

The James St Preschool
5 James St
Redcliffs
Christchurch
3819008



The James St Junior School
156 Main Road
Redcliffs
Christchurch
3819008

April / May 2008



BRAINWAVES PRESENTATION

Thursday 3rd April

After a brief introduction, Nathan Mikaere-Wallis from the Brainwaves Trust began his research based presentation on the development of the brain. He emphasised that the development of a young child's brain was dependant on positive interactions and repetition.

In the past it was believed that intellect in later life was mostly dependant on the genes. Latest research is showing that early experiences particularly in the first three years of a child's life are critical for building and shaping a child's brain. An average three year olds brain is twice more active than an adults! Nathan indicates brain development is 30% nature (genes) and 70% nurture (interactions and experiences).

For the first three years of a child's life children actively gather data from interactions with others and experiences, these are then hardwired to the brain. All learning that has been hardwired by the age of three lasts for a lifetime; all other learning that has not been reinforced or used by this time is 'pruned away' by the brain.

Neurons in the brain are ignited by interactions and experiences like a spark of electricity. This spark begins to make connections (or pathways) within the brain as it develops, but these can only be strengthened by repetition. By repeating an action (on average) 90 times a child adds a fatty layer of insulation (myelin) around each connection which establishes it within the brain. Negative interactions and experiences have a detrimental effect on the connections within a child's brain. These types of experiences release a stress hormone that strips away the insulation (myelin) and sub sequentially kills the neurons. But "It is never too late to change the life and world of a child!" Even though these connections may be 'pruned' they can be reformed but they will not be as strong as the connections made in the first three years.

Words such as "NO!", "DON'T" and "STOP!" all release the stress hormone but are essential if a child needs to be warned about dangers and kept safe! Behaviours need to be reinforced with positive language - such as telling them what you want them to do, not what you don't want them to do! Describing behaviours has more power as it allows a child to make a specific picture of the actions that you want them to do. Solid relationships and quality care giving are also vital components in the first three years. It has been proven that learning is relationship and language based as speaking, hearing, seeing and generating words effects different areas of the brain. So immerse your child in language! Another essential ingredient is endorphins - singing, laughing and physical exercise release the most endorphins!

So by the end of the evening what did we all learn? The experiences and interactions that a child has within the first three years of life, builds a foundation for future learning. Learning is not solely based on biology but the opportunities that are provided in early childhood.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES:

Torah Bradshaw	Klarissa Campbell
Blake Cornish	Niko Docking
Axel Ellis	Cameron Gilmore
Thomas Harvey	Charlie Hoban
Sam Le Lievre	Greer Lucas
Jasmine McCoy	Charlie Oliver
Jasper Sharp	Ethan Wong

We are delighted to have been able to appoint Clair McConchie. Clair replaces Emma teaching the 3½ - 4 year olds. Clair was highly recommended to us by several of our existing staff who have worked with her in the past. Clair has a Diploma of Teaching in Early Childhood Education and is a Registered Teacher. She has seven years experience in Early Childhood Education.

FARWELL TO:

Thomas Barker	Thomas Beesley
Sophia Gould	Holly O'Loughlin
Bailee Pickering	Luca Warnock



Kylie finally departs on 17th April for obvious reasons. Kylie will be taking sixteen weeks maternity leave and will be returning in August. We wish Kylie all the best and look forward to announcing the details of the new addition to the

Bettridge family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Kirsten, Glen, Bella and Lucy Hansen-Ratter on the birth of Jack.

Wendi Hamilton who won the monthly wine draw, for contributing to our programme planning sheets. The feedback we receive is extremely helpful in assisting with our planning processes.

Sarah Wolfe will be taking over Kylie's Team Leader responsibilities at the Junior School for eight weeks. Teryl Sullivan will then undertake these responsibilities for the remaining eight weeks.

STAFF:

Most of you have probably already met Jo South our new cook on a Mon, Tues and Wed. Jo hardly needs any introduction at all. Jo has been widely involved in the Redcliffs - Sumner community for many years, particularly in catering and hospitality roles. We are obviously delighted to be able to have Jo join our staff.



Sally Maynard will be taking over Kylie's teaching duties for the whole sixteen weeks. Sally has had considerable experience working with this age group and is looking forward to spending some time at Junior School.



Emma Dawson has taken up a position much closer to her home with the Christchurch City Council at their QEII preschool. We wish Emma all the best in her new job.



Jo Boyer will be taking over Sally's group for the sixteen weeks that Kylie is away. Jo has

worked extensively with this age group and we have already increased our face painting budget in preparation.

Congratulations to Jess Teale who has completed her Diploma of Teaching in Early Childhood Education. Jess will now commence her two year programme to become a fully registered teacher.



