

Nest February Newsletter

A big welcome back to all our families! We hope the Xmas/Summer break was relaxing and fun. We are delighted to welcome our new children who started this year - Manaia, Ieri, Niamh and Remi. So far they have all settled easily and happily so may the fun continue!



We also would like to welcome Carolyn, who is our In-Home facilitator. She will now work in The Nest Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Carleen (from our Wellsford

centre) will work Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays. Please help make these lovely teachers feel welcome.

Water Play

With the weather finally becoming hot summer days, we have enjoyed many fun activities involving water. Infants and Toddlers are naturally drawn to water and it is an instant calming tool as well as a fantastic medium to learn and explore with. For the next few weeks our main focus will be continuing to provide the children with a range of water based activities such as coloured water, washing the baby dolls, pouring or making bubbly water.

Please ensure your child has at least 2 full changes of clothes in their bag.



Gross Motor Skills

We have also observed how rapidly the children in this age group are developing their gross motor capabilities and are always keen to climb, crawl, walk or run even if they are a bit wobbly while doing so! We are often amazed at how fast our children reach each developmental milestone and want to ensure we help them along as well as keeping them safe. So we continuously look at arranging our environment or activities so they support gross motor growth.

Activities we have enjoyed so far include...

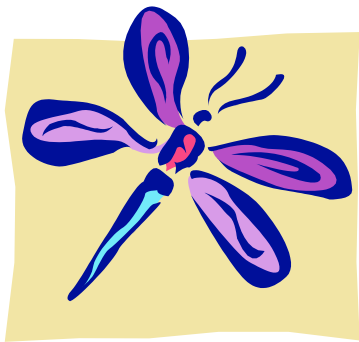
- Jumping games
- Obstacle courses
- Throwing and kicking balls
- Pulling and lifting
- Walking on the balance beam
- Climbing steps/ladders
- For the infants: placing objects or mirrors in front of them to encourage them to crawl forward

These activities also help to build the children's confidence and independence.

Did you know that you burn more calories sleeping than you do watching tv?

Mat Times

Now that we have an older age group we would like to re-introduce mat times into our daily routine. This will enable the children to be more prepared for their transition to Piwakawaka but also allow time for more literacy learning as well as music and movement. Our mat times will include reading stories together, repetitive dancing, rhyming activities or puppetry. Feel free to stay and sit in on a mat time one day!



Insects

Exploration adventures outside have led to discovering many creepy crawlies, instead of being afraid or 'icked out', like many adults are, our children want to get in and touch or watch these insects at work. We have had ant hunts and looked out for spider webs, this insect interest will be another area that we will aim to extend upon to keep this interest alive and the ensure the children continue to remain excited rather than fearful of these natural creatures.



Dress-ups

All our children (yes the boys as well) are LOVING dressing up - the adult shoes are particularly hot right now. We love chuckling together when our little ones pop off to put their shoes on then walk around the room in high heels.

As we only have women's high heels for them to choose from we would love any men's shoes, jamdals, slippers etc to add to our shoe pile if you have any? Or do you have any spare hats lying around...these are also a big hit!



Remember you can find us on **FACEBOOK**. 'Like' us to keep informed of all our changes and events.

Did you know dragonflies have 6 legs but can't walk?