

Fitzroy Kindergarten AGM Teachers Report 2017

Curriculum Children are learning how to learn, through play



Children developed the life skills of co-operation, supporting one another and respectful relationships. Making and securing friendships through pretend play.

Children experimented with light and shadow, working with the overhead projector and the light table making exciting discoveries.

They created and revisited art work honing their skills, inspiring and helping others

Clay work over weeks gave children opportunities to practice skills and trial different ways of moulding this natural resource.

The children gathered recycled materials using them in construction and creatively producing wondrous art works. The group collaboration on the stunning beaded light shade took place over weeks as children and some parents were drawn to this creative project.

Many opportunities are offered daily for children to practice reading and writing.
Maths learning is also everywhere

Children were enthralled by and appreciated the wonder of nature as they studied the life cycle of frogs and caterpillars.

Children's developing physical skills were enhanced by teachers as we offered music and movement during terms 2 and 3 first thing in the morning. Along with the obvious enjoyment of children participating in these sessions, our children are developing their spatial awareness, their listening skills, ability to self-regulate, and ability to follow instructions. Many of these music sessions have children crossing the midline in their bodies, these sessions ensure both sides of their brain are engaged and switched on.

An innovative addition to our music and movement program was Dani (Rory's mum) taking the children for yoga. Coach Mike and his team encouraged and supported children's ball skills. These sessions also support their listening, instruction following, confidence and team work skills.

Teachers have shared information with families on a range of topics from healthy food options, the value of messy play, slowing down and calming down our children's lives '**let's take it slow**', Nathan Mikarere wallis **nuero science parenting and practice**, In learning stories and during parent teacher catch up meetings. There have also been regular news letters and Facebook postings.

Kirsty sent out a terrific letter to parents about becoming involved in Kindergarten / committee life '**A note from one parent to another**'

Staff

During 2016 Sue continued her treatment for cancer and we were very fortunate to have wonderful relievers Maree Kissick and Janet Howe.

We were supported by students from the Educare training trust.

Debs joined the co-ordinating team REART (Reggio Emilia Aotearoa Regional Taranaki) and has passionately introduced and showcased Reggio inspired learning opportunities for children.

We have had amazing professional support from our Senior teacher / Professional leader Liz Clegg.

Sadly our highly respected friend and mentor Hilda Colgan resigned as Professional Manager with Kindergarten Taranaki. Her expertise and wisdom had been sort and valued by all teachers and it was with reluctance we had to accept Hilda had other priorities on her life's plan following over 28 years of service to Kindergarten.

Celebrating our families we invited morning Dads to come for breakfast, and as a finale to Matariki celebrations, families came and shared lunch together. Grand parents joined with their grandchildren to share their favourite story or just hang out at Kindergarten for a couple of hours on Grand parents day. Mother were invited for morning tea and a putiputi making session as we honoured our mothers.

Parents met at Kindergarten over coffee as we invited guests to share their thoughts, ideas and expertise. Some of the topics covered were ideas for toileting your child, fussy eaters, Information from Fitzroy school

We enjoyed the opportunities to take the children on various trips and these included:

- The trip to Fitzroy beach
- Walk to te rewa rewa.
- A visit to the museum to look at taonga, relating to Matariki or Puanga, the Maori new year.
- The fire station
- Puke Ariki under the sea trip
- Muru Raupatu Marae
- Puke Ariki Bugs exhibition

Equipment and resources purchased Big books, I pad, Black and white photos which line the inside of the Kindergarten Fence. Sand to top up the sand pit. Puzzles, teachers reference books, I Pad, shelving , plumbed in water cooler, sand pit water pump, farm building set, crawling tunnels.

Maintenance the damaged vinyl in the children's toilet area was replaced (this was an insurance claim through the cleaners.) The weather bomb in 2017 saw our shade sails damaged and the repair to these was substantial coming in at \$1,488.00 paid for out of Kindergarten funds.

Heat pump install in 2015, we had the problems with the first install fixed and Dennis Wills (property officer) progressed our claim with the electricity safety council. We have won the small claims tribunal hearing and are awaiting payment from the heat pump installer.

ERO (Education Review Office) came in term 1 2017. The over-arching question the ministry team ask is "How well placed is this service to promote positive learning outcomes for children?" We were very proud and delighted to be afforded the highest ranking of "**very well placed**" a placing only achieved by one of the other 15 Kindergartens in North Taranaki.

We are all very much aware that none of these amazing opportunities for children just happen. They are as a result of careful planning and hard work on behalf of our parents, amazing committee and the team of talented, dedicated and innovative teachers and Jo Anne our Kindergarten Administrator) I am proud to be part of this proactive community and highly motivated teaching team.

Thank you, Karen Leonard