

The James St Preschool
5 James St
Redcliffs
Christchurch
3819008

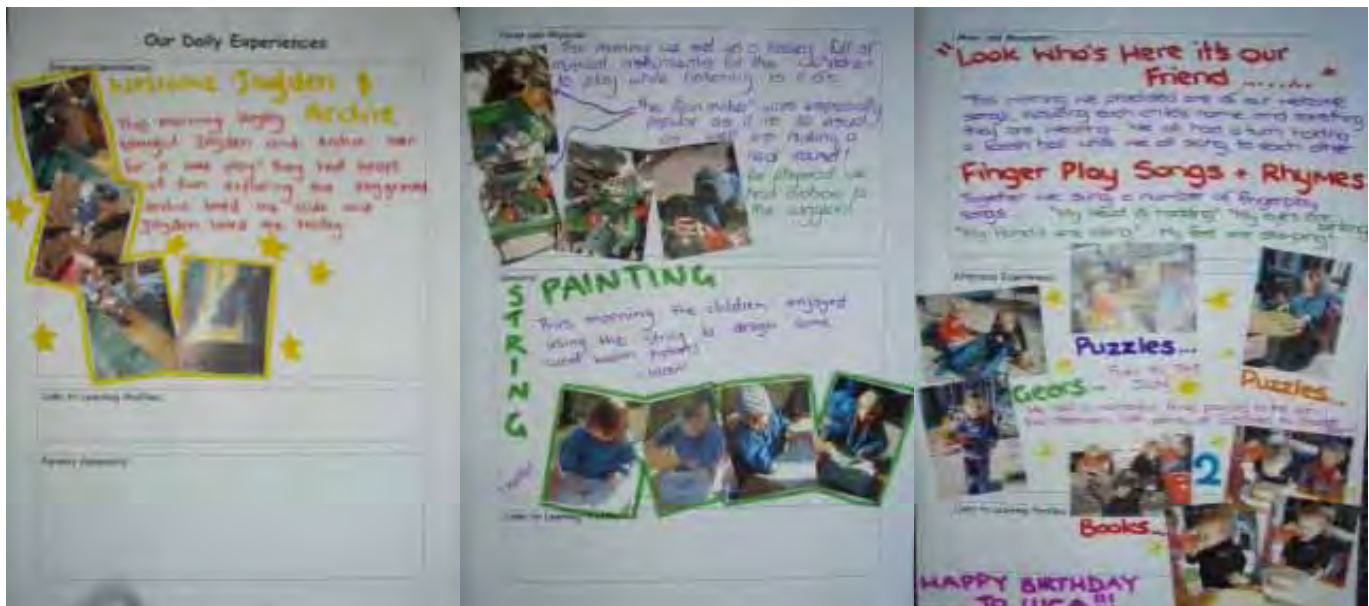


The James St Junior School
156 Main Road
Redcliffs
Christchurch
3819008

www.jamesstpreschool.co.nz

September 2007

Our new Programme Planning



On Monday 2nd July 2007 we began using a new style of programme planning (as seen in the above example from Junior School). This new planning display is set up to be a much more visual experience to allow parents to actually see what their children have been doing throughout the day with the use of photos under the different curriculum areas that are covered. It is now a good talking point for parents and their children at the end of their day as they can look at the photos together and discuss what the children have been doing.

It is now our aim to encourage parents/family/whanau to give us feedback and comments on the planning sheets in the space provided. It is important to us to get this feedback as it helps us in our day to day planning and evaluation, as well as ensuring that children's interests are followed through between home and preschool. Below are some examples of feedback you may use to help get you started.

Parents may wish to write things such as:

- *It is nice to see Marjorie joining in with painting experiences as she does enjoy painting at home as well.*
- *Joseph really likes dancing to the Wiggles at home, this may also be something he will like do with his peers at Preschool.*

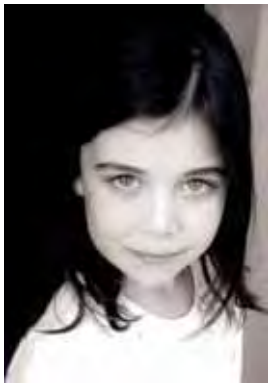
- *I am glad to hear that Kelly is learning computer skills at preschool as she is beginning to show an interest in this at home as well.*
- *Each day on our way to preschool Sam points out the horses that we drive past. It is nice that the teachers have noticed this and including animals in their focus for the month.*

In our planning we have also included a section for the emergent curriculum. This area is for those interests and experiences that are not always predictable. The emergent curriculum is not something that teachers plan in advance for children to experience it comes entirely from children in their general play. An example of the emergent curriculum is a child who shows an interest in animals. This is then picked up by the teachers who will find books, puzzles, a whole variety of things that will help to extend on the child's interest as soon as they can. How this is approached will depend on the age of the child and their level of understanding and skills.

