



Dear Parents and Whanau

Firstly we would like to extend a warm welcome to all new children, parents and whanau who have started with us this term. We hope you are settling in and starting to feel like our place is your place.

Immunisation



I would like to thank those parents who responded so promptly to my request for updated immunisations following the outbreaks of Measles in Christchurch, Dunedin and Auckland. We will be following up with the rest of you to make sure our records are as current as possible. If you struggle to remember in the morning, feel free to take a picture of your child's Immunisations and send it via email to claire@villagechildcare.co.nz or reply to the statements I email out.

School holidays and Public holidays

The School holidays are fast approaching and for those of us with school aged children know that this often requires time off. If you know you will be away during the holidays please let us know in writing with 2 weeks notice to qualify for your holiday discount – forms are available in each room or at the office. The School holidays are from 15th April until 26 April and include 3 public holidays Good Friday, Easter Monday and ANZAC Day. We have been touching base where we can to offer alternative days to our families who would normally attend on these days. Please be aware that at times it can be difficult to fit everyone in on the days they may like. We have an exciting School Holiday Programme happening, the programme is available on Facebook, on Educa and in each room.

Policy Review

In light of the recent media attention around a toddler choking in a childcare centre on a piece of apple. We are currently reviewing our police on Food Provision and Recording and will be going over how to respond to choking in each of our next team meetings. I would like to assure our families that all qualified teachers at The Village hold a current first aid certificate specific to Early Childhood and these are renewed every two years. We really value you input, comment, feedback and suggestions on our policies under review, so please take the time to read and offer us your thoughts on our policy.

Fund Raising and Donations

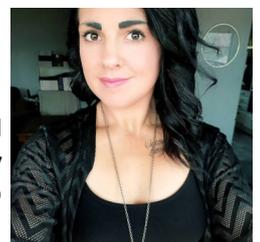
Throughout March we were celebrating Children's Day and raising funds to donate to Kids Can to support under privileged children around New Zealand through things like breakfast in schools, and shoes and jackets for children in low socio economic areas. Thank you to all families who took us up on the offer of a 6 hour session in exchange for a \$3 donation towards KidsCan. Collectively we raised \$270 to donate. I would like remind everyone that these days are not free, the whole purpose is to come together to raise money for worthy charities. With the March appeal we have a lot of outstanding donations. The process is in order to receive the 9-3 day we require you to firstly book this day with the Office – this allows us to prepare our staffing and to pay a \$3 donation to the office at the time of booking. Please follow the process and if you know you have an outstanding donation come in and it pay it in cash to the office.



We also did some impromptu fundraising this month in support of the victims of the Christchurch shootings. We like many schools and preschools around the country held a Color your world day on Friday 22nd of March we had loads of colourful fun and raised \$118.80 through donations and a bake sale. This money was banked directly to the Christchurch Our City Our People. We appreciate your contribution during what was an emotional time for the country

Staffing Changes

As many of you may be aware Nat will be finishing up with us on the 26th April to go on Maternity Leave until early 2020. We have been really lucky to find a wonderful replacement, her name is Choiwee, she is a Primary trained teacher with several years early childhood experience and a mum to three. Our lovely Katie is also



finishing up with us in early May to move to Australia. Kushla will take over from her working across both Tots and Explorers. Kushla has worked with us previously in our Tots room about 7 years ago and has nearly 12 years' teaching experience. She is an Early Childhood trained teacher and also holds a Montessori diploma. She has been working with children over two and is excited to be getting back to the younger children. Kushla is also a mum to 3. It is also on a sad note that Chocky has finished with us. As many of you know both her and John Builder have had some ups and down health wise and have decided to finish up and make a move to early retirement. Chocky really wanted to slip out quietly but I am happy to pass on any thanks or well wishes as I know Marion has been a special part of many of our lives.



The Wonderful World of Upcycling Parent Event



This term in Preschool we have been super busy creating with your Junk from home. Boxes, Plastic bottles, and other rubbish have been transformed into box cars, bird feeders, necklaces, art works and toys. We are looking forward to our gallery evening coming up on Monday the 8th of April. You are all welcome to join us between the 5pm and 6pm to check out your children's hard work. We look forward to seeing you there.

