

Newsletter

POHUTUKAWA KINDERGARTEN GLENDOWIE

Term 2 2025

Welcome Ollie and Whanau, and welcome back to the Boswell whanau we look forward to getting to know Miles. They will both be joining akomanga Huero this term.

We will have a few more tamariki heading off to school this term so lots more holidays for Glenna Dowie as she visits their houses before for their Graduations.

Term dates: 28th April – 27th June

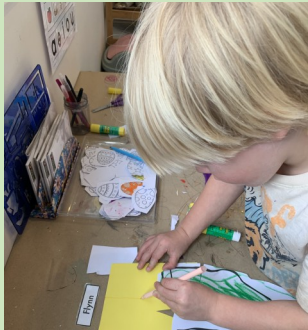
LITERACY LEARNING

This can be a very controversial topic in ECE with opposing philosophies from interested parties.

Many early childhood philosophies are based on play and learning that occurs organically through experiences in the environment. We often hear from external agencies such as ERO (Education Review Office) that they don't like to see 'structured' group times, or teacher led activities in the early childhood environment. We also have many primary school teachers that see school readiness to include not only children being able to self manage themselves but can sit still and join in a group time, ask and answer questions, use pencils, glue and scissors capably, and at least recognise their name as essential for a successful start to school. We also look at our own local curriculum which includes the Pohutukawa Kindergarten philosophy and the aspirations of our community when planning our programme.

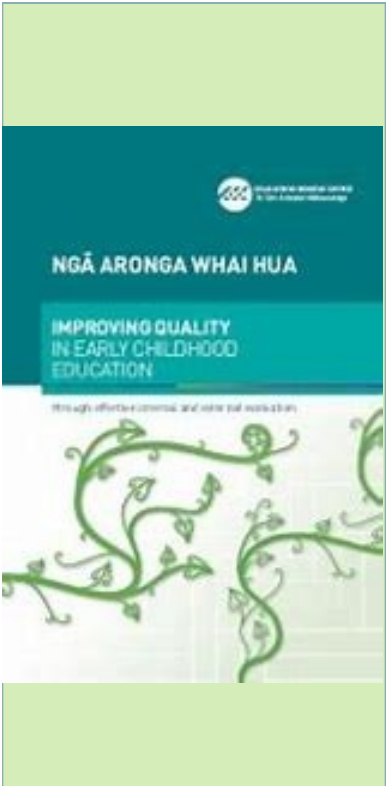
Pre-literacy skills involve all developmental dimensions not just language! Children need to develop confidence in their own abilities and resilience to keep trying. They need to show an interest in wanting to read and write and develop the joy from the imaginative world and information learning it can bring. They need to have hand eye co-ordination and cross lateral skills to support brain development. They need to be strong enough to hold themselves in a good posture and strong-arm movements.

Our programme includes auditory and visual skills, movement, print and language awareness.



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“Internal evaluation is a systematic process used to evaluate what is and is not working, and for whom, and then to develop our practices and make improvements as a result of evaluation” p15 Ngā Aronga Whai Hua

PUĀWAI ROOM

This term we are focusing on one of our values of **Respect – looking at kaitiakitanga**. As we move into winter and more inside play, we would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to help to look after the environment and resources, e.g. dirty shoes off when coming inside, using resources in an appropriate manner, when finished – putting things away for others to come and use, we also have some treasure hunters that like to take resources home! Additionally, encouraging them to take responsibility for their things: clothes, lunch boxes, and water bottles.

INTERNAL EVALUATION

How can individual planning improve the quality of learning outcomes? How can this planning be reflected in our documentation compared to previous styles?

We continue to work on our individual planning cycles and have mostly identified a learner focus for each child.

We are documenting these both in the portfolios and on the planning walls so please keep an eye out.

The teachers will now document progress of each child as we see them working towards these learning goals. We encourage you to make the time to read your child's kete ako, look at the planning walls and talk to the kaiako.

A **learner focus** is a short statement that children can relate to that states their current learning goal and supports their developing learner identity.

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

Our tamariki thoroughly enjoyed our 'all about me' learning last term, looking closely at who we are, where we come from, and lastly outer space with our Stardome trip. Thank you for all those that came to help, it was such a great experience for our tamariki and such a great day!

This term we will be learning about **literacy focusing on phonics** using Yolanda Soryl letter sound association and letter formation using Casey Caterpillar language. Please feel free to ask us about this and if you would like any more information.

We will have a small teacher led group time before heading off to a related craft/science activity. This learning time is a fun way to help give our tamariki a base foundation and introduction to first sounds before they go off to school.

We have our new planning wall that is now up and running! It is very exciting as we look more closely at each individual learner and their 'learner identity.' We would love to catch up with each of you over this next term, and will start looking at booking in some times from the 4th week. Please make sure your child aspiration form is filled in and returned.