It takes a lot of practice for teachers to be aware of teachable moments in which they can assist children to extend this dimension of their play.

Staff are still required to plan experiences based on our daily programme in relation to the current focus(es). This planning is aimed at helping the children to develop greater skills, knowledge and understanding as our ultimate goal is to help all children become competent and confident learners.

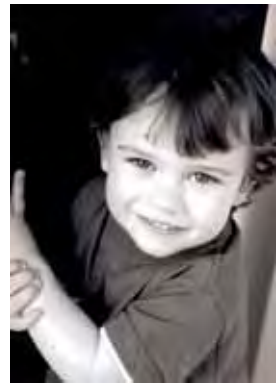
We all hope that you are enjoying becoming familiar with our planning, and we look forward to your comments and feedback.



CHILDREN'S PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS:

Penny Nichols, who is a professional photographer of children, will be in both preschools taking black and white photos of the children while they are busy playing. She will be visiting on Mon 8th Oct through to Fri 12th Oct. The cost for each photo will be \$13.00. If your child/ren doesn't attend on these days at these times then you are more than welcome to bring them along and stay while Penny takes photographs of them. You can also view some of her snapshots beside the signing in register. Penny's photos have proven extremely popular in past years with many parents purchasing these for Xmas gifts.

As soon as the photos are developed they will be available for viewing and ordering if you wish.



Penny Nichols will be at preschool:	
Mon 8 th Oct to Fri 12 th Oct	9:30 – 11:00 & 12:30 – 2:00
Tues 9 th Oct (for sibling photos)	3:00 – 4:30



WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES:

Sam Chittock	Saskia Clarke
Callum Gard	Madison Hamilton
Quinn Jarvis	Logan Looms
Renee Maddigan	Charlie McIntosh
Ella Pickering	Charlie Raine
Jackson Robb	Aneira Salt
Nico Solodi	Finn Timmermans

GOOD LUCK TO:

Alejandro Ballard	Scarlet Bown
Max Hill	Roy Kim
Troy Maddigan	Jada Morris
Kynan Salt	

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Rachel, Dean & Bailee Atkinson on the birth of Paige.
April, Bruce, Chase & Rock McLaren on the birth of Karina.
Paula, Adrian & Georgia Raine on the birth of Charlie.
Adrian, Jennifer & Rico Gamble on the birth of Zara.
Sonya, Jonathan & Libby Gillespie on the birth of Keira.
Wendy and Halle Hamilton on the birth of Madison.

STAFF:



It is with huge sadness that we will be farewelling Brydee from the preschool area at the end of September. Brydee has been with The James St Preschool for the last eight years. During this time she has taught the 4 -5 year olds as well as holding the position of Assistant Supervisor prior to returning from maternity leave. We have been expecting Brydee to leave for the last four years since the time her and husband Cheesy finished building their home at Loburn. We never anticipated that Brydee could sustain travelling over two hours every day, especially with two children. Finally she has made the move and accepted a teaching position only minutes from her home. This will allow her more time to spend in her local

community and allow Payton and Archer to meet more children that they will be going to school with.



Jenny Woodbury is also leaving us to take up a nursery position close to her home in Bishopdale. We also wish to express our thanks to Jenny for all that she has done over the last eight years at The James St Preschool, especially for her time spent in the nursery both as a teacher and later as the Team Leader. Those of you whose children are a little older will well remember the outstanding care Jenny provided to the nursery babies before taking maternity leave. Jenny later returned to a teaching position working with the 2½ - 5 year olds.

We know Jenny will appreciate spending less time on the road and more time with her family.

While it is tremendously sad to see Brydee and Jenny move on, we are extremely grateful for the time they have given to The James St Preschool. We know they will be sadly missed by staff, children and parents alike.

Murray and Tonia would especially like to acknowledge the tremendous amount of dedication and commitment Brydee & Jenny have given over the last five years. Many of the successes commented on in our last ERO review were a direct reflection of the leadership Brydee showed in her time as Assistant Supervisor and Jenny in her time as Team Leader of the Nursery.

We will keep you informed via the whiteboards as soon as we have finalised Brydee and Jenny's replacements.



Congratulations to Sonia & Dion for their big wedding day on Sat 1st Sept. They will be spending two weeks in Thailand honeymooning and Sonia will be returning as Sonia Parsons-Hill.

Congratulations to Rebecca McIvor on the completion of her Diploma of Teaching and obtaining NZ Teachers Council Registration.



FOCUSES:

Nursery: The nursery children are continuing with their focuses from the previous month as they are still interested in animals, and bringing in photos of their families. This focus has created a lot of interest in the nursery as the children are excited to see photos of their families and pets that they can share with their peers.

