

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

*Where Learning and Development Sails Ahead*

February 7, 2011

*Hāere māi* and welcome back to Busy C's for 2011. It's been a fabulous start with some wonderful weather and a great team of kaiako, children, and whanau. It is a privilege to be part of such an amazing learning community.

Firstly, kia ora to those people who returned the 2010 ~~Questionnaires~~. We really appreciate the feedback and please don't hesitate to return them at this stage. It appears you are all aware we encourage you to add stories or comments regarding your child's interests and learning in their Individual Profile Books (IPBs), it's just a matter of finding time. If we can help in any way - sometimes it is easier to work on the computer & email a story or photo to us [busycs@xtra.co.nz](mailto:busycs@xtra.co.nz), or maybe we can write something on your behalf - or just a signature will signify you are aware of your child's profile book documenting the learning & development occurring...

Suggestions you made for Parent evening topics are around behaviour guidance, which is always popular as strategies evolve with the different stages of development - this we will organise, and please tap in to the kaiako (teachers) knowledge and resources we have available.

There was a call for more clarity around accounts.. We do request fees are paid in advance and a direct debit works well: Busy Cs a/c details: 020864 0062858 00. James provides an account statement if there is money outstanding, and upon request, which he puts in your child's "pocket" beside the front door. He is happy to be phoned to help with any individual queries. Thanks again for your responses.

As we have discussed, the ~~government has reduced the funding~~ significantly, as from February 2011, for preschools employing over 80% qualified teachers. We believe in the importance of having a qualified team (who have all dedicated themselves to at least three years study in this unique area of education) working and supporting each other as professionals - for the benefit of each child, each whanau, and society as a whole. At Busy C's we pride ourselves in employing the best kaiako to work with our children - and to work as a team of professionals with a shared understanding and philosophy of early childhood and education, and we only employ the most wonderful and qualified people... This we plan to continue.

A reminder of the new fee structure as of February 1, 2011:

Full week (Monday - Friday)	\$ 210.00
Full day (8:00am - 5:30pm, or part of)	\$ 50.00
9:00am - 3:00pm	\$ 45.00
Half day (8 - 12:30, 1:00 - 5:30, or part of)	\$ 29.50
Casual hourly rate:	\$ 10.00/hr

**All fees are to be**

**paid in advance.**  
20 govt funded ECE hours per week (maximum 6 hours per day) are available to 3 & 4 year olds - please ask for application form.



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

One of our huge strengths at Busy C's is our **enriching integrated environment** - encouraging children of all ages to learn alongside each other (*Te Whaariki: Contribution: Goal 1: There are equitable opportunities for learning, irrespective of age, ethnicity, gender, ability or background*). Our *Philosophy* celebrates the **tukana/teina** relationship - as older children learn from younger ones, just as the younger ones learn from their elders.



We encourage talk that affirms **preschool is a place for our older children**. We have always been an alternative choice to the kindergarten system, or been able to compliment it. Many families over the years have enjoyed both places - as we deliver the same curriculum in very different settings. We hear reports that when whanau discuss a dual arrangement with our local kindergarten they have been discouraging that choice, believing children should be enrolled at one place or the other as they are at primary school. We have talked with the kinde on their recent stance and agree that dual settings may be an issue if a child has trouble settling - but we believe our children capable of benefiting from both environments, should they want to, which offer different experiences and relationships. We have invited the kinde teachers up to see how we work, and look forward to their visit and further discussion. Unfortunately some of our older children have felt pressure from talk suggesting "preschool is for babies" and we would appreciate support to correct this talk if you hear it - reiterating Busy C's is for children right up until they go off to school... and then some even return during their school holidays they love it so...



A reminder that the outing to **Science Alive** is on Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Michelle has been discussing the details with you, and thank you for your enthusiasm and offers of help. The older children have been enjoying "memory games" with Michelle- *Kim's Game*, memorising cards for matching, working out who's hiding under the blanket by remembering who was present & now missing... It's good for us all!

Please be mindful when **visiting with new babies** to keep watch over them. We are concerned when they are left in their carseats on the floor or on tables and no-one is supervising them...

Ka kite & all the best, from the Busy C's team-  
Bethan, Suzanne, Sam, Michelle, Anneli, Tristan, James & Caro (& Mira Stanton- a final year student enjoying her placement with us)

