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March 2009: Almost Six Months in Operation!

Dear Friends of Daisies

Welcome to our second newsletter and how much has changed in six months! We are now full and have a long waiting list. However we always tell families to submit a waiting list application anyway as it is always a matter of fitting the right child for a specific place. For example, most families on our waiting list have young babies which may not fit a space for an over 2 enrolment.



We have a full complement of teachers and welcome in particular Sara who started with us in January and Amy and Jesi who commenced way back in November. We are always on the lookout for good reliever teachers however and are currently looking at the option of employing an assistant teacher to help out at the end of the day.

We are still working on making the Daisies environment as inviting, safe and child-friendly as possible and are thrilled with our new divider between Koromiko and Nikau built by the fantastic Childspace Institute environment team. Coming soon will be a permanent outdoor shade solution and better heating for the colder months ahead. Suggestions are always welcome!

Upcoming events and notifications

- Six Month Celebration for Families: Bring a Plate evening. Friday 3 April from 5.30pm to 7pm.
- Good Friday closed for public holiday. Friday 10 April
- Easter Monday closed for public holiday. Monday 13 April
- Advance notification: Second 2009 Teacher Only Day: Friday 17 July. Daisies will be closed for the whole day.
- Advance notification: Christmas break: Closing Thursday 24th December 2009 at 1pm. Re-opening Monday 11th January 2010, normal hours.

From the Koromiko Team!

Welcome to Harry, Bella, Olivia, Aayush, Reuben, Oliver, Sarah, Mikayla, Thomas, and Churan. We now have full numbers in Koromiko. It is great to see how well the children have settled in and watch them form relationships with teachers and the other children.

Some strong friendships are emerging between the older children, and they are having a lot of fun playing peek-a-boo games, chasing, ball games and climbing games. The younger children are also spending time noticing others around them.

As there is a large group of children all in a similar stage of physical development, we have been celebrating a lot of milestones with children and parents lately. These include rolling, crawling, standing and walking.

We continue to notice, recognize and respond to the children's interests, which you can see on our new planning wall and in the children's learning journals. We appreciate parents' input in these assessment areas.

One area we have been focusing on is the environment, and you will notice new resources for the children to explore. We will put out a notice soon about the creation of our outdoor path. We would love all of you to participate in this project.

It is a privilege to be a part of your children's lives, and to watch their learning and development. Heidi, Jesi, Nikki and Sara.

From the Nikau Team!

An important part of Daisies philosophy is making links with our local community. We are really fortunate to have Johnsonvale Rest Home in the same street as us. We made contact with them to establish a relationship and were delighted with how receptive and enthusiastic they were. On January 23rd four of our oldest children and two teachers went to visit. We had practiced some songs to give the residents a concert. Our children all did themselves proud. Each child introduced themselves and then introduced their favourite song which we all sang together.

Having Terry from Johnsonville play the piano and encourage the residents to join in was an added bonus. The residents reciprocated with a song of their own, an old favourite, "When Irish Eyes are smiling." We got to meet one of the residents whose name was Daisy and we sang Happy Birthday to Nell who was turning 102. The children were very happy to meet and greet the residents who were in the lounge.

We were over the moon to be invited to the Johnsonvale Teddy Bear Day on 24th February. This encouraged us to have our Teddy Bears Picnic at Daisies that day as this would then include all our children rather than just the group of children who were going to Johnsonvale. We practiced our repertoire of Teddy Bear songs each day for the 2 weeks leading up to our visit. On the day, the children were very excited as we headed off up the road carrying our teddies-we took 8 children from Nikau, 2 children from Koromiko. 3 teachers and it was great that Rachel was able to join us too. The children got to sit their teddies amongst the resident's teddies. We then performed our concert and once again the children were amazing – they all did so well-most of them in completely new surroundings. Once again Terry played the piano –it was wonderful to see some of the residents joining in by singing /waving their arms in the air.

We look forward to many more enriching experiences in the future, through our relationship with Johnsonvale Rest Home.

Kind regards from Deirdre, Colleen, Ana and Amy.

Financial stuff

As it is soon coming up to 31st March, we will be issuing all families a receipt totaling payments since your start date. This is to allow you to claim your childcare subsidy from IRD. These will be available from early April on the sign-in table, in envelopes marked with your child's name. Any queries, please e-mail info@daisies.co.nz.

Website News

We are continuously updating our website www.daisies.co.nz so please drop by from time to time for a look. There you can find our Charter and Policies, also profiles of all the team, info on washable cloth nappies and lots of other good stuff.

Late Fees Policy

As noted in our enrolment policies and on our website, any children who are picked up late (after 3.30pm for Short Day enrolments, after 6pm for Full Day enrolments) will be charged a late fee. We have not rigorously enforced this to date but will do so from now on. It is very important that children are collected on time since otherwise teachers must stay past the end of their shift in order to keep ratios at the appropriate level.

The late fee is charged at \$10 per every 10 minute increment. Note that an equivalent fee will apply for children on a Short Day enrolment dropped at Daisies before 8.30am (unless a parent remains at Daisies until after that time). Children must not be dropped off before 7.30am as we are not legally licensed to care for children until then.

Additionally, the late-shift teachers are only paid to be here until 6pm. If you collect your child at the end of the day, please aim to arrive with enough time to get organised and leave the building by 6pm so that they can go home. Thank you.

From Carmelle's Kitchen

One of our teachers, Deirdre, recently brought in an article "Building Healthy, Happy Kids", which looks at how the body is delicately entwined and interconnected dividing children's health and physical development into three main areas; gastrointestinal, nervous, and immune system. Further information is available on the following website www.welladjustedbabies.com/blog/?p=94

So if we aren't already under enormous pressure to get a balanced diet into our children, this article will do it!

Nutrition is always high on my agenda, and whilst you will see "fast food" meals such as pizza and nachos to the menu, don't be alarmed: the way in which I produce these are a far cry from what is commercially produced.

Pizza is very much a favorite here at Daisies. The base is made fresh, the pizza sauce is full of immune boosting ingredients such as: garlic, tomatoes, & fresh parsley, and the topping includes grated fresh vegetables topped with cheese.

Because the pizza sauce is so healthy I've included the recipe below:

Pizza Sauce

Tomato puree, 400g can

Cannalini beans, 400g can

Handful of fresh parsley

Handful of other fresh herbs ie oregano, basil, rosemary etc.

4 cloves garlic

Combine all ingredients and puree until smooth.

Reminder Corner

- Labeling clothes and cloth nappies – if you could remember to label your child's clothes this would be hugely helpful. Just use biro on the clothing label – works as well as anything! Please remember to do this every time you buy something new.
- Medicine – If your child has been prescribed medicine which needs to be administered at Daisies, please fill out the medicine chart each day. Also, please provide a medicine measuring cup, spoon or syringe, as we do not have them here to share.
- Sign-In Sheets - please remember to sign in and sign out everyday. This is a mandatory Government requirement and without it we may lose funding from the Government.
- Absent children – please call us in the morning if your child is going to be absent due to illness or any other reason. This helps us to plan for the day.
- Washable nappies – a reminder that you can purchase washable cloth nappies through Daisies for the same price they are available on-line. We have some on-site if you'd like to look at them.
- Holidays – if you are planning to take a holiday it would be greatly appreciated if you could let us know in advance. Over school holidays in particular we sometimes have requested for casual placements and it is useful to be able to let families know in advance if we think this will be possible.

Linda and Anne Meade, Rachel and the whole team at Daisies.