



Minnies Preschool and Nursery

April/Āperire 2017

Our Vision:

We will provide a curriculum that lays the foundations for a love of learning as we inspire children to be curious and independent learners whilst supporting all akonga to build positive connections between home and the centre.

Welcome/ Kia Ora / Hola/ Hallo/ नमस्ते Namaste

Looking out the window recently I found it is easy to see the signs of Autumn, with the leaves falling from our beautiful big tree in the playground, along with some heavy and ongoing rainfall. However we have still had some warmer days which we are always grateful for as the children love to spend time outdoors. Due to the cooler weather we ask that you provide your child with a warm coat and hat each day so they can go outside and fully take part in our programme.

We do not restrict children from going outside, so if you consider they need to be kept inside please keep them at home.

We have welcomed 4 new children to Minnies during April. Dylan has settled well into our Nursery, and Param, Lola, and Isla have all started in the preschool. We look forward to getting to know you all and supporting your learning and development at Minnies.

Sadly we have said ka kite to Harriet G who has transitioned to Primary School. Both of Harriet's brothers also attended Minnies during the past few years. We will miss you all and wish you well in the future! Poppy has also moved on from our Nursery as she is moving to another part of Christchurch. We wish you and your family lots of happiness in the future ☺

We say farewell to our Nursery Head Teacher, Hayley, who has built some wonderful relationships with our families, staff and children over the 2 years that she has been at Minnies. Hayley is having a break from early childhood teaching and is looking forward to spending time with her family. The management and teachers wish her well in the future.

Teacher Professional Development

Karla and Cathy recently attended a professional development evening, Continuity of Learning – from Early Childhood Education to Primary School, with Dee Finn from Childspace Early Childhood Institute. This evening was very inspiring and it provided some new knowledge, as well as confirmed that the programme Karla plans and facilitates for our children is meaningful and relevant to the transitioning process. It also pointed out that early childhood education continues to play a part in children's performance, five years after they had moved onto to school and key factors accounting for the differences in children's performance at age 10, are related to the quality of interactions between early childhood teachers and the children.

Entertainment Books

Entertainment Books. We are selling Entertainment books as a fundraiser this year at Minnies. The 'Entertainment Book' costs only \$65.00 and Minnies gets \$13.00 for each book sold. It offers fabulous discounts and 2 for 1 deal for food, accommodation, activities and much more. We have a sample copy of the 2017 Entertainment Book in our entrance hall, along with some order forms. There is the option of having a book or a digital membership that you can use on your smart phone. If you wish to order an Entertainment Book you can pay online or by cash, cheque, Mastercard or VISA.

When ordering books online it is necessary to enter the web site
www.entbook.co.nz/9x30363

We have some important events coming up at Minnies, so please put these in your calendar.

- We wish to invite our families/whanau to a farewell afternoon tea for Hayley on **Monday 1 May from 2pm to 3pm.**
- On **Wednesday 31 May from 1:30pm to 3pm** we are going to have a '**Special Person Day**' at Minnies. We invite the children to bring along a person who is special to them which may be a Grandparent, Aunty, Uncle, Mum, Dad, or a special friend of the family. The children have been practicing a number of waiata/songs and will be performing these at their kapa haka performance to celebrate our Special Person Day. Please provide a small plate of food for your child to share with their friends and our special guests.

Reminders for Parents

- Our role has grown and we have reached full capacity on some days, so please be aware that we may not be able to accommodate some of the change of bookings for your children that you may require.
- Please ensure that you sign your child in and out of Minnies at the correct time on our daily role in the entrance hall. We use this attendance role for both billing and as a check list in the case of an emergency. It is also important that the children are not collected after or prior to their booked time as this can affect our teacher/child ratio and an extra charge will be added to your account.
- If your preschool child has not got a house on our whanaungatanga wall, or if they are a nursery child, a flower on the family wall, we would love some photos of your family/friends and pets, so we can create a house or flower for your child. The children love to look at their own house or flower which gives them a wonderful sense of belonging. An option you may wish to choose is to email your child's photos to our email address: minniespreschool@xtra.co.nz
- During the course of the year we still appreciate your feedback about Minnies. If you would like to discuss a concern or share information or ideas about your child or Minnies, please do not hesitate to phone or pop into the office to talk to Cathy. If she is unavailable we can make a time that is suitable for you both to meet together. Or you can email her at minniespreschool@xtra.co.nz



If you would like to become a homebased educator or would like to find out more information about our Family Tree Homebased care please see our website and Facebook page, or we have brochures available in our entrance hall.

