

# HOPSCOTCH

Early Learning Childcare Centre & Preschool  
Otorohanga



Giving your child a jump start



**Pānui**  
**Hui-Tanguru**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**FEBRUARY 2019**

Early Learning Childcare Centre  
11 Bledisloe Avenue

07 873 8732  
027 773 8732

Preschool  
59 Haerehuka Street

07 873 8739  
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## Diary Dates



4th February: Term One Starts  
6th February: Waitangi Day - **HOPSCOTCH CLOSED**  
8th February: Wheels Day - Both Centres  
14th February: Grandparents Day - Preschool  
14th February: Shared Kai day for Valentines Day - Early Learning Centre  
18th February: Swimming at Town Pools starts - Preschool

### Welcome back



We hope you all had a safe and happy Christmas break and we welcome aboard all our new families to both the Early Learning Centre and the Preschool. If you have any queries or concerns, please remember we are here to help. If you'd like an appointment, feel free to ask a member of staff.

Please remember our opening hours: Children must not be left before 8am and must be collected by 5.15pm. Please call us if your child is not going to attend for any reason, and also let us know if you will be late. **You can call on the centre landlines or text the mobiles**—our numbers are on the front of this newsletter.

Accounts must be paid on a weekly basis unless other arrangements have been made with Charlotte, Gina or Mickey. You can pay by EFTPOS, cash, cheque or online banking. Our bank details are on the top of your weekly invoice. Please use your child's name as a reference.

### Infant Planning

Our infants are really enjoying all the new equipment that Christmas brought – particularly our new dolls. We'll therefore be focussing on family play as our new group interest. Baby dolls provide lots of opportunities to develop fine motor, cognitive, social and self-help skills. Baby dolls are fantastic toys for both boys and girls to learn about themselves and their world. Using dolls brings the big world down to a manageable size for children. They open up and expand pretend play opportunities. Playing with dolls gives lots of opportunities to learn and practice different types of words for colours, size, position, actions and feelings. Doll play also helps to practice helping, sharing, nurturing and caring skills. If you would like to know more on this focus, please see one of our Infant Teachers.

### Preschool Planning

Currently at Hopscotch Preschool we are focusing on how we can bring the two learning environments together (home and the centre). We have been asking families what their children have been up to over the summer months. This supports the socio-cultural aspect, combining social and cultural factors. We are encouraging whānau (family) to bring in, or post on Storypark what they have enjoyed doing with their tamariki (children), then we can share these experiences at Preschool through rich discussions at mat times. This gives children the courage and experience to share news in front of their peers, and to retell real life situations.

## Policies for review

The following policies are due to be reviewed: Custodial Arrangements, Financial, First Aid, Philosophy. Please take the time to read them and provide feedback to any of the staff. Thank you.



## Swimming at Preschool

The children at Preschool will have the opportunity to visit the town pools during February. This will help with increasing confidence in the water and give them a good awareness of basic water safety. This will only be possible with the help of parent support, so please see a teacher if you are able to offer your time.



## Mobile Ear Clinic

Unfortunately due to a number of reasons, the mobile ear clinic will not be visiting Otorohanga until further notice. Alternative clinics are in Te Kuiti and Te Awamutu, if you wish to visit them. This is a Free Ear Clinic Service for children. They can help with glue ear assessment and management, grommet checks, wax/foreign body removal and treatment of discharging ears. Please see the noticeboard at Hopscotch or contact 07 838 3565 for venues and dates.

## Family Updates



### Early Learning Centre

We welcome Beau, Evie, Gabriel, Kauri, Ricky, Sidney and Sophie to the Early Learning Centre.

We farewell Chloe, Dré, Haarlíe-Rose, Mila & Rome who are moving up to the Preschool.

We also say goodbye to Carter who is leaving to spend more time with his family.

### Preschool

We welcome Annaliese, Hezakiah and Jacob to Preschool.

We also welcome Chloe, Dré, Haarlíe-Rose, Mila & Rome from the Early Learning Centre.

We farewell Calais and Rex who are off to continue their learning journey at school



## Staff Updates

- \* We welcome Sam Wilshier to our relieving team. Sam is a qualified primary school teacher and has recently spent time working in England with children from age 3-10 years old. Unfortunately Sam won't be with us for long as she's heading back to the UK.
- \* We're very sad to say goodbye to Tash who has been a committed and valuable member of our relievers pool. Tash is moving away from childcare to work in a mortuary. Her understanding and caring nature will be very well suited to her new role and we wish Tash all the best for the future.

# Kawhia Kai Festival



Saturday 9th February

9am - 5pm Kawhia Township

Gold Coin Donation

Anyone interested in stalls please contact: Marj Kaati - [jmkaati@gmail.com](mailto:jmkaati@gmail.com)