



Minnies Preschool

February 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 tatou, Namaste

We hope you have had a great start to the year! We have welcomed two beautiful baby girls, Thea and Angelique, who have settled well into our Minnies Nursery. The preschool has also welcomed Tessa to Minnies and she is having a great time exploring her new environment and getting to know the children and teachers. We have said ka kite to Hugh and wish him and his family all the best for the future. Mia has been coming for visits from the nursery to the preschool room, and the preschool team is looking forward to having Mia in the preschool from tomorrow.

We have an important event coming up at Minnies, so please put it in your calendar.

- **Red Heart Day** – Thursday 2 March (Please dress your child in RED). If you would like to support the Heart Foundation we have a donation box in our entrance hall.



Family Tree
HOMEBASED CARE

If you would like to become a homebased educator or would like to find out more information about our homebased care, please see our website and Facebook page for further information.

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

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

Facebook

Don't forget to 'Like Us' on Facebook which is updated regularly with beautiful photos of your children involved in experiences and activities during their days at Minnies. We also communicate messages and information about upcoming events on our Facebook page.



Find us on
Facebook

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

Reminder for Parents

- Please keep our Minnies children safe by ensuring your children do not open the entrance hall gate if they are not accompanied by you. We appreciate your support with this.
- **Sun Safety.** During term 4 and term 1 we ask that you please ensure your child has a named sun hat and you apply sun screen before arriving at Minnies. Sun screen will be reapplied throughout the day using the Help-It Ultra Block Sunscreen SPF 30+ 1 product. Please inform us if your child has an allergy to this product, and provide your own sun screen to be stored at the Centre. The teacher's will support the children to find their own hat in their bag before they head outside to play.
- 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 for both billing and as a check list in the case of an emergency, such as an earthquake. It is also important that the children are not dropped off earlier than or collected after their booked time as this can affect our teacher/child ratio.
- Please support the teachers by labelling your child's belongings including their lunchboxes and containers, as well as their hats and clothing. This is especially important for our nursery babies, and ensures belongings go back to the correct owner.



Thank You

Thank you to all the wonderful families who joined us at our recent Fish and Chip Night. It is always a great way for us to make connections with our families, have conversations and reflect together.

Thank you to the parents who have completed and returned our 2017 Parent Survey. We use these surveys to gain an understanding of your hopes and aspirations for the coming year and appreciate the time taken to complete these for us.

Thank you to all our families who have been providing delicious vegetables and fruit. Our furry friends, Steve and Lloyd, have been enjoying all the delicious vegetables offered to them. We have learnt that one of their favourite delicacies is strawberry plant leaves. The children have also enjoyed taste testing some interesting vegetables and fruit, such as apple cucumber and nashi pear that some of our clever parents have been growing in their home gardens.

The worm farm is also benefitting from left over vegetables and fruit that many of our families have brought in and this has led to our children continuing to develop their knowledge about worm farms and environmental sustainability.

Thank you to Alexander's family for the lovely books you donated to our Nursery. We really appreciate them.

Maddi's family provided some honeycomb out of their bee hive as part of a learning experience for our children about bees and where food comes from. Thank you!

Thank you to Simon and Zoe's family, and Thomas and Rico's family for providing paddling pools for our recent "Water Play Day! The children were very excited and had a fantastic

morning having lots of fun on the water slide, in the paddling pools, throwing water balloons and exploring various troughs containing water resources.

Survey Feedback

If you have not already completed a parent survey there are copies on our entrance hall table, along with the questionnaire return box. We really appreciate your feedback which we use when we forward plan for the education and care of our nursery and preschool children. These surveys are anonymous, or if you choose please write your name on the survey. We would appreciate the surveys being returned during the next 2 weeks.

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.

Transition to School

Our wonderful Transition to School teacher, Karla, has been working with our 4 year olds on the topic "All about me". If you have any questions or would like to discuss our Transition to School programme please do not hesitate to speak with Karla.

Our 4 year old children have been having a fantastic time at Playball on Friday afternoons at Elmwood Park and are developing their physical and social skills during these sessions.

Parent Help

The Minnies children and teachers love to learn new things and we enjoy having our parents share their knowledge about an interest or their jobs with us. Last year we had some wonderful Mums and Dads share their knowledge and provide some great learning experiences for the children, such as, cake decorating, music and movement, reading stories, and sharing knowledge about their jobs, and ethnicity. Please talk to a teacher if you are interested in this opportunity. We'd love to have your company and know your child would feel very proud to have you visit.©

Healthy Heart



It's important to give children the best possible start in life so this year we are working toward achieving a Rito Healthy Heart Award. With the support and guidance of the Heart Foundation we are going to create an environment that promotes and supports healthy eating and physical activity through this wonderful programme.

Please support the Heart Foundation by donating to this great cause when we have our **Red Heart Day at Minnies this Thursday 2 March.**

Below is a website that provides information and recipes which may be of interest to you:

Heartfoundation.org.nz/freecookbooks

We are excited about another great year at Minnies in 2017 and sharing our Pakiki love with all our children and families/whanau.

Aroha nui

Cathy, Hayley, Diana, Adele, Kate, Jo, Karla and Alexe