

ECEexpressnews

E tipu e rea growing our future

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION WAITAKERE

ECE Waitakere network newsletter Spring/Summer 2011

kia ora

As a long-term member of the ECE Waitakere network since its very beginning,

I am asking for your support for the biggest whanau event held in West Auckland, the iconic Toddler Day Out and Great Parenting Fair event held on the first weekend of each March. The Waitakere region holds the "fourth highest early childhood population in New Zealand" is committed a key event in which organisations come face to face with a community eager to gain awareness and participate with their children.

Held on the weekend of Children's Day, it is full of free fun for families with under fives. For the early Childhood Sector it showcase for the value of early childhood education and showing the family the value of education and building on our 'learning society. It creates an opportunity to reach a large number of parents at a large friendly event. Up to 18,000 attended in 2010. These families join in with Violence Free Waitakere, SKIP, MOE, ECE Waitakere, Auckland City Council and the Trusts to have a great day. Feed back from many families tell us of their toddlers noticing the signs around the city prior to the day, urging their families to



go again. For the past 8 years, this occasion has grown to become one of the most widely known and loved family events locally and indeed nationally.

This is where Violence Free Waitakere need your support, promoting the value of early childhood education by offering great learning activities for children. If you have any cultural displays or art to share, health support, educational services or information on parenting, this is a prime time to reach the diverse cultures of our parents and families who have not necessarily formed any education choices. We have been keeping statistic to show the breakdown of attendees, and we have a large diverse catchment.

Violence Free Waitakere is committed to keeping the event happening, but we can't do it without your involvement and generous support... it is not only a great place for families to come, it is also a showcase of our deeply collaborative relationships as a community. That is perhaps our biggest treasure, which will resource us well into the future, for the sake of all our children!.

Elaine Dyer, Violence Free Waitakere



ECE network

The Waitakere Early Childhood Education

(ECE) Call to Action is a network of agencies and people passionate about the importance of the early childhood years and the significance of early childhood education and learning as a critical foundation for future development. The ECE Call to Action arose out of a community Summit convened by the former Waitakere City Council in 2002 when the inter-sectoral Waitakere Wellbeing Collaboration Project was established. Priority areas were identified for Calls to Action including Early Childhood Education (ECE)

with the objective 'Every child has access to a quality early childhood education'. What we do:

- Promote early childhood learning and development
- Advocacy and policy representation for our unique West Auckland community
- Advice, information and support to users and providers
- Integrating early years child education services
- Encouraging good practice, providing resources and PR tools

Next meeting: Wednesday 7 December, 9.30am at NZCA, Te Tar Puna Ora o Aoteroa, Henderson office, Montel St

professional development

Self Review Under The Microscope

In this practical, hands on course, we delve into the Self Review Guidelines, Nga Arohaehae Whai Hua, and set you on the road of undertaking a planned review. You will go away from this course:

- Understanding the four step process of self review
- With a self review question – to which you won't already know the answer!
- With a range of data gathering tools to begin gathering your data

Course includes lunch, refreshments and manuals.

Consultant: Karen Hayward

When: 29 November, 9.00am - 3.00pm

Where: Parnell Community Trust

Cost: \$220 plus GST, per person

Information: http://www.interlead.co.nz/ec_programmes/ECSelfReviewUnderTheMicroscope.htm

The Natural Phenomena

The 3rd annual "outdoor in nature" conference on nature education for the early childhood sector. This year we are showcasing the great work and innovative ways that we in New Zealand are educating within nature. We have an "exciting and inspiring line-up of key note speakers, inspirational speakers and workshop presenters.

Confirmed Key Note Speakers:

- Dr Rangimarie Turuki Rose Pere: CBE, CM, New Zealand
- Marcie Oltman, an Early Childhood Nature Education Specialist from Minneapolis, MN, USA.
- Toni & Robin Christie, Childspace Early Childhood Institute, Wellington, NZ..

When: 25-27th November 2011

Where: Kiripaki, just north of Whangarei

Cost: \$375 per person

Information: www.thenaturalphenomena.co.nz

Brainwave presentation

Why safety, consistency and nurturing in the first three years is so important. The Brainwave Trust is a not-for-profit organisation that delivers easy to understand presentations to parents, professionals and the wider community, using the latest scientific research on brain development.