THANK YOU:

To Jonathan Gillespie, Isabella Brindley and Alex Jennings for donating wood for the carpentry tables.

To Marshall Blakey and his Dad for saving a lost and neglected rabbit and donating it to preschool. The rabbit has been named Packa and had taken well to his new surroundings.

Thanks to Wendi Hamilton and Michelle McSoriley for helping with the preschool trip to the Aquarium. The children thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of the fish as well as the ride to town on the bus.



Thanks also to all of the families who make regular contributions of newspaper, boxes and plastic bags.

NURSERY NEWS:

Over the next month the Nursery babies will be incorporating heuristic play as well as working on developing fine motor skills.

Tonia and Murray have begun work with an architect to look at building a new Nursery at Junior School. This will improve accessibility for parents with babies as well as having a dedicated outdoor play area for the babies. Other advantages include only having to transition children once from Junior School to preschool. Also we will then be able to use the old nursery as a staffroom / staff work area and also an extension area for the 3 - 5 year olds. We will keep you informed as these developments progress throughout the year.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS:

This month we have been focusing on an interest in space rockets that came from Zakiya, and was soon taken on by many more children. As well as touching on Easter as many children were aware of what was going to happen because of older brothers and sisters. We have also been providing a range of props which encourage the children to use their imaginations to create a play situation, this came from Bruno one day bringing in a stick from home which he said was his fishing rod. Bruno's fishing rod set off a whole lot of imaginative play which is still continuing in the Junior school playground.

Our biggest change at Junior School this month has been the addition of our new family play equipment this week. Tonia and Kylie spent many an hour agonising over many different catalogues looking at equipment. We finally decided on a Kitchen unit which has an oven and microwave one side, and a dishwasher and sink on the other side, and a separate refrigerator. To complete this new equipment we also have some new food, cups and saucers etc. The children have taken to it immediately and there always seems to be somebody in there now, it is great to see it so popular straight away.

PRESCHOOL NEWS:

Over the past weeks the preschool children have enjoyed a new addition to the preschool rabbit hutch - "Packa". To coincide with the new rabbit

the children have also participated in enhancing the hutch and contributing to the care routines. Sea creatures have also dominated the programme with the children actively exploring their individual characteristics and using art experiences to express their ideas. The highlight of the month though has been preparations for Easter and an Easter Egg hunt! At the end of the month the children also farewelled Emma who had been a significant member of the preschool teaching team.

Sea creatures - the children will continue to explore and extend their knowledge of sea creatures. It has been very evident with the varied opportunities to discover their physical characteristics, habitat, eating habits, and the organised trip to the aquarium that preschool should continue to explore the creatures from the sea.

Rabbits - the children will also continue to explore and extend their knowledge of the rabbits, particularly the new rabbit "Packa". Environmental enhancements have been made such as the tunnel revamp, food pots and the planting of carrots for the rabbits.



POLICY REVIEW:

We are currently reviewing the following policies:

April	May
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Administration of Medicines	Hygienic Changing
Children with Conditions	Toileting
	Informing Parents about their Child's Day

2008/2009 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS:

The 2008/2009 Entertainment books are selling very fast.

If you have already paid for a book then your order has been confirmed.

We have a limited number of books remaining. Please secure your books by completing the form at the back of this newsletter and returning to the payments box at preschool or Junior School. Cheque, Visa and Mastercard payments are accepted. You can also purchase a book by adding the cost to your child's account. Just indicate this on the order form or e-mail Murray at saltm@xtra.co.nz indicating your child's name and the number of books you require. Entertainment Books will be available from your child's teacher on 19th May 2008.

ON THE HUNT:

Kerry and Tonia are on the lookout for any old jewels, precious gem/stones, shells, artificial leaves/flowers etc to add to their gem collection. These will be used for a staff teambuilding evening to make concrete paved stones to replace the old ones and enhance the secret garden in the playground.

We would be most grateful for anything that you think we could put to good use.

NEW EQUIPMENT:

New family play equipment will be arriving soon for the main playroom (big room). The whitewear play equipment has been moved into the log cabin and is proving very popular. Gary has also made a ledge and placed perspex on some of the windows, so the children can play shops in the cabin.





CHILD CARE TAX REBATES:

The James St Preschool and Junior School will be posting out Tax Receipts for preschool fees paid between 1st April 2007 and 31st March 2008. These will be posted on the 7th April 2008.

You can claim a rebate if you:

- earned taxable income (such as salary or wages, benefit or self-employed income) during the year you're claiming for
- were resident in New Zealand at any time during that tax year (including non-residents)
- are an individual (not a company, trust or partnership), and

your child was under 18 or unable to work because of a disability, and:

- you were a single parent, or
- you and your partner were both receiving income which had tax deducted (this doesn't apply to couples who are separated), or
- you or your partner were disabled or physically unable to care for your child.