Face Book page: <https://www.facebook.com/Family-Tree-Home-based-191289074557966/>

Website: <http://www.familytreehomebased.co.nz/>

Policy review

Currently we are reviewing our Child Protection Policy. We have a copy of this policy on our entrance hall wall and invite you to read this and write a comment on the form attached to this policy if you wish.

Facebook

We have lots of beautiful photos of your children on our Facebook page, as well as information and news about upcoming events at Minnies. We feel sure that you will enjoy seeing the wonderful experiences and play that your children are involved in during their day at Minnies, so please 'Like us' on facebook.



<https://www.facebook.com/Minnies-Preschool-343181609124332/>

Thank You

A big thank you to the wonderful families who have already supported our 'Photos by Neill Culpan' fundraiser. If you still wish to order photos of your beautiful child please place an order by Wednesday 3 May. Payments can be made by cash or cheque. If you have misplaced your order form and require another please see Cathy.

Steve and Lloyd are always grateful for the delicious greens that many of our families bring in for them. Our worm farm is also looking very healthy due to the leftover food that we also receive from our families. Thank you very much to all the families who support our pets and environmental sustainability ☺

We wish to thank Kate (Marley's Mum) for spending time at Minnies involving our children in another fantastic music session. Kate, you are truly amazing and obviously very skilled in this area and the Minnies teachers have learnt a great deal from you whilst observing and taking part in these sessions alongside you.

Thank you to Gough family for the puzzles, resources and balance bike that you kindly donated to Minnies when your gorgeous girl Harriet turned 5 years old. The teachers also appreciated their gifts and the kind words you shared with them. It has been a long association that you have had with us at Minnies whilst Tom, Sam and Harriet have been here and we will miss you all.

We'd like to say thank you to Alexander's family for the stationery folders you have provided for us.

The children enjoyed the yummy popcorn that Lola brought in to share during our recent Movie Day. We appreciate your kindness!

Our Furry Friends

Steve and Lloyd were taken by Karla and Jo for a visit to the Papanui vet in the weekend, and we were very pleased to be told that they are in great health. I am sure much of this is to do with the wonderful care they receive and the food that our Minnies community provides for them. ☺

Transition to School

Our transition to school group will have a focus on 'Health, Well-being and Safety' in Term 2. Karla has been working hard planning many experiences for the transition to school group children including arranging some visits from emergency services.

Many important topics including, how to keep ourselves safe and healthy, and learning about community helpers will be covered during this focus. The transition to

school programme also includes learning in the curriculum areas of language, math, science, physical education and environmental.

On Monday eight of our 4 year olds took our amazing Minnies ANZAC wreath to the War memorial at Elmwood Primary School. This supported their understanding of New Zealand's/Aotearoa national remembrance day and we also made connections with our community. The children were very respectful during this trip, and they had a lot of fun exploring and showing their gross motor skills on the Elmwood School junior playground after we had laid the wreath.

Playball

The 4 year olds are offered an opportunity each term to take part in "Play Ball" at Elmwood Park. We have found this programme very successful for the children who have shown enthusiasm and are building their confidence when they take part. It has been wonderful to have some of our parents come to the park to watch their children taking part in play ball. Please feel welcome to come and spend some time with us if you wish. The children are always very proud to show their families their new skills and abilities. If you have a 4 year old child who wishes to take part in Playball please write your child's name on the Playball enrollment form in our entrance hall.

Our Minnies Worm Farm

Our worm farm has been a wonderful way to teach our children about environmental sustainability. The worms are versatile waste eaters and decomposers and the result from this process is a rich liquid fertiliser, some of which we have added to the Minnies garden. Below is a list of the food which is both suitable and not suitable for our worm farm, for our families who wish to bring in any leftover food they may have for our worms.

Worm farm

We prefer to be placed in shade in summer and in the sun during winter. Please cut organic material into small pieces as we have only small mouths.

✓ Yes

- ✓ Vegetable scraps 
- ✓ Egg shells
(grind them finely) 
- ✓ Organic fruit
(no pesticides) 
- ✓ Shredded paper 
- ✓ Tea bags
(remove string and staple) 
- ✓ Coffee grinds 

✗ No

- ✗ Pineapple 
- ✗ Citrus 
- ✗ Onions and garlic 
- ✗ Oils 
- ✗ Meat or dairy products 
- ✗ Fresh grass clippings and raw sawdust 



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Ka kite

From The Minnies Team ☺