When: Tuesday 30th November 2011, 7 - 9 pm

Where: Te Tari Puna Ora o Aotearoa/NZ Childcare Association
8 Montel Avenue,

Cost: \$5 per koha at door

Information: RSVP to Joanna Williamson: Ph 835 3719. Book early, limited places. Tea & coffee available from 6.30pm.

Plastic or Papatuanuku?

Plastic or Papatuanuku? Thinking outside the squares we live in. Is your outdoor area one filled with real, purposeful activity every day? Are children gardening and taking an active part in being responsible for the environment? Does your environment reflect the wonderful textures to be found in nature. Are you eating the food you grow? Come suitably dressed for the weather (gumboots, raincoat) and bring an empty plant pot. Workshop run by Alison Brierley

When: 7 December 2011, 1pm - 4.30pm

Where: Earth-Manner, 204 Oyster Point Rd, Kaukapakapa

Cost: \$90 members of ELP. \$100 non-members of ELP all prices are GST incl.

Information: More info at: www.elp.co.nz/EducationLeadershipProject_Auckland_Workshops.php

Educational Leadership

There are strong links between good leadership and quality in early childhood education. This workshop explores the importance professional teacher leadership in ECE. Drawing on current research this workshop encourages participants to reflect on what teacher leadership is, and how they can foster their own and other people's leadership potential. As part of the workshop participants will be encouraged to identify their personal leadership philosophy and the strengths they bring to their centre

When: Saturday 28 January 2012, 2pm to 6pm

Where: Geneva Education Training Room, 130 Quay Street, Auckland City

Cost: \$95+GST (ECC members), \$110+GST (non-members)

Information: <http://www.ecc.org.nz/>

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regional forum

Education forum in the west

More opportunities are needed to get education sector working together, so a West Auckland Education forum is being planned for 23 March 2012. We are looking for representatives of all sectors from ECE sector to join our planning team. Secondary and primary sectors all recognise the need for quality ECE and how it impacts on all of the following education. By combining teaching expertise via learning communities we can create community clusters that take responsibility for effective learning.

When: Planning meeting, 29 November 12 midday

Where: Auckland Council offices

Information: Chris McLean - WAPA 2020 Community Engagement Coordinator phone : 826 4276
email: Chris@ecomatters.org.nz

news Wot Wots giveaway with B4 school check

Waitemata children going for a B4 School Check will now get a free the WotWots book and sticker, thanks to a partnership between the Ministry of Health and Pukeko Pictures. The adventurous alien twosome are the new ambassadors for the Ministry's B4 School Checks. The partnership was launched in Wellington by Minister of Health Tony Ryall, and Weta Workshop's co-founder Sir Richard Taylor.

Anne Shepherd from Waitemata says she hopes the giveaway will make Waitemata's parents even more motivated to take their four year olds for a B4 School Check. "The B4 School Check is free, and includes an assessment of a child's hearing, eyesight, teeth and gums, height and weight, behaviour and development. It can pick up any health issues children have well before they start school, so those issues can be addressed. "Four year olds having a check now have the bonus of receiving a free the WotWots colouring-in, activity or board book and sticker."

Nationwide, over 100,000 children have had a B4 School Check. To find out more about having a B4 School Check in Waitemata, contact Anne Shepherd 0800 104 105 Press 2 or Jane Williams 448 0479

For further information Anne Shepherd 0800 104105 Press 2 or Jane Williams 448 0479

Leadership Programme, funded by the Ministry of Education

The Educational Leadership Project has been awarded the Ministry of Education contract (along with another provider, CORE Education Ltd) to deliver Leadership PD.

The overall aim of these programmes is to build pedagogical leadership within services in the following focus areas:

- Literacy and numeracy • Social competence • Infants and toddlers • Transitions

Expressions of Interest for our Leadership Cluster Programme are now open. Please send us your application by 15 December 2011.

A Leadership Inspiration Days Inspiration Day will be run in Auckland in 2012 and is designed to inspire and engage teachers. The aim is to provide possible pathways and processes to build a community of learners and to engage the teachers in self-directed professional development with a strong focus on pedagogical leadership. The Inspiration Day will run on Saturday from 9am-3pm and in the programme in Auckland will focus on Mathematics.

