



Minnies Preschool and Nursery

March/Māehe 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 / Namaste 欢迎 / 환영 / ようこそ

Welcome to our wonderful new children Luke, Sebastiao and Charlotte who have joined us in our Minnies Nursery. We look forward to being part of their days and having lots of fun together during their preschool years.

Mia has transitioned from our Nursery to the Preschool room and has settled in extremely well. Jack has recently been busy having visits from the Nursery to the Preschool room and is enjoying exploring his new environment and getting to better know the preschool teachers.

We have said ka kite to Freja, and wish her and her family all the best for the future.

Our role has continued to grow 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. Our Monday role is lower than other days of the week, so please consider Mondays as an option if you require an extra permanent booking for your child at Minnies.

Reminders for Parents

- **Easter Weekend – We are CLOSED Friday 14 April and Monday 17 April 2017.**
- **ANZAC Day – We are CLOSED Tuesday 25 April 2017.**

- **Entertainment Books.** We are selling Entertainment books as a fundraiser this year at Minnies. The 'Entertainment Book' costs only \$65.00 and it offers fabulous discounts and 2 for 1 deals for food, accommodation, activities and much more. A flyer has been placed in your parent pockets with information regarding this fundraiser. Please see Cathy if you have misplaced the Entertainment Book flyer and would like a replacement. For each book sold Minnies receives \$12.00.



- 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, in the case of hats, head lice. It also helps the teaching team to return misplaced clothing back to the correct family.
- The primary school holidays are racing up fast and most primary schools last day of term 1 is Thursday 13 April. If your child is not attending Minnies at any time due to being on holiday, please complete one of our holiday forms, which are located in our entrance hall. By completing the holiday form you will be given the opportunity to receive ½ fees.
- The weather is very changeable at the moment, so please provide your child with a sunhat and clothing appropriate for warmer days, as well as warm clothing for the cooler weather. This helps us to take care of your child's health and well-being.
- 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, such as an earthquake. It is also important that the children are not collected after their booked time as this can affect our teacher/child ratio and an extra charge will be added to your account.
- Your child's profile book is available for you to take home at any time, but please advise a teacher when you are taking it home, and return it when requested, so we can continue with your child's assessment, and forward plan for their learning and development.



Family Tree
HOMEBASED CARE

We have home based care as part of the Canterbury Early Learning Centers business portfolio, named Family Tree Homebased Care. We have some keen educators wanting to care for and educate some children/babies in their home. If you would like to become a home based educator and would like to find out more information about this exciting opportunity, or know of any children/babies who require home based 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/>

Parent Feedback on our Policies.

Each month the centre staff, owners and educational services manager review and update one of our policies. The policy being reviewed each month is displayed on the wall in our entrance hall for our families to read, along with a form for our families to write their comments about the policy on.

We would appreciate you writing your comments about the policy on this form, which will enable us to include our families' views, when we review and update any of our policies. The current policy we are reviewing is Developing Social Competence in Children.

Facebook



Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Minnies-Preschool-343181609124332/>

Wow, it is amazing to think that our Minnies Facebook page is world famous. I know some of our children's grandparents who live in other countries are able to have a little glimpse of what their grandchildren are up to at Minnies here in New Zealand/Aotearoa, through our facebook page, which is fantastic. ☺

There are lots of photos, videos and updates of all the wonderful things your children get up to whilst they are at Minnies on our facebook page, so please

'like us' so you can share these with us. If you have specified on your enrolment form that you do not want your child to have their photos on our Facebook page then they will not be featured. Please speak to one of the teachers if you would like to make any amendments to this.

Thank You

A big THANK YOU to Kate (Marley's Mum), who is a music teacher in schools, for giving her time to our children and sharing her knowledge with the Minnies teachers on music and movement. We look forward to a second morning of Kate's music sessions with the children in April.

Thank you to all the families who made a donation for the Heart Foundation during our **Red Heart Day**. The children had a lot of fun during the many 'Red Day' experiences provided and learnt about how to stay healthy and take care of their hearts. ☺

We appreciate the wonderful art/creative resources, puzzles, dress ups and other lovely things that 2 families in our community have provided for our Minnies children. Thank you Karen and Mia P's Grandma!

A big thank you to all our wonderful families/whānau who help us provide for our furry friends Steve and Lloyd, as well as our worm farm. The children love feeding and taking care of our rabbits, and feeding our worms with leftover food. We recently collected some worm wee from our worm farm which we used to fertilise our swan plants that our very hungry caterpillars are eating.

Over the weekend a caterpillar turned into a chrysalis and the children are investigating the changes that are occurring. We can't wait to see a beautiful monarch butterfly emerge from the chrysalis!



Thank you to the families who have already purchased an **Entertainment Book** as part of our Minnies fundraiser. Recently we purchased a light cube with some fundraised money which the children have loved using to explore x-rays, colour, and other objects they have found around the preschool.



Transition to School

Our transition to school group has been focusing on 'All About Me' during term 1. It is wonderful to see the amazing enthusiasm that our 4 year old children show when they take part in this programme.

On Tuesday 21/3/17 our eight eldest 4 year olds had the privilege of visiting a new entrant classroom at Elmwood Normal Primary School. We were very proud of them, as they showed a willingness to participate and demonstrated their beautiful manners.

On Friday afternoons many of our 4 year olds take part in "Play Ball" at our local park which is teaching them many social and gross motor skills, whilst having a lot of fun.



The teaching team have been reflecting on and discussing our Minnies Preschool policies which cover physical activity, and healthy eating including our lunch box guidelines which are provided in our Information/Enrolment

pack. Recently the children made some courgette pizza and then enjoyed this delicious kai. This was such a popular taste sensation that we have decided to share the recipe with you. It's a great way to enjoy any excess courgettes you may have!

Courgette Pizza



You need

- 500g courgette, grated
- 3 eggs
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ½ cup flour, wholemeal
- 2 Tbsp parsley, chopped
- to taste black pepper
- 2 Tbsp tomato paste
- 3 cups prepared vegetables, e.g. chopped capsicum, tomatoes, broccoli
- 60g Edam cheese, grated

Method

1. Place grated courgette in a colander and allow to drain for 30 minutes.
2. Preheat oven to 180°C and spray a baking dish with a little canola oil.
3. Beat eggs and canola oil together in a large bowl, add flour and mix.
4. Add the drained courgette, chopped parsley and pepper and mix together.
5. Spread the mixture in a baking dish and bake for 10-15 minutes until the base is firm.
6. Remove from oven, spread with tomato paste.
7. Place prepared vegetables – chopped capsicum, tomatoes, broccoli on top and sprinkle with Edam cheese.
8. Return to the oven and bake at 180°C for about 25 minutes.
9. Remove from oven, cool and slice into squares.

\$0.61 per serve as at Nov 2016

Koa tunu kai (Happy Cooking) ☺

From The Minnies Team