Kate and Natasha (as well as your children), would really appreciate you visiting akomanga Puāwai a little bit more frequently. We know drop-offs and pick-ups can be a bit busy, however our tamariki love to show off what they have been learning about and any new wall displays that may be up.



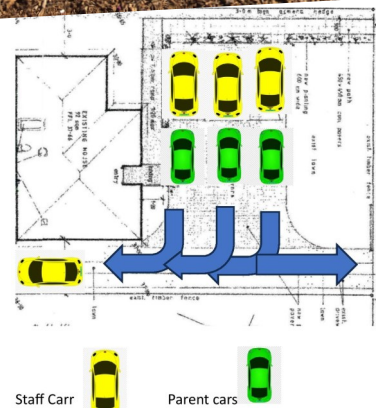


HUERO AKOMANGA

Term one was fun for our Huero tamariki, making the most of the fine weather before Autumn swiftly kicked in with the rain, wind, cold and mud! We discovered new interests, friendships and developed new strengths, both individually and as a group. We also loved jumping onboard the Puāwai akomanga trip to the Stardome to end the term with a bang!

This term we have lots of events coming up, that we are hoping to interweave early literacy and numeracy skills into (such as learning about shapes, colours) whilst creating some exciting experiences using our tamariki individual planning focuses!

We look forward to working together with whānau in



THE CARPARK

Please park behind the teachers cars facing the hedge. The space behind Sarah's van needs to be kept clear so cars can safely turn and then head back out into the street forwards. Thank you.

Please pass on to anyone else who picks up your child

TE WHARIKI -TE ARA WHANUI : OUR CURRICULUM

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be a mana-enhancing process for children, parents and whānau, conducted in ways that uphold the empowerment | whakamana principle. Children have increasing capacity to assess their own progress, dictate their own learning stories, and set goals for themselves (for example, learn to climb something, write their name, pursue or expand an interest or project or lead a waiata). As they learn to assess their own achievements they also become increasingly able to plan new challenges, for example, transferring their learning to a new context, taking on a new responsibility, strengthening a disposition, extending their knowledge or skills, or refining an outcome.

MATARIKI DISCO

Friday 13th June 6-7.30

Mark this in your calendar as the social event of the season!

Bring a plate to share and your dancing shoes. The whole family is invited to attend. Great chance to catch up with other families and for older siblings to return for a fun visit.

MOTHERS DAY

We extend a warm welcome to all the mothers to stay for a special start to the day. You are welcome to pop in with your child even if it is not your enrolled day. 9th May.

REVIEWS AND TESTIMONIAL

We are still looking for some new testimonials and **google reviews**. If you have the time please click on the link on the bottom of my email signature and give us a review, even if its just to click the stars.

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IMPORTANT DATES

9th May – Mother's Day morning tea 8.30 to 10 am Mothers at arrive time please come join us for a hot drink, a little morning tea treat, photo op and a play. Feel free to join us with your child even if it is not an enrolled day.

27th and 28th May – Wheels day On wheels day please bring in some thing to **ride on bike**, scooter etc plus remember a **helmet**. NO helmet no ride. The car park will be closed once we are ready to ride on our vehicles.

13th June – Matariki Disco Whole family event **6 to 7.30 pm**. Come in your disco dancing clothes for a night of dancing. **\$5 cash** for family entrance. This will do towards the DJ. Please bring a **plate of food** to share.

19th June -PJ Day Come to kindy in you Pyjamas with your cuddly soft toy for a day of teddy bears picnics and milo for morning tea.

23 June - Soup day Please bring in a root vegetable to contribute to a morning of cooking soup. Whānau you are welcome to a cup of soup at pick up time to have with us or bring a takeaway cup to go.

REMINDERS

We have a few spaces in our Playball sessions here at kindy—Thursday 2.30-3.15pm

Wearing sun hats are not compulsory in term 2 and 3. You are welcome to take your hat home.

Spare clothes- please remember to bring spare clothes. During the next two terms your child may need jackets and gumboots.

Pick up times – are 12.30, 2.30, 3.30 and 5pm. Please be on time to pick collect your child from their booked time.

FAMILY BOOST

The Family Boost payment is now up and running. It is made directly to families with young children to help with the rising costs of early childhood education (ECE). The Family Boost payment will be equal to 25% of ECE fees already paid by households, maximum of \$975 every 3 months, have a household income of less than \$180 000 a year, effective 1st July.

Families can claim this every 3 moths by applying through IRD. We have had several families successfully apply. If you want to do this then please let me know if you need an updated version of our invoice (License numbers must now be included).

You will also need an IRD# for the child you are claiming for so need to apply for this if they don't yet have one. You will then login through your own IR login to process this.

This can be claimed for past periods too.

ENROLMENT CHANGES

With our new Student Management System, each time there is an enrolment change you will need to sign the piece of paper acknowledging the change. This will also be true for extra days booked in advance.

