



Fantails Childcare

SILVERDALE

Newsletter

Nov/Dec 2020



Kia ora Parents and Whānau!

As we approach the end of the year we look back over the past year with thankful hearts. For many of us this has been a challenging year as we bravely navigated our way through months of uncertainty, job losses, job changes, financial and emotional crisis, restrictions, juggling home life while working from home, and a myriad of other things. Despite the extraordinary times we've experienced.....**we've all MADE IT!** We made it together! I admire the resilience and adjustability of people....our families - parents, children and teachers. This past year has also highlighted things that we really value and are thankful for - our health, the safety and freedom we enjoy, friends and family, our children - each one of them, our teachers....the list just goes on and on....

And now as we enter the festive season with Christmas only 24 sleeps away - we join in the excitement and expectation, and share the joy and hope that Christmas brings.

We've been privileged to share this past year with you and your child/ren - Thank you! What a gift!

We look forward to seeing you all at our Christmas Party, right here at our Centre, on Friday 11th December at 3:30pm.

Festive greetings.

Gladys and the Fantails Team



In the Babies room...

This past month the children have loved being outdoors. We have been utilising our wonderful space and doing lots of fun activities like slime, frozen balls of ice and exploring in the sandpit. Climbing is always popular and we are finding creative ways for the children to challenge themselves and extend their skills. We look forward to the summer weeks ahead so we can continue exploring our outside environment and connect with nature around us. The children are increasingly getting comfortable at taking risks and challenging their own physical abilities, both inside and out. Having the opportunity to learn and develop at their own pace, gives them a sense of agency and belonging in their environment. Together with the children we have been reading a variety of stories while encouraging and supporting them to recognise the pictures that are familiar to them. This empowers children to share and be part of the teaching and learning in our Room. Through following children's cues and interests we extend and develop their early literacy skills.



Christmas is coming around soon! Here in the Babies Room we are counting down the days to our Christmas party and concert and looking forward to all of the exciting events and activities we have planned for the next couple of weeks.



In the Toddlers room...

Summer is well and truly here and between the rainy days we have been able to explore our outside environment more while enjoying the opportunity to mix and play with the older children. Alongside each child's individual interest the toddlers are exploring the world of 'Animals'. Through this interest we have been discovering all the different ways we can learn about animals. Through different mediums we have created our favourite animals using a variety of art materials, dress ups, blocks, books, toy animals, music and pretend play inside and out, making sounds and gestures to portray each animal.

The children are discovering about the natural world as they play with and alongside their friends. This helps develop their sense of agency as they develop their own social competency and continue to learn to play with others.

Children learn and develop when they are happy and are able to express themselves in their own way. Music is a great tool to enhance this and let children lead their own learning. We are excited as Christmas is getting closer and we have started our Christmas presents for our parents and practicing our songs for the concert.





In the Juniors room...

This month our room has been full of builders, mothers, fathers, doctors, cats and dogs. A wonderful array of scenarios played out as the children extend their social skills through negotiating, turn taking and learning to play with each other to end up with a positive outcome for everyone.

Through this interest we've extended children's learning as we implement intentional teaching strategies to enhance their sense of agency and help spark ideas so children can further their own play, fun and learning. Children are learning to value their own creations and express their own feelings and emotions as they proudly show their work on our 'Expressive Art' wall. This helps children learn to drive their own learning and make decisions on what is important to them, and learning that they have a voice.

We have continued to extend the children's learning by introducing 'feelings' through the use of puppets and role play. This gives children tools to develop their own social and emotional competency and helps them to extend play with their peers.



Boosting veges in the lunchbox



Aim to add a range of coloured veges to the lunchbox each day to provide tamariki with vitamins, minerals and fibre to grow strong and healthy.

- ♥ Add to your child's favourite marmite sandwich – finely chopped lettuce, grated carrot, beetroot, or add drained corn to cheese toasties.
- ♥ Leftover roast veges can be eaten cold and make a filling snack – add in leftover potato, kumara, pumpkin or parsnip.
- ♥ Chop up veges to have with a dip like hummus – capsicum, green beans, cooked carrot.
- ♥ Try adding chopped spinach or grated carrot to recipes for fritters, quiche, muffins or scones. Bread cases with egg are a great vehicle for mixed frozen veges.
- ♥ Leftover fried rice with mixed veges or cauliflower mac 'n' cheese can make a delicious lunch.



For more information visit heartfoundation.org.nz



In the Pre-School Room...

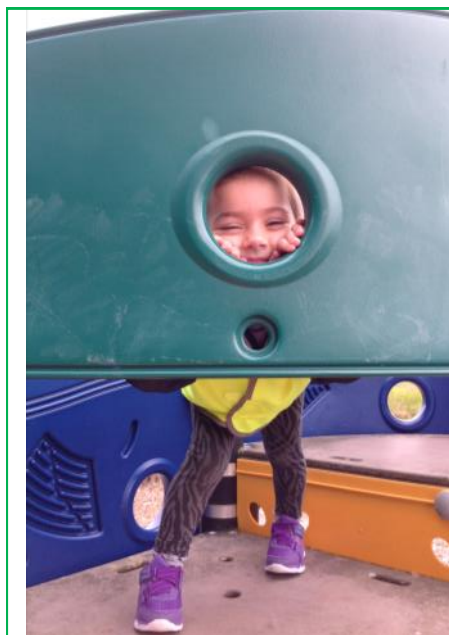
In the Preschool Room the emergent interest is bugs! The Flyers have really been involved in bug hunting, spending much of their days searching the outdoor area and in the bark for any bugs they can find. They often ask the teacher for a container to temporarily keep the bug or bugs they've found. They even poke holes into the container "so the insects can breathe". We encourage the children to set the 'bugs' free, back into their natural environment, at the end of the day.



The children have been fascinated watching and observing these little creatures in detail. Throughout this process the children have learnt what each bug needs, and have made environments for them to live in. They have also been researching what the name of each bug is and can identify a number of different bugs – these include slaters, worms, centipedes, dragon flies and stinkbugs.

From this interest the children are learning about the natural world and how to care for living things, including how to handle them gently so as not to hurt them, as well as what they need to survive. This awareness also helps in the development of empathy and caring for others.

Alongside this we continue exploring the world of literacy through the 'Jolly Phonics' and 'Casey Caterpillar' programmes. The Flyers are great at practising their phonics rhymes, actions and sounds and it's awesome to see the children at forming and writing the letters.



It is getting closer to Christmas and we are practicing for our Christmas Concert. This is an exciting time at Fantails as we learn to share and give during this festive season.



Five Minutes With...

BEXX



What position are you in? Babies room teacher

I grew up in... Auckland

If you came to my house for dinner you would have... A good old fashioned kiwi BBQ

My favourite place is... Home with my fur-baby!

In my car I listen to... Everything, but I especially like Country

Early bird or night owl... Early Bird

My friends would describe me as... Caring, kind, quiet and an observer

If I wasn't a teacher, I would be a... An artist or a baker

The colour that makes me happy is... Teal Green

My favourite game as a child was... Playing in open space on the farm

Sweet or savoury... Savoury

The best day of the year is... Burnie's (My cat) Birthday

My hidden talent is... Baking

My dream holiday would be... Japan, for the car scene and culture

I love the smell of... Sweet pea candles

Being a teacher ... Makes me happy

I love ... All things cooking, cars and cats

My favourite season is... Winter

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