More information at: http://www.elp.co.nz/EducationLeadershipProject_moe_pd_elp_leadership.php

Encouraging parents to get involved

Do you know of families who could do with some support to engage with their preschool children's learning at home?

HIPPY (Home Interaction Programme for Parents and Youngsters) is a home-based programme which supports parents in becoming actively involved in their 3 to 5 year old children's learning. Parents and children work together using storybooks, puzzles and learning games which help children become successful learners at school. The work children and parents do together in their own home with the HIPPY materials is complemented by what they can gain from attending their local early childhood education.

Tutors, who do HIPPY with their own child, show the other parents what to do. They deliver a series of sixty activity workbooks through fortnightly home visits and group meetings. Parents then spend fifteen minutes a day, five days a week one on one with their child, doing the activities.

Children can begin HIPPY between 3 and 4 years of age and participate in the programme for two years. They can do HIPPY as well as attend any sort of daycare, pre-school, kindergarten or Playcentre and carry on when they start school.

HIPPY children settle into school quickly, love learning, feel good about themselves and are confident. HIPPY parents develop closer relationships with their children and discover ways to help them learn. They build on their parenting skills, grow in confidence and realise that they can do it!

"The HIPPY programme is really good. It gets children into the habit of working, and doing school work. They get good skills like using a pencil, cutting, drawing." Barbara Field, teacher in junior school.



learning at home

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West Auckland HIPPY contacts:

Ranui: Karen Loughnan Ph: 8338479 (Birdwood School)

Henderson South: Gaylene King-Turner Ph: 8384820 (McLaren Park Henderson South Community Initiative Inc.)

Royal Heights: Abi Kent Ph: 8380419 (Barnardos)

Kelston: Lynda Durbin Ph: 8134949 (St Leonards Rd Primary School)

media watch

What is happening with our disgraceful welfare of children?

In October, Brian Easton, Listener Economist columnist talks about welfare indicators for our children. Is New Zealand the best place in the world to bring up children? The economist David Grimmond's report, 'The Effectiveness of Public Investment in New Zealand Children', suggests we are well behind. In this report the economic cost to the New Zealand economy of poor child outcomes is of the order of 3 percent of GDP (approximately \$6 billion). This includes increased health, welfare, remedial education, crime and justice expenditure and lower productivity. Brian Easton calls New Zealand "an international disgrace". What should we do? The Every Child Counts coalition wants us to focus on the first thousand days of life.

Read the article here: <http://www.listener.co.nz/current-affairs/economy/nz-child-welfare-a-disgrace/>

research

Consumerism & children

After the looting that occurred in Britain this year, Agnes Nairn, a UNICEF report author, researcher and marketing expert has shown that more consumer goods are not the answer, instead, British parents need to spend more time with their families. Compared to Sweden & Spain, who have less of an impact in both advertising and consumerism, than British parents. Agnes was interviewed by Kathryn Ryan on Nine to Noon, Monday 7th November revealed that Parents are showering their children with toys and designer labels in a cycle of compulsive consumerism. Children wanted more hours spent within each family, not indulgent goods but parents are working long hours and finding it easier to buy toys. Lower socio economic families are borrowing to get toys for children so their children do not get bullied by "not having the right stuff." The children were asked in the research "What makes a really good day?" and most responses were 'being with the family'.

Listen to the interview here: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon/20111107>

Assessment in New Zealand early childhood settings: A proposal to change from Learning Stories to Learning Notes

Although Learning Stories are widely used in New Zealand early childhood settings, there are doubts about the effectiveness of this assessment technique. A different approach to assessing young children, known as Learning Notes, is introduced in this article. Unlike Learning Stories, Learning Notes do not follow a story format or focus on dispositions to learn. Learning Notes can be used to provide an accurate

description of an event, an interpretation of the learning that occurred, and ideas for future learning.

Quite a few centres have contacted Ken to say that they are using Learning Notes so the article may be of interest. The article is freely available on the Unitec Research Bank at the following link.

<http://unitec.researchbank.ac.nz/handle/10652/1601>

Early Childhood Folio Vol. 15 No. 1 (2011)

The current edition of Early Childhood Folio contains articles to inform, provoke and challenge early childhood practitioners. There are research findings on how early childhood teachers support children's scientific learning, children's strategies for joining in play, and lessons on how teachers can co-construct games of chase. One article based on close observation of children's social interactions poses the question:

at what point would you intervene? Another explores the experiences of same-gender families in early childhood settings.