Exception: You can't claim this rebate if you live in a communal home, such as a rest home or a hospice.

The maximum Tax Rebate you can claim is \$940. This will result in a Tax Refund of \$310. If you claimed this rebate last year you will automatically receive a claim form from IRD. If not you can get a claim form by phoning IRD on 0800 227 774 or visit www.ird.govt.nz and type childcare into the search function.

Rebate forms can be downloaded directly at

<http://www.ird.govt.nz/resources/file/eb3af40c9444c1b/ir526-2008.pdf>

If you have lost your tax receipt please e-mail



Murray at saltm@xtra.co.nz and we will reply with a replacement receipt.

Changes to Work and Income subsidy levels came into force on 1st April 2008.

If you have*	And your family's weekly income before tax is less than	Your subsidy per hour is
1 child	\$1,200	\$3.51
	\$1,300	\$2.44
	\$1,400	\$1.35
2 children	\$1,380	\$3.51
	\$1,490	\$2.44
	\$1,600	\$1.35
3+ children	\$1,540	\$3.40
	\$1,670	\$2.36
	\$1800	\$1.35

What are the maximum hours for a subsidy?

If you are in work or study, or if you have special circumstances that mean you need access to childcare, you can get:

- A Childcare Subsidy for up to 50 hours a week

Special circumstances might mean, for example, that you need to care for a sick partner, or that you need to attend regular medical treatment for yourself. If you are not in work or study you can get a Childcare Subsidy for up to nine hours a week.

* Number of children is the total number of children in your family aged under 16 (or under 18 and attending school)

For more information or an application form
please see Tonia
or contact Work and Income on 0800 774 004

www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz

BOOKED TIMES:

All parents must ensure that
children are not dropped off
before, or picked up later
than their booked times.

It is essential that this is adhered to at all times. One child arriving early or leaving late can put us in a position of breaching Ministry of Education mandatory staff-child ratios. It may also place us in a position of breaching local council LIM requirements at certain times of the day.

While staff are very accommodating at working on when this occurs we cannot keep relying on this goodwill. The Ministry of Education carries out spot checks of ECE centres. If we were found to have one child too many on our premises we would immediately lose our licence to operate a preschool and would only get this back if we could convince the Secretary of Education that we had put in place adequate steps in to ensure future compliance.

If you need to extend your booked hours then this must be agreed to with Tonia, Kylie, Vanessa or Tracy.

A charge of \$1.00 per minute will be added to any child's account who is present outside of their booked times.



STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

All staff regularly attend professional development courses as part of the preschool appraisal system. Attending professional development is a key aspect to teachers being able to renew their registration practicing certificates each three years.

Date	Course/ Topic	Who Offered Course	Staff Attending
8 th Mar	The Importance of Communication 0 - 2 years	Rosemary Hargraves For Zero to Five	Elleke
10 th Mar	More than Just Routine	Miriam McCaleb For Zero to Five	Teryl
26 th Mar	Felt Board Story Workshop	Liz Weir For Zero to Five	Elleke Teryl
9 th Apr	Individual temperaments of Infants & Toddlers	Miriam McCaleb For Zero to Five	Elleke
12 th Apr	Brains Buzz & Bodies Bop	Kids Music Company - Gill Connell Janet Channon	Kerry Cattermole Elleke Hughes Rebecca McIvor
3 rd Apr	First Aid	St John	Gary Ward
12 th Apr	First Aid	St John	Kylie Bettridge Tonia Salt Sally Maynard Hilary Ashby Rebecca van der Kley Tracy Summerton

Kind regards to you all,
Tonia, Murray, Tracy, Kerry, Clair, Jess, Sally,
Vanessa, Rebecca McIvor, Rebecca van der Kley,
Hilary, Hayley, Kylie, Sarah, Teryl, Elleke, Gary,
Jo Boyer, Sharyn, Jo South & Denise.



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TO PURCHASE YOUR NEW ENTERTAINMENT™ BOOK, PLEASE CONTACT:

James Street Pre School – Entertainment Book Order Form

Child's Name: (please print) _____

Please complete and return with payment by **11th April 08**.

No. of Books purchased - : _____ (\$65 PER BOOK) Total charge \$ _____

Method of Payment: Cash Cheque

Please make cheques payable to; **James Street pre School**, or please charge my; Visa Mastercard

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____

Card Holder's Name : _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____ Daytime Tel: _____

PLACE ORDERS WITH US EARLY, AS THESE BOOKS ARE GROWING IN DEMAND EACH YEAR, AND STOCK USUALLY RUNS OUT, 2008 Entertainment Book stock arrives 15th May 2008 and orders will be dispatched then \$13 from each Book sold contributes greatly to our fundraising. Thank you.

Any Questions contact: Murray Salt 03 3819008

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