



Minnies Preschool and Nursery

January 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, Talofa lava, Mālōe lelei, Fakalofa lahi atu, Kia orana, la Orana, Bula vinaka, Namaste

Welcome back to Minnies for 2017. We hope you all had a wonderful break during Christmas and the New Year, and are ready for another fun year as part of our Minnies family/whanau.

We have had many children begin at Minnies recently.

A very warm welcome to Joseph, Poet, Harriet Mc, Rico, Lucas D and Maddison W who have recently joined us in the preschool, and to Henry who is having a great time in our nursery.

We look forward to getting to know you and your families.

We have had some children leave during the festive season and wish them all the best in the future. A special mention to our 5 year olds, Lucy, Elliot, Macy and Charlie who begin primary school next week. We wish you all lots of wonderful learning experiences and fun during your school days. Beau and Sebastian have transitioned from our Nursery to the Preschool and have been having a fantastic time exploring their new environment and getting to better know the preschool teachers.

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

- **Fish and Chip night – Friday 17 February 5:30pm to 7pm.** Please bring along your family and favourite takeaway dinner. This event is a great way to meet other wonderful Minnies families and your child's teachers.
- **Waitangi Day – Monday 6 February.** The centre will be closed.



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

We have lots of beautiful photos of your children on our facebook page which is regularly updated. Please 'Like us' on facebook and enjoy seeing the wonderful experiences and play that your children are involved in during their day at Minnies. We also use facebook for communicating messages of upcoming events and information for our families on our facebook page.



Find us on
Facebook

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

Reminder for Parents

- We are very concerned that children are opening the gate into our entrance hall without being accompanied by an adult as they are leaving. **Please keep our Minnies children safe by ensuring your children do not open the entrance hall gate when you are not with them.**
- The teachers are looking forward to writing learning stories for your children, so if you have not already returned your child's profile book we would appreciate it back as soon as possible.
- **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. Children who do not have a sun hat on will be asked to play inside.
- We would like to remind parents that our preschool kitchen is for staff only, as we keep child medications and confidential information in this area. Please leave food items that need to be kept in the fridge on our bench by the phone and a staff member will put them in the fridge for you, or if you require support regarding your child's medication or any other help please see one of our teachers.
- Please ensure that you sign your child in and out of Minnies at the correct time on our daily role in the entrance hall, as 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 label your child's belongings including their lunchboxes and containers, as well as their hats and clothing. This is very important as it prevents any confusion over food and drink, as well as, helps us to ensure belongings go back to the correct owner.



- We have children at Minnies with **nut allergies**, so we appreciate not having any nuts or nut products brought into the Centre, including peanut butter, bars or biscuits, or any cooked food or other items which contain nuts.

Thank You

We are very grateful for, and would like to thank all the families who gave us gifts and said kind words of appreciation to the teaching team at Christmas time. We truly love teaching and spending time through the year with your babies and children and appreciate the wonderful support we get from our families.

Our furry friends provide a lot of fun and learning opportunities for our children, so we also appreciate, along with our rabbits Steve and Lloyd the vegetables that have been provided by many of our families. Our worm farm and bokashi bin have also benefitted from some of the fruit and vegetables that have been provided. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who brought in gifts for our 'Christmas Giving Tree' in December which were donated to Pillars who provide 'Positive Futures for Children of Prisoners'. The gifts were given to pre-schoolers, who have a parent in prison, as part of making their Christmas a little brighter. We received a lovely letter of appreciation for your generosity which is currently on the entrance hall table.

Thank you to Simon and Zoe's amazing Mum, Aimee, who created a beautiful Chocolate Cottage with our children which we used as a prize for our Christmas raffle. We also appreciate the support our parents gave us by purchasing a raffle ticket.

Thank you also to Aimee who spent time covering our children's couch and making gorgeous cushions out of some beautiful striped fabric that Alexander's Mum, Donna Weir provided for us. The couch looks amazing and has already had lots of use!

Survey Feedback

Thank you to the parents/caregivers who have already returned our parent survey. We really appreciate this feedback. It is great to get your 'Parent Voice', which we use when we forward plan for the education and care of our nursery and preschool children.

If you have not already completed a parent survey there are copies on our entrance hall table, along with the questionnaire return box. We would appreciate as many of our families as possible spending a few minutes of their time completing a parent survey. These surveys are anonymous, or if you choose please write your name on the survey.

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 4 year old transition to school group will be starting again next week. If you would like to discuss this programme please see our lovely teacher Karla.

If your 4 year old child would like to attend Playball on Friday afternoons at Elmwood Park please fill in the Playball form which is on the entrance hall table.

Healthy Heart

Tohu Manawa Ora – Kōhungahunga

Healthy Heart Award

Early Childhood Education

It's important to give children the best possible start in life so this year we are going to begin 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.

Here is a suggestion for some delicious healthy muffins from the Heart Foundation.



FRITTATA MUFFINS

You need \$0.81 per serve as at Oct 2015

- Cooking oil spray
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup lite milk
- ½ cup Edam cheese
- 410g can corn kernels, drained
- 100g tomato, chopped
- 1 spring onion, chopped
- 1 cup mushroom, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic

Method

1. Spray muffin tins with oil. Preheat oven to 180°C.
2. Whisk eggs and milk in a large bowl to blend well
3. Stir in cheese, corn, tomato, mushroom, spring onion and garlic
4. Fill prepared muffin cups with egg mixture.
5. Bake for about 8-10 minutes or until egg mixture puffs and is just set in the centre



www.fuelled4life.org.nz

Noho ora mai ra (Keep Safe)

From the Minnies Teaching Team ☺