

# Elim Early Learning Centre

**WE ARE ALL LEARNERS TOGETHER - COMPETENT AND CAPABLE.**

## December 2018

Elim Early Learning Centre  
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Kia Ora,

This has been a very productive year for our centre in that we have had a revamp of our outdoor area at the beginning of the year, established some great garden areas which are growing nicely and the children themselves have planted out the new raised vegie garden. We have also purchased new shelving in the inside area and made good use of the old shelving in our storeroom upstairs.



We have also seen a good number of our older children successfully transition from our centre into their new schools and to support this our team have recently undertaken a Regular Internal Evaluation on "Transition to School" to better support them as they move to their next place of learning. As part of this review we have invited new entrant teachers to come and visit our centre with the purpose of increased collaboration between our centre and our local schools which in turns provides continuity of learning and helps the children to become familiar with the teachers prior to leaving for school. We are hoping to have a parent evening next year where we can invite one of these teachers to come and share what is important for our tamariki to know and learn prior to leaving us for school.

Our team has recently had a change of Head Teacher and we would like to welcome Janina to our team of experienced and passionate teachers. Janina has previously worked as a visiting teacher for *Paua* and also as a home-based educator herself. Her particular interests in early childhood are with *brain development and teaching children to self-regulate via relaxation therapy* (something that adults can relate to as well). She is warm and friendly and is at the centre 5 days per week 8.30 -5pm so please take the time to chat to her as you come in and out of the centre.

### **Special Event coming up**

**12<sup>th</sup> December (Wednesday)-centre Christmas party-2pm. Bring a plate to share-we will have a mat time prior to Father Christmas arriving at 2.30pm.**



**We will then share our party food after he has said "goodbye" to the children.**

## **CLOSING DATES OVER XMAS and NEW YEAR**

The centre closes on Thursday 21st December 5pm

and

Reopens on the Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 8am

Please indicate to the team if you will be in attendance on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the holidays when the centre reopens (this is helpful for staffing purposes). We like other early learning centres do charge parents fees over all holiday periods when the centre is open regardless of whether the children attend or not. However at our centre we do not charge fees for statutory holidays or for days when the centre is closed.



### **SUN SAFETY**

It is that time of the year when children and adults are needing to be diligent about protecting their skins from sunburn. Please lather your children with sun cream before they arrive at the centre (we cannot have sun cream left in their bags for child safety). The staff will reapply sun cream before the children go outside after they have had their lunch.

*Note: if your child is allergic to sun cream then please provide their specific sun cream to be kept at the centre in the kitchen cupboard.*

Please also provide a sun hat each day as our *Sun Safety* policy states that children will not be allowed to go outside without a sun hat.

Adequate changes of clothing are also essential so that the children can play with the water each day and be changed if needed when wet. Children must wear clothing with short sleeves so that shoulders are not at risk of being sun burnt

Thank you.



### **Cap Programme**

Our centre supports the Elim Church's CAP programme designed to help people to become debt free. This is a free and confidential service available to all families in our community, including families at the centre. Trained facilitators work with each family enrolled to give support with the management of their finances until they have reached their target of being "debt" free.

This is a very successful programme which has helped many over time to achieve financial freedom. This year our centre is once again *gifting* the sum of \$150 towards the cost of gift baskets that will be given to those families going through the programme to help them over Christmas which can be a very expensive time.





## Internal Evaluation

Our centre is committed to improving the learning outcomes for our tamariki. Our teacher's sometimes do spontaneous 'internal evaluations' where we look at what is working well for the children and what is not, so that we can make ongoing improvements that benefit our children and families. Some of these Emergent internal reviews this year have focused on: "Individual children's transition into the centre", "Quality Practice", "Self- Regulation", "The Indoor Environment". These reviews are initiated and led by a teacher in collaboration with the team/children/parents (as appropriate) and involve the team as a whole who have regular collegial discussions and information sharing during their day and at team meetings.

We also have regular policy reviews and we thank those parents who take the opportunity to read our policies as they are sent out by email and to those who respond to either affirm them or ask questions for clarification about things they are unsure about. It is important to us that our parents also feel they can make comment or suggestions for amendments as your views are important and valued by us.

## Programme highlights

Over the past few months there has been lots of learning taking place. Shalini has been supporting and extending the children in the Under 2 area. There has been lots



of physical development happening for these children in terms of crawling, standing, walking, running and climbing. The children are building on their fine and gross motor skills along with sensory play. Sand and water together has been a favourite with our tamariki exploring



the different textures, filling and emptying containers and playing alongside each other. The children's language has been developing in leaps and bounds with language being repeated over and over, clear words being communicated and the infants and toddlers singing along with songs at mat time.



