

Whenuakite Country Kids  
Early Childhood Education Centre



## JULY-AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2011

### WELCOME TO

Charlie Taylor and Ridge Ngataua in the Over 2's and Maia Blucher, Malachi Wyper and Jean Claude Goodman in the Under 2's. Its lovely to have you at Country Kids and we hope you enjoy your time with us!! 😊

### FAREWELL TO

To Nikau Rhind who has left us to go to school, we hope you are loving school Nikau, and Covek Urlich who is turning 5 at the end of August. Happy birthday Covek, have fun at school! We will miss you both.

### PROGRAMME

The Over 2's have been focusing on Seasons and winter in particular plus looking at how to keep the children active during the wet winter months, this is always a particular challenge to us, as the children have an endless supply of energy!! 😊 The children have been dancing, playing rugby, doing obstacle courses, riding the bikes; we have just bought some moon hoppers and are looking at what other types of equipment we can purchase to help keep the children physically active. There has also been a lot of interest in volcano's and dinosaurs, with volcano's being built in the sand pit almost daily, and a lot of research on the internet about both topics. We are now moving on to "cause and effect" of things that happen in the children's environment. This is a very broad topic that will encompass a lot of science, e.g. concepts like big and little, hot and cold, solids and liquids, melting and measuring. It will also included behaviour, actions and emotions, e.g. how we feel when people use mean words, take our toys, or are kind to us and share, what makes us feel happy and what makes us feel sad.

The Under 2's are changing their emphasis slightly and using Te Whariki which is our Early childhood Curriculum to form the basis of their planning. Their emphasis is going to be on Empowerment, Te Whariki states that the early childhood curriculum empowers the child to learn and grow. The staff are focusing on helping the children to make their own decisions, responding to the children's needs and interests so that they can provide teaching opportunities that are valuable to the children.

They are going to set the environment up with a variety of stimulating and interesting experiences so that the children have more opportunity to engage in their own learning and make their own choices. They are also reviewing the nappy change and mealtime routines to create a more unhurried homelike atmosphere for the children.

### WHA CLUB

The children in Wha Club the children are doing a basic study on Dinosaurs and a lot of research on the internet. They are also still concentrating on letter recognition, holding pens correctly and writing their names.

### NEWS TIMES

The teachers are finding that there are so many children bringing news items that it is taking over mat times and making it difficult to use the time for other learning outcomes that they may be wanting to achieve. News time will now be done at teachers discretion rather than every mat time, and could you encourage your children to bring news worthy items rather random bits and pieces from home.

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Could you start saving yogurt pots, milk bottle lids, scrap wrapping paper, ribbon, or any other things that you think would be good for our art and collage area. We are also needing natural resources i.e. shells, wool, driftwood etc....THANKYOU

**NAMED CLOTHING**

Please remember to name your child's clothing, we constantly have an over flowing lost property basket of un-named clothing.

**MAT TIMES**

Shhhhhh, sorry but could you remember to keep your voices down around mat times, the teachers find it hard to read stories and take mat times if there is a lot of talking from parents. We love you to be here and we love you to catch up with each other and chat, but could it be done away from the mat., thanks.

**P.J. & MOVIE DAY**

On Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August we are having a Pyjama and movie day, could you dress your children in their Pjs for the day please.

**FEES**

If people are interested in WINZ subsidies the Thames Office comes to Whitianga every Monday and Thursday. To make an appointment you would need to fax Thames 07 868 3897 in advance to make an appointment.

You are welcome to use the centre fax if you don't have one at home.

**THANKYOU**

To all the parents that volunteered their time and came on our transport trip. We really appreciated your help and support.

*In partnership with families / whanau we strive to develop healthy and well adjusted children with skills that will benefit them now and for the rest of their lives.*

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