

# Country Kids

## NEWSLETTER JULY 2010

### Nga Whetu News

During our literacy focus it became evident that our children particularly enjoyed phonics...

**WHAT IS PHONICS?** It is "the skill of segmentation and blending *plus* knowledge of alphabetical code" (Phonics Training 2007)

**WHY DO PHONICS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD**

**EDUCATION?** Research shows that "Preschoolers who were given training on phonological awareness shows significant acceleration in their later acquisition of reading" (Adams, M.J (1990). Beginning to read: Thinking and Learning about Print)

There are 7 stages of phonics; we as educators understand the first stage as this is developmentally appropriate for our children in Nga Whetu. *Stage one is being able to listen and discriminate sounds in language and being able to hear rhythm, sound breaks, rhyme and alliteration* (Phonics Training 2007)

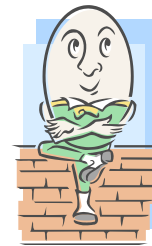
To support and extend on the children's interest we have been doing rhymes such as 'Willaby Wallaby Woo', reading books like Dr Seuss and singing nursery rhymes. Our first nursery rhyme was 'Humpty Dumpty'. To emphasise this nursery rhyme our children made a humpty dumpty paper mache display with collage materials. The next was 'Incy Wincy Spider' where the children drew spiders by method of provocation with some pretty scary looking spiders. For added effect, a huge spider web was designed, once again using collage materials, cotton balls and string. This spiders web wouldn't be complete without a spider, so this was our next 2 dimensional project along with raindrops, a cloud and a drain pipe. A spin off from this interest has been an interest in spiders with children revisiting the array of spider books in our library.

Along with phonics the children have been working on their carpentry skills-this has proven popular with the introduction of new equipment which lives in our new carpentry

bag. This has seen children moving up to the next level of difficulty, pushing themselves to persevere and maintain concentration over a long period of time.

We would like to welcome Jeremy Rush and farewell Cooper, Rowan and Mia to Just 4 Kids. This is by no means a goodbye.

It's great to be back from Aimee, Lindsay & Lorraine



### Piko Piko News

**Spring has sprung-we see lambs over the fence and the grass has sprouted.**

**This month we welcome Mathew Campbell who has come to join his big sister Ruby at Country Kids.**

**Have you checked out our website. There is some fantastic stuff on there including a section of our under 2 children. Don't forget to tell family overseas, they may even see their family members on occasion. Our younger children are continuing to develop new relationships. It has been a real pleasure to watch these younger ones as they reach their next developmental stage and become mobile.**

**The older children are still organising group times and letting us know what songs they want us to sing-row, row, row your boat is still a favourite! We have been reintroducing A Ram Sam Sam, the children have picked up the actions quickly and can often be found knocking their hands together. We will continue to offer songs that have similar movements and actions. For this age group repetition is a powerful teaching tool. It allows them the empowerment or knowing what is happening and being able to participate within the group.**

We are encouraging independence and self managing skills with our older children by asking them to pull up their sleeves when washing hands, placing their belongings with their bags, climbing the stairs for a nappy change and by collecting their own shoes when they want to go outside.

Have you noticed what we have done to explain our programme planning? It is on the green board above the bag hooks. Here you will find some of the learning stories written for the Piko Piko children. If your child has a cow clip on their information pocket in the foyer, it means that there is a new story in their profile book or on the notice board. Our children and us are eagerly awaiting our new playground to be ready for exploration. At present the children are going outside when the weather allows. We have had the small ride on bikes out and many have tried these, getting more and more proficient each time. Kelly & Susan



#### Just 4 Kids News

Welcome to Cooper Russell, Mia Nugent, Rowan Lattimer and their families to Just 4 Kids. The children have been making discoveries in the playground after the very hard frosts. They discovered thick layers of ice. In response to this learning and to support the children's initiatives, some simple little science experiments continue to take place. These include measuring the air temperature outside and inside the building with a thermometer, and discussing absorption, evaporation, and their own body temperature, as well as looking at liquids turning to solids and solids to liquids (ice to water!) This has lead into loads of korero about the weather—in particular cold, snowy and icy conditions. Children's literacy and computer skills continue to grow. Thank you to all those parents who take time to read the learning stories and make a comment before returning the portfolios. This adds context to their learning experiences allowing us to provide more meaningful extensions to this learning. The afternoon children are continuing to build relationships with their peers and are being encouraged on sustained focus in their interests—this encourages dispositions such as perseverance and persistence essential to future learning. Byron is off to school so we wish him well in his future learning and will miss him in Just 4 Kids. Ka kite Margaret & Marg

THANK YOU TO JOHN DE JONG FOR HIS DONATION OF GRASS SEED, LOAN OF ROLLER, SEED SOWER AND SHADE CLOTH FOR OUR NEW UNDER 2'S PLAYGROUND



Due to so many teachers being away sick, we have postponed the PJ party so watch this space for a new date

*If you could collect the following for us to use in collages that would be great;*

- *Walnut shells*
- *Mini pine cones*
- *Wrapping/florist paper*
- *Ribbons/lace*

*And anything else that you can think of that may be appropriate*



*If your child is sick please keep them at home as not only do the bugs get passed on to other children but we also end up short staffed due to teachers being away sick! Thank you*

Keep those recipes coming in to Lorraine for our very own;  
Country Kids



Cook Book!