Junior School: The children at Junior School are showing a lot of interest in music, dancing and instruments at the moment. This has come from staff providing a wide range of musical experiences and Gary using his guitar here a lot lately, which the children all enjoyed.

Preschool: The preschool children have shown a lot of different interests lately. The staff have included encouraging social awareness through puppetry and props. Scientific discovering through substance play. Natural changes in weather. Dinosaurs in their natural habitat, fate, and their characteristics, and letter and phonics recognition. This large variety of focuses has come from staff observations, and from children's play.

2007/2008 FEES:

It is with huge reluctance that we will have to increase our fees on the 5th November 2007. Our hourly fee will increase from \$7.00 per hour to \$7.50 per hour. Our daily maximum fee will increase from \$40 to \$45.

There will be no change at all to the Free ECE Optional Charge. This means that our fees will not change for any three or four year old attending 20 or fewer hours. Any three or four year old attending more than 20 hours will also see minimal change to their fees as the daily charge is averaged across the whole day. For example a four year old attending eight hours in one day at the moment and receiving six hours free ECE is currently paying \$10 plus \$12 optional charge (if agreed to). From the 5th November this child's fees would be \$11.25 plus \$12 optional charge (if agreed to).

We have experienced significant cost increases over the last two years since our fees were last increased. In particular we are operating in an

extremely challenging labour market. Registered Early Childhood Teachers have never been in such short supply. This situation is worsening as all preschools are required to have a minimum of 50% of their teachers ECE Trained and Registered from 31st December this year. We are determined to maintain our commitment to having 100% of our ratioed teaching staff trained and registered, as well as only employing teachers of the highest standard possible. Failure to maintain the 100% target would not only affect the quality of education and care we deliver but also the rate that the Ministry of Education subsidise the 20 Hours Free ECE. This would also challenge the viability of continuing with the scheme. We have seen our staffing costs increase by more than 30% over the last two years in line with our commitment to honouring full pay parity with kindergarten, primary and secondary teachers, for all of our teaching staff.

POLICY REVIEW:

We are currently reviewing the following policies:

September	October
First Aid	Health & Safety
Sleep Facilities, Bedding & Monitoring	Sun Protection
	Equal Employment Opportunities

These policies will be displayed on the whiteboard as you enter both preschools. Please feel free to make comments on the comment sheet next to the policies.

REMI NDERS:

Children's drop off and pick up times.

It is important that children are not dropped off early or picked up late, and that the correct time must be entered on the rolls not just their booked times as staff are often having to stay past their finishing time at the end of the day but parents are not entering the correct time. It is a requirement of our licence agreement with the Ministry of Education that correct staff/child ratios and total licence numbers are adhered to at all times.

Junior School Driveway

Could parents please be courteous to others who are using the Junior School drive especially at peak times in the morning and evening. Please wait for others to come up before going down as it is hard for people to get out at the end of the drive.

IS YOUR CHILD TURNING THREE?

Please ensure that you have completed a Ministry of Education Attestation form at least one week prior to your child turning three. There is a sample form at preschool to assist you in completing all areas of this form correctly.

If you receive a Work and Income Subsidy, you should still complete an Attestation Form. Most parents will be better off claiming their entitlement of Free ECE and then claiming Work and Income Subsidies for any hours over six per day or 20 per week. We will contact you if you are better off just continuing on a Work and Income Subsidy. It is the parents' responsibility to notify Work & Income of any Free ECE hours being received so they can adjust the subsidy accordingly.

If you change your child's booking on a **permanent** basis you will be required to complete a change of details form (as you do now), as well as an amendment to your attestation form (if receiving free ECE). Each Attestation Form has space for up to three changes to your child's hours.

If you change your child's hours on a **casual** basis you do not need to complete a change of details form. However if you wish to claim Free ECE for the casual hours (assuming you have Free ECE hours left in that week), you will need to make two amendments to your attestation form. In one line you will need to show the hours you wish to claim for the week of the casual booking. In the next line you will need to show the original hours being claimed again.

CHALK FUNDRAISER:

Once again we will be taking part in the Chalk Preschool Fundraiser. Many of you have found this promotion great for purchasing some of your Xmas presents. The preschool receives equipment to the value of 20% of all orders places.

If you do wish to make an order, please return your order form and payment to the payments box by Wed 19th Sept. Please do not combine chalk order payments with preschool payments.

PIRATES OF THE SUMNER REGION



Performed by the Children of the Sumner
Performing Arts Centre

At the Sumner Community Centre

On Saturday 22nd September 2pm

And Sunday 23rd September 2pm

**Entrance by koha
Come support your local
community**

Kind regards to you all,

Tonia, Murray, Tracy, Brydee, Gary, Emma, Sally, Jo, Jenny, Vanessa, Rebecca McIvor, Hayley, Kylie, Sarah, Teryl, Sonia, Rebecca van der Kley, Denise, Kay & Sharyn.