



Early Learning Childcare Centre & Preschool
Otorohanga



Giving your child a jump start



**Pānui
Pipiri 2021**

**Newsletter
June 2021**

Early Learning Childcare Centre

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Preschool

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Charlotte Clapcott—Licensee

Diary Dates



7 June Queen's Birthday:
19 June—11 July:
Date TBC:
7 July:
9 July:

HOPSCOTCH CLOSED
Matariki Celebrations
Preschool Fish 'n' Chip night
ELC Fish 'n' Chip night
Term Two Ends

Survey Monkey Thank you for all the great responses to our Survey Monkey regarding our deck. The feedback received is enormously helpful for our assessment. We will be utilising Survey Monkey more in the future as this seems to be the best way for us to keep everyone informed and for us to get feedback regarding our planning.

Child Health

As we're getting deeper into the winter months this is a timely reminder of our Child Health Policy which is due to be reviewed. This is available on our website. Key points to note are that children will not be allowed to attend the centre, or will be required to be collected, particularly (but not exclusively) in the following circumstances:

- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in the centre activities.
- The illness results in a greater care need that we can reasonably provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
- Diarrhoea. Children should not return to the centre until 48 hours after they have had at least one normal bowel motion.
- Vomiting. Children should not return to the centre until 48 hours after the absence of symptoms.
- Fever over 38°C.
- The child or any immediate family member has been tested for Covid-19. Children will be able to return when a negative test result has been returned and they have been given the all-clear by the Ministry of Health.

Please remember that we are not doctors and we may require you to visit the doctor for clearance to attend Hopscotch. We may also request that you provide us with a medical certificate for any absences.

Policies

The following policies and procedures are due to be reviewed. Please see our website or ask us for a hard copy: First Aid, Accident, Medicines, Child Health, Giving Medicines to Children, Head Injuries and Alcohol & Drug Abuse.

Winter Clothing

Please remember to bring some warm clothes for your children as well as a spare set to change into if needed. And please remember to bring your WET BAGS attached to your child's backpack.

Preschool Quality Improvement Plan—Language & Literacy

In October last year we were noticing that a concerning number of our children are having language difficulties with formulating sentences, sounds of words and first letter sounds. Children are unable to communicate effectively with their friends and their teachers and they're becoming frustrated because their needs aren't being met and they're not being understood. Some children are expressing their frustration physically. We are working with the children on 'word sounds', 'rhyme', 'syllables', and 'find one like it'. If you have concerns about the language level of your child, please let us know. You can help us at home:

- Minimise the use of screen time and headphones (TV, laptops, ipads etc) - play music instead, sing, and read together.
- Assist with their language development by using the correct grammar - ie 'dog' instead of 'doggy'.
- Help your child to formulate the words correctly - get down to their level when talking to your child - this will help them see how you form words in your mouth. Repeat what they're saying using the correct pronunciation.
- Minimise the use of dummies or pacifiers - try to use them only at bedtime - studies have shown that prolonged use of pacifiers may result in speech/language delays.

Family Updates—Early Learning Centre

We welcome River and Darcey to the Early Learning Centre. We farewell Koltyn and Phoenix who are moving up to Preschool.

Family Updates—Preschool

We welcome Koltyn and Phoenix. We say goodbye to Kade and Liam who are off to continue their learning journey at school.



Staff Updates

Please welcome Corinne to our relieving team at the Early Learning centre. Corinne is a fully registered teacher from France who has been living in New Zealand for many years. She will be covering Annie's hours until we can find a permanent replacement.

Matariki

What is Matariki?

Matariki is the Māori name for a cluster of stars (known as the Pleiades) which is visible in our night sky at a specific time of the year. In June/July, Matariki will reappear in the dawn sky – signalling the start of the Māori New Year.

Matariki literally means the 'eyes of god' (mata ariki) or 'little eyes' (mata riki). According to myth, when Rānginui, the sky father, and Papatūānuku, the earth mother, were separated by their children, the god of the winds, Tāwhirimātea, became so angry that he tore out his eyes and threw them into the heavens.

Traditionally, Matariki was a time to remember those who had died in the last year. But it was also a happy event – crops had been harvested and seafood and birds had been collected. With plenty of food in the storehouses, Matariki was a time for singing, dancing and feasting.

Matariki—the New Zealand Thanksgiving

It is a time to celebrate new life, to remember those who've passed and to plan for the future. It's a time to spend with whānau and friends, to enjoy kai (food), waiata (song), tākarō (games) and haka.

A special feature of Matariki celebrations is the flying of kites. According to ancient custom they flutter close to the stars

The Nine Matariki Stars

The children will be learning about the nine visible stars and their significance over our wellbeing and environment, as seen from the Māori view of the world.

Matariki signifies reflection, hope, our connection to the environment and the gathering of people. Matariki is also connected to the health and wellbeing of people.

Tupūārangi is connected with everything that grows up in the trees: fruits, berries and birds.

Waipuna-ā-Rangi is connected with the rain.

Waiti is connected with all fresh water bodies and the food sources that are sustained by those waters.

Tupūānuku is connected with everything that grows within the soil to be harvested or gathered for food.

Ururangi is connected with the winds.

Waitā is associated with the ocean, and food sources within it.

Pōhutukawa is the star connected to those that have passed on.

Hiwa-i-te-Rangi is connected with granting our wishes, and realising our aspirations for the coming year.