



Fantails Childcare

SILVERDALE

Newsletter

October 2020



Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

With the Mid-Autumn Festival/Moon Festival fresh in our minds we hope that you had the opportunity to spend time together as a family, and however you celebrated, gathering for dinner, lighting lanterns, eating mooncakes, watching the magnificent moon last night, I trust that it was meaningful and very special.

September has sped by and as you can see from our class news, it has been a busy month with loads of learning and heaps of fun - enjoy the read!

We look forward to having an awesome month together and giving your child new and exciting opportunities and experiences.

Thank you so much for your continued support and great feedback on Educa - we appreciate it.

Kind regards

Gladys and the Fantails Team



Dates to note:

Tues 20th October - Fantails' 7th Birthday

Mon 26th October - Labour Day

Wed 28th October - Wacky Wednesday

In the Babies room...

This month in the Babies Room we have seen a real interest in family role play. The children have been extending their play through dress-ups and re-enacting events they have seen at home and out in the community.

Role play allows children to increase their awareness of the world around them and helps them make sense of who they are and what their role and position in the family and society is. The children are also developing their communication skills and their social and emotional competencies as they pretend to cook in the kitchen, care for the baby dolls and play in the toy house outside.

As the weather becomes warmer and the sun is coming out more, the children have enjoyed longer periods outside - exploring the environment and extending their interests. Outdoor play opens a whole new world of activities and engagement as it offers opportunities to play around the garden with all its different textures, run, climb, ride bikes and just take a break while observing what the 'big' children are doing in the playground next door.



In the Toddlers room...

This past month in the Toddlers Room we have observed a keen interest in dress-ups. It has been really great to see the children engaging in a lot of imaginative play with their friends. Another interest has been construction - the children have been exploring with wooden and magnetic blocks to form amazing towers and houses. While engaged in these activities children have been developing their imagination, hand-eye coordination, fine motor and early mathematical skills, as well as their communication and social skills.

It is always so encouraging, and a joy to observe children working and playing together and extending their emotional and social competencies as they build relationships and develop friendships.

A couple of weeks ago we celebrated Māori Language Week and were privileged to take part in the Te Reo Māori Language Moment together with more than a million other New Zealanders. At 12pm on Monday the 14th September we all sung a Te reo Māori song to mark this special moment. Throughout the week we focused on Te reo stories, songs, and music with the children and supported each other to extend our own Te reo Māori vocabulary.



In the Juniors room...

Based on the children's interests, the past month's activities focused on 'Imaginative Play'. Among others, children had opportunities to pretend to be a doctor, a construction worker, and a fire fighter. They linked their previous life experience to their play, and they learnt to use appropriate language and behaviours in their play. In the 'doctors and patients' game, children checked 'farm animal patients', 'dinosaur patients' and friends with thermometers and stethoscopes, and they also 'prescribed' some medicines and bandaged a patients' injured areas. Our little doctors also comforted their patients with empathetic language and used very gentle hands during treatments.

The children also loved playing with the construction tool kits. They explored and learned how to use the tools and tried to 'fix' cars, the doll house, furniture and any toys they found needing to be repaired. Through this activity the children are developing a sense of responsibility and respect for things in their environment. It is so encouraging to observe children developing their imagination and creative skills as they spontaneously express themselves through communication with each other in their pretend play. It's always wonderful to see children's social skills develop and new friendships forming through their interactions.



The past month we also planned some art activities around children's favourite stories, with the aim to further extend children's interests. The children made bears out of paper plates and painted a house for the story of 'Goldilocks and three bears'. They did some sponge painting to create "the hungry caterpillar" and also made "owl baby" puppets after listening to "The Owl Baby" story. Besides practicing their fine motor skills as they used different tools in this activity, children were also able to recognize and appreciate their own learning abilities, giving them a sense of achievement and boosting their confidence. These kinds of group activities offer children the opportunity to learn from each other and develop a very important learning disposition known as "ako".



PLAY GIVES
CHILDREN
A CHANCE
TO PRACTICE WHAT
THEY ARE
LEARNING.
-MR. ROGERS

In the Preschool room...

During the lockdown we continued with our Letter of the Week focus by posting videos online through Educa. Once we were back at Fantails, the Flyers made lots of comments regarding these videos and we realised that the focus was still very relevant to the Flyers. Therefore, we carried on learning a new letter and its phonetic sound each week during September. We revisited the letters Ll and Rr, as well as getting to know the letters Ff and Bb. The letters Ff and Bb lent themselves to a Spring theme as far as creative activities were concerned. We had lots of fun painting and drawing flower gardens, making flowers and creating butterflies. One group of children became very creative and made a 3D railway bridge over two weeks, which incorporated both the letters Rr and Bb.

We have noticed that with our Letter of the Week focus, the children are not only learning to recognise different letters and know their phonetic sounds, but they are also increasing their general knowledge and are becoming more and more confident in asking questions and finding the answers to their questions.

Prior to the second Auckland Covid-19 lockdown we had planned a get-together with the children's father's on the first Friday of September for Father's Day. We were looking forward to having a barbeque and lots of fun activities on the day, but due to Level 2.5 restrictions this was not possible. However, the Flyers worked very hard to make Father's Day cards. There were many different cards they could have chosen to make, but they voted for four different humorous cards, from which they each chose one to make. The children also practised writing their names, so that they could sign their cards. Some of our older Flyers practised writing both their names and a short message in their cards.

**"LEARN from Yesterday. LIVE for Today.
HOPE for Tomorrow".** Albert Einstein

During September we also celebrated Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week) and this was the reason we revisited the letter Rr. We had planned on introducing the letter Bb, but realised that it did not appear in the Māori alphabet. This was one of many interesting facts we learnt about Māori culture and language during this week. One of our activities was reading "Ruru's Hangi," which led to creating ruru for our wall display (owls). We also learnt that Rangitoto means "blood in the sky," which presumably refers to the colour of the sky after Rangitoto had erupted. Of course we had lots of fun building "erupting Rangitotos" in the sandpit, using vinegar, baking soda and orange paint to create very realistic looking lava.



As the Flyers are showing an ongoing interest in books, we have opened a Flyers' Library. The children are welcome to choose a book from the "treasure chest" to take home. When they bring their book back, they receive a sticker of their choice.

We rounded September off with a visit from a very gifted lady who acted out "The Great Teddy Bear Escape" for us. The Toddlers, Juniors and the Flyers all gathered together in the Preschool Room to watch the show—it was enthralling!

Five Minutes With...

Merri



What position are you in? I get to work in all the rooms with all the children.

I grew up in... North Coast of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

If you came to my house for dinner you would have... Something Mexican

My favourite place is... Where my family is

In my car I listen to... Anything old school or soulful

Early bird or night owl... Night Owl

My friends would describe me as... Bubbly, lazy and thoughtful

If I wasn't a teacher, I would be a... Bookkeeper

The colour that makes me happy is... Purple

My favourite game as a child was... Monopoly

Sweet or savoury... Both

The best day of the year is... Christmas

My hidden talent is... I can burp the alphabet

My dream holiday would be... South America

I love the smell of... Cookies and coffee & vanilla scented candles

Being a teacher ... IS fulfilling and exhilarating

I love ... Yoga and being a rockstar, to travel and cook

My favourite season is... Autumn