

. This month we welcome Gemma to the Country team.

Kia ora! I am Gemma Martin. My husband and I have recently relocated to the North Shore from Hamilton where we have decided to settle. I newly completed my Post Graduate qualification in Early Childhood Education following a Bachelor Degree majoring in Psychology, both attained from Waikato University. I believe in empowering children and learning alongside them as they capably and competently direct their own learning through experiences that are meaningful and of interest. I love to see children grow and learn and it fills my heart with great joy and pride to work alongside them and be a part of their future attitudes toward learning. I have a great working knowledge of Te Whāriki (NZ Early Childhood Curriculum) and utilise it extensively within my practice. One of the parts of I love most about teaching is documenting learning. I am passionate about noticing, recognising and responding to children's learning based on our mutual relationship.



Fantails Childcare
Country
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Kia Ora Parents and Whanau,

The children have been exploring everything to do with being outside this month. Whether it was camping, looking for bugs or cooling off on the waterslide.

Cricket has been our most popular insect to find, and we have discovered that they are not easy to catch so we can examine them. The discussions around who will do what and how have been very interesting, I love watching children work as a team to achieve an objective.

We have the lovely people from Kinder Moments back again to take the children's photos on Thursday the 15th March. If you wish for your child to have their photo taken please complete the form including the payment asap.

Sharon Andrews
Centre Manager



In the Babies Room...

'The Year of the Dog' has officially begun. To celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year the Morepork children involved themselves in a range of projects, from decorating and crafting their own 'drums' to making 'moon cakes' with stewed apples and pastry. Dancing to traditional music and taking inspiration from 'lion' and 'dragon dancing', the children relished the opportunity to dress up in col-



ourful scarves and create their own movements to follow the rhythmic drum beats. The Morepork children have also been continuing their artistic experiments, working with watercolour paints; on both small scale and large scale group designs. Many of the Morepork children have also shown a strong interest in developing their ball skills, we will be looking at supporting this developing interest further through encouraging group ball games and

offering individual challenges.



In the Preschool Room...

With crickets popping up everywhere, we have been going on many, many cricket hunts this month! On our bug hunts we have found—grasshoppers, praying mantis, field crickets, dragonflies, spiders, cicadas, ladybugs and GIANT leopard slugs! This interest in bugs has had us making homes for our bugs, creating our own peg and pipe-cleaner crickets, dragonflies and butterflies!



The children have created a beautiful big Tui bird for our wall with Stacey. Stacey has been teaching the children lots about birds and their nests.

The children are really clever now at recognising up to 5 different types of birds and their nests!