Research topics in this issue include:

Topic: Early childhood, Implementing New Zealand Curriculum: "Dust under the whāriki: Embracing the messiness of curriculum" **Author:** E. Jayne White

Topic(s): Early childhood/ Science education: "Learning scientific knowledge from and with others" **Author:** Kayte Edwards

Topic: Early childhood "Can I play? Children's participation strategies in early childhood settings" **Author:** Brent Mawson

Topic(s): Early childhood/Student well-being: "To intervene, or not to intervene, that is the question" **Author:** Amanda Bateman

Topic(s): Early childhood/Implementing New Zealand Curriculum: "Exploring games of chase in the early childhood curriculum" **Author:** Hanin Hussain

Topic: Early childhood; "Matching parents' efforts: How teachers can resist heteronormativity in early education settings" **Author(s):** Alexandra C. Gunn, Nicola Surtees

Publisher: NZCER (New Zealand Council for Educational Research) Press **Price:** \$ 18.50 **More information:** <http://www.nzcer.org.nz/nzcerpress/early-childhood-folio/early-childhood-folio-vol-15-no-1-2011>

Topic: Early childhood/Education assessment and evaluation (2010) **Author:** Blaiklock, Ken



advocacy New resources to help children and young people have their say

Many of you will already know about the Green Paper and how you can share your ideas on what should happen for vulnerable children

The Government wants to hear from all New Zealanders – including children and young people.

Two new resources have been developed to support adults who work with children and young people to:

- run a discussion with children and young people on some of the issues in the Green Paper
- help children and young people to record their own ideas simply and easily and submit them
- make links with Te Whariki and the New Zealand Curriculum.

These resources will be useful for anyone who wants to hear the ideas of children and young people including teachers, youth group leaders, after school care and school holiday providers, religious group leaders and cultural group leaders.

You can easily download the resources by going to www.childrensactionplan.govt.nz and looking at the resources page.

No submission is too small to be considered. A submission can be a few sentences or a collection of comments from a group – it doesn't have to be a formal document.

Submissions can be made by email, completing the freepost form that can be downloaded from the website, writing a letter, posting comments on Facebook, following Twitter or via the 'Have your say' section of the webpage.

Please think about how you can support children and young people to have their say. Spread the message to other groups in your community that you know and work with – marae, church groups, sports clubs and other local meeting places.

The importance of early childhood is also well documented in research. Eighty per cent of a child's brain function develops in the first three years of life. In the period from birth to three years, both positive and adverse events will most impact on how children are "wired". This can impact on how they go on to function as adolescents and adults.

Internationally, the importance of children and their childhoods is recognised by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC). UNCROC sets out basic rights for everyone under 18 and underpins this document.

All New Zealanders are urged to have their say by making a submission before 28 February 2012.

For more information and also to Download the Green Paper for Vulnerable Children in other languages: (Māori, Samoan, Tongan) <http://www.childrensactionplan.govt.nz/>



Wellbeing Summit

A collaboration event about creating a community of action. A day of exploring, listening, talking, debating and coming together. Advocating for our ECE sector amongst many other community projects.

Be part of our ECE Waitakere open space workshop - taking the time to explain what matters to us. We hope new calls to action will evolve from workshops run throughout the day.

Who will be there:

- Community workers
- Local government
- Central government
- Residents
- Locality-based projects
- Local organisations.

Venue: Kelston Community Centre.

Time: 9am - 3pm

For more information: mandy@communitywaitakere.org.nz

To help with ECE Waitakere: enquiries@ece-express.co.nz

101 ways to live wisely

giveaways

Back by popular demand, the Lifewise '101 Ways to Live Wisely' poster is now available.

They are A2 size and folded. They are a great resource for services to have, and a good give away for families. They can be seen online at:

<http://www.lifewise.org.nz/Content/Files/User/101-ways-poster.pdf>

Please feel free to circulate widely as they have plenty to give away!

To obtain copies: Allimunt, Service Manager, Lifewise 09 302 5391 Email: allim@lifewise.org.nz