The older children have been doing lots of learning around social competence. We have two preschool life size puppets, "Emily" and "Ethan" that have been teaching us about how to respect and be kind to each other. Kylie and Nick have been doing a fantastic presentation with the puppets where they

act out a scenario and then say, "Freeze"- "Action." The children then feedback to both Kylie and Nick about what is happening and what Emily and Ethan could do that would be kind and helpful in that situation. Using the puppets has been a fantastic teaching strategy as there were quite a few children who were unsure about how to enter play successfully with others. We have seen a remarkable improvement with children using their words regularly and using some wonderful strategies with each other e.g. learning and using the names of their peers, asking them simple questions about what they are doing, smiling at them as they play while waiting for an invitation to join in.



This has enabled children to make new friendships and participate in role play and games. Learning these key strategies also supports our older children as they prepare to move onto their next place of learning and need to make new friendships with their peers as they settle in at school.



There is a lot of learning taking place in terms of literacy and numeracy. A number of our children are learning to write their name and

explore writing letters using different mediums. When children create a picture or a painting the teachers encourage them to write their own name by giving it a go by themselves. Kylie has facilitated some great numeracy activities where the older children explored numbers and worked out sequences. This is once again important learning for school readiness. Some of these activities were quite challenging for the children but by talking with each other and counting out loud they were able to problem solve, find the answers and complete the activities between them. Ka pai to mahi (your work is good!).



Children's creativity is blossoming particularly in the carpentry area with the recent purchase of a new carpentry table. We are lucky to have many different tools for the children to explore such as hammers, a level, saws, screw drivers and a vice. Some soft wood has been great for the children to experiment with and being much softer the children are able to easily saw it and add nails and screws. Oscar spent considerable time making a large cricket and then decided it was too big. He scaled it down by doing a drawing first and talking through with the teacher what he



needed to make it smaller. He was more satisfied with his smaller model and showed the teachers and the other children parts of the cricket that worked well, pointing out that he had used screws so the legs could move. This is a great example of the 'design, make and appraise' (DMA)



process. Kahurangi made herself a purerehua (butterfly) and enjoyed painting it. She also used screws and as we know using a screwdriver certainly is not easy. Michael made himself a helicopter and even had some intricate detail when he added a rotor blade that actually turned around. Aashi made herself a plane. They also painted their creations at the table before taking them home. We have lots of budding engineers at Elim Early Learning Centre! If any of our parents have any scraps of untreated wood to donate for our carpentry area then we would be very grateful (same with sawdust).



The children helped Merrilyn plant some vegetables in the garden and it looks fantastic! Merrilyn had lots of helpers and they were careful to ensure their mask was safely on as we added potting mix to the vegetable bed. We now have peas, mint, rosemary, tomatoes,



strawberries and carrots! The children are watering and weeding the garden as required and are patiently waiting for the strawberries to turn red! Ask your child about the vegetable garden and we are sure they will be excited to show you where it is and how much the plants have grown.

At the end of October we had a family "fish and chip" night here at preschool combined with the Elim Church "Light" party. Thank you to all the parents and children who came and made it such a successful night. It was a great opportunity for us to catch up with our families and share a bit about what happens at our mat times (songs, NZ Sign language, Te Reo, Waiata to name



a few). A big "thank you" also to Nick and Kylie for sharing with us all some of their "social competence" scenarios using the puppets and to our children who responded so well with their own ideas of



how to react differently for more pleasing outcomes. The children had a fabulous and fun time at the "Light" Party that was held in the church and were keen to show off their dance moves to the disco music-the "Limbo Rock" was once again a big hit with many children continuing to go around and around without seemingly getting tired-



smiles!



Today our older children went on an excursion to the new Christchurch Central Library. They had a wonderful time as they walked with the teachers and had an added bonus when they saw the tram going passed on the way. They arrived for the "story" time with the Librarian and afterwards enjoyed a slide downstairs and a time building with the Lego, before visiting the garden area upstairs. Thank you to Janina and Merrilyn for taking them on this visit and to the teachers who remained behind looking after our younger children.



*That is our news for now so please keep safe and happy over the Christmas and New Year, Ka kite anō – we look forward seeing you in 2019.  
Kind regards and Christmas Blessings,  
Sharon (Centre Manager), Janina, Shalini, Merrilyn, Kylie Maria and Nick*

