan. Nicole and her family have moved from Feilding. Nicole is currently working at the Early Learning Centre on a Tuesday. She will start full time at the end of January. Please also feel free to introduce yourself to Nicole.
- We sadly farewell Stacey who will be leaving on Friday 11th December to prepare for the arrival of her baby. We wish Stacey and her husband Ryan all the best with their little baby boy.

Enjoy the Summer...SAFELY

You're on holiday at the beach or visiting friends with a pool. All it takes is one momentary lapse of concentration for your child to wander off.

In New Zealand most of us grow up around or near water. It's something we take for granted. While it's fun and familiar, every year around 10 children under the age of 5 drown—and lack of adult supervision is the common factor. Supervision, without any distractions, is the single most important precaution you can take to keep your kids safe around water.

Water Safety New Zealand encourages all parents to introduce children to water in a positive manner. Encouraging children to explore and learn from water promotes an understanding and appreciation of the dangers of water. Whether at home in the bath or paddling pool, at a pool or at the beach, it is important to introduce children to water in a relaxing way. We can help to ensure that they learn to behave safely and responsibly in and around water without ruining their enjoyment or instilling a fear of water.

Have a splashing good time in the water these holidays!!!!



**Thank you for your support throughout the year.
We hope you all have a Happy Christmas and we look forward to lots of fun and laughter in 2016**

