

Busy C's Preschool, 39 Voelas Rd, LYTTTELTON. Ph: 328 8211

*Where Learning and Development Sails Ahead*

March 11, 2011

Two & a half weeks post ~~Canterbury's earthquake~~. What a crazy, unbelievable experience.

We are so pleased Busy C's came through it strongly - the building has held up brilliantly, only a few cracks.. and the kaiako were amazing on the day - so very professional, calm and caring looking after our children beautifully ensuring they were safely collected. We appreciated the support of those who were around at the time and stayed to help with the evacuation to the bottom flat at Lyttelton West School (our Civil Emergency Sector Post).

The kaiako are keen now to get back to preschool and get into the routine *gorgeousness* of a Busy C's day - some normality to support and settle us all. They are so very keen to catch up with you - our Busy C's whanau, and to support you in your individual situations. There are so many challenges and we have been thinking of your personal losses, along with our community losses.

We open again this Monday (March 14). Engineers from both the school and the preschool arm of the Ministry of Education have been through, and the Geo-tech engineers. As a precaution, and on instruction from the Ministry, we have had a concrete chimney brought down to ceiling height and also had some bracing secured to the retaining wall adjacent to the preschool.

It was such a scary experience for everyone, especially those of you who were in the thick of destruction - and nothing fuels panic more than not being sure where your loved ones are or how they have fared. Please, it is essential that everyone ~~checks their child's enrolment forms~~ to ensure their contact details are up to date. I am aware Bethan took the job of phoning whanau as soon as she could once the children were safely evacuated, and contacted "emergency contacts" if she was unable to get hold of the parents/guardians - I hoped this provided some help - although am aware not everyone was able to use their phones... I followed up with email updates over these weeks of closure and found a few addresses to be defunct. We appreciate your most up-to-date details.

Please familiarise yourself with Busy C's *Earthquake Policy*.

Be rest assured in any crisis, that Busy C's kaiako will keep your children safely with us until such time whanau can collect them. There are strong and secure buildings in Lyttelton in which to gather with our supportive community - the Rec Centre has proved itself in this crisis. (Busy C's proved strong also).

Aroha nui to you all. Kia kaha - stand strong. From the Busy C's team - Caro, James, Bethan, Suzanne, Sam, Anneli, Michelle, & Kirsten

