

Newsletter- week ending 19 October 2018

To the Rangi Whanau and Community,

As we have discussed before, the world our children are living in is ever changing and shaping up to have different experiences to those we may have had when we were younger. Being skilled in thinking on your feet, making complex decisions which consider differing perspectives, and being able to think and act independently, is of great importance.

It is through early childhood experiences, when the brain is rapidly developing, that we have the best opportunity to support the development of these critical life skills. From birth through to the early school years, children's brains are literally forming the complex web of synapses that last throughout their lives, and greatly impact their social, emotional, physical and cognitive outcomes in adulthood.

Open-ended play materials allow children to make choices, express their creativity and support their independence. Open-ended materials, by definition, do not have a pre-determined use. What sort of things are open-ended? Anything that does not have a way that it is supposed to be used!

We are very intentional in the choices of resources we make for your children. Our considerations focus on strengthening their cognitive, language and social skills. You may have noticed more open-ended resources and loose parts floating around the playground lately (perhaps they even look like the things you may have had your own childhoods). As a team we have been considering how to fill our environment with safe, yet challenging materials that encourage dramatic play, language skills, role play, problem solving, teamwork, games, experimenting with cause and effect and physical challenge.

Your children are becoming scientists, engineers, inventors, artists, explorers and investigators. These resources encourage the development of children's own working theories about 'how things work' and 'what they might be used for' and negotiating these theories alongside those of their peers.

So, what are some of the learning outcomes aligned with this type of play?

Over time and with guidance and encouragement, children become increasingly capable of:

- recognising and appreciating their own ability to learn | te rangatiratanga
- using a range of strategies and skills to play and learn with others | te ngākau aroha.
- expressing their feelings and ideas using a range of materials and modes | he kōrero auaha.
- making connections between people, places and things in their world | te waihanga hononga
- managing themselves and expressing their feelings and needs | te whakahua whakaaro
- keeping themselves and others safe from harm | te noho haumaruru.
- playing, imagining, inventing and experimenting | te whakaaro me te tūhura i te pūtaiao
- moving confidently and challenging themselves physically | te wero ā-tinana
- using a range of strategies for reasoning and problem solving | te hīraurau hopanga
- making sense of their worlds by generating and refining working theories | te rangahau me te mātauranga.

If you have access to anything that could be considered 'open ended' (tubes, plumbing resources, electronics to take apart, wooden boxes, ropes, hoses, etc etc...) we would love to receive them.

Warm regards,

Linda



UPCOMING EVENTS ...

Sports day 2018 is coming soon – keep an eye out for confirmed day and time.

End of year celebrations – We are looking to hold our end of year / Christmas celebration either Sunday 2nd or Sunday 9th December. We are looking to head off site this year, for a friends and family picnic and old-fashioned games. We are currently just awaiting confirmation of venue. Details to follow.

RECENT HAPPENINGS...

Grandparents (and other special family and friends) Day



Rangi Ruru Preschool has a proud tradition of family, and each year we love welcoming everyone to preschool to experience our

learning and share afternoon tea. We had an amazing turn out and enjoyed sharing such a special day with you all, a lovely opportunity to re-connect.

International Talk like a pirate day



We love any opportunity to have a dress-up day, here at Rangi Ruru Preschool. For International 'talk like a pirate day' we invited families to dress-up and join in with a range of 'pirate' themed experiences for the day. What a wonderful array of pirate outfits we had coming through the door. Dramatic play opportunities such as these foster children's imagination; let's them explore their own ideas and theories; strengthens the relationships we have with others; improves communication skills and supports emotional well-being.

Update on Trike-a-thon fundraising – Congratulations everyone, you all raised **\$1461**. Keri and I have already spent \$345 on loose / open ended resources and will be making some further purchases. Some funds will remain in the fundraising account, to assist in offsetting the cost of our term four Julie Wylie Musical play classes.

SPACES AVAILABLE

Thanks to those families who have made increases to their bookings and making better use of their 20 hours ECE. We still have spaces available across the week, but these are filling again. We are still happy to offer another free session to families who have not taken this up yet. These would be available on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

We continue to offer you a 'friends and family' credit of \$100 if anyone enrolls based on your introduction.

CONTACTING US & PRESCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE

Just a reminder of our Preschool cell phone number 021 0234 6060 is for text's only. You can text us to let us know if your child is going to be absent for the day. If you want to check on how your child's day is going, or for any other non-urgent messages phone the landline - 03 983 3757. Please bear in mind we are working with your children, so if we cannot get to the phone the first time, PLEASE ring back.

You can also send us an email on preschool@rangirurupreschool.nz

Please note our email has now been changed. The old address will still be forwarded, but please update your contacts.

We hope you have taken the time to check out our centre Facebook page. If you are accessing via an internet or Facebook search for [@rangirurupreschool](#), to find the page easily.

We also update our Facebook page regularly with photos of our children's learning, so you can keep other family members 'in the loop'. This is where we post up to date information about the centre in the event of an emergency, so 'like' us on FB now!



The page has our Yellow RR logo  If you get this, you know you are on the right page.

WELCOME TO RANGI

We have recently welcomed new friends to our Rangi family. Sophie, Adeline and Anais have all quickly found their place in our family and certainly are making the most of their days each week. We trust that Sophie, Adeline, Anais and their families will enjoy their time at Rangi and we know everyone will make them feel extremely welcome

**Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa
Let's work together for the wellbeing of us all**

Ngā mihi nui
Linda & the team from Rangi Ruru