Preschool

We also have been lucky enough to watch our Tadpoles grow up and now we have two frogs in residence in Preschool. It was fascinating to watch and the children were excited each morning to check out any changes. If you have any flies around your house it might be fun for the kids to catch them and bring them in for frog food! We had an awesome Sea Week, where we went off on an adventure to the Fresh Fish Market and checked out the fishing boats. We are also researching a variety of sea life and being creative recreating these through art.



Explorers



Our Toddlers have had a huge interest in Insects and have been busy working together to catching crickets and spiders and observing them. We have had a lot of keen helpers in the kitchen lately exploring all kinds of different cooking. We have seen some strong science concepts applied to explore physics through experimenting with ramps and wheels. We are in the process of starting a bug house in Explorers so if you have any old bricks with holes, pipes or wood that may be useful, please let the team know.



Tots

Our babies have been exploring different fundamental science concepts such as mixing textures and colours, gravity, cause and effect and how water changes different substances like gloop and sand. They have been testing themselves physically with all kinds of climbing challenges, which has sometimes been a challenge for our teachers as well, what with all the rain. It's time for some of our older tots to move up to explorers Jake, Reid and Jaxon have been working through this transition process and it won't be long until they have established themselves next door.



Winter is coming

It is definitely getting colder in the mornings and evenings. Please make sure that you are sending your children with warm clothes. We have a few spare jumpers and gumboots here but not enough for everyone and we really don't want to have to do things like close the playground early at the end of the day because it's too cold for everyone to be out without jumpers. If your child comes without shoes it prevents us being able to take the out adventuring to places like the community garden and the discovery garden or for local walks. We would love for children to have a rain coat as well. At The Village we love to play in the rain, especially when it is not too cold yet.

We would love your Review

A huge thank you to those who have already given The Village Childcare a Facebook and Google review. For those who haven't and would like to, we would love to have one. You can go directly to our Facebook page The Village Childcare, make sure you have liked and are following our page to see all our updates. You can review us and give feedback about what you love about The Village. You can also give us a Google review by searching The Village Childcare on Google maps and adding your review that way.

Claire Hesketh & the Team at The Village



Quality care & education from birth to five years

FOOD PROVISION & RECORDING POLICY

Aim:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that any food provided by the centre is nutritional, meets individual child needs safely and that records are kept.

At this centre children receive food at the appropriate time to meet their needs in a safe manner. We keep a record of the food served and ensure a high level of hygiene is maintained while preparing, serving and storing food.

Guidelines:

At this centre we provide morning and afternoon teas for children in our Explorers and Preschool Rooms.

In both the Explorers and Preschool Rooms parents are required to provide their child's lunch.

We provide a menu based on healthy eating options, and encourage children to make healthy choices when eating.

Due to varying needs and parental preferences, Infants and Toddlers in our Tots Room must be provided with all foods and milk for bottles.

All infant bottles and formula are labelled and dated.

Infants will be held when eating, until they are able to seat themselves.

We invite our infants and toddlers in this room to be as actively involved in this time as possible. We encourage children to make decisions about which bib they would like to have, which cup they would like to have and where they would like to be seated.

There is an understanding that children will come to the table when they are ready and leave when they are finished.

We view meal times as a key learning opportunity for infants and toddlers and as such they will receive individual attention and scaffolding to enhance their ability to participate actively in this time.

The requirements of children with special dietary requirements are recorded on a wall chart in the kitchen of each room. All staff are briefed on children's individual requirements to ensure that no child is exposed to anything inappropriate or dangerous to them.

A record of morning and afternoon teas, or any other food served during the day is kept on the day sheet.

We provide a 'rolling' morning and afternoon tea time to allow children to engage in sustained play and are able to make the decision when to come and eat.

Children in the Explorers are reminded that morning and afternoon tea is available and a roll kept to ensure each child has eaten.

Children must be seated when eating.

We see meal times as an opportunity to foster and scaffold self-care and self-help skills, supporting children to become active participants who manage these meal times as independently and appropriately as possible.

Teachers sit with the children and encourage a peaceful atmosphere, social interaction and peer modelling.

Children in Preschool have the opportunity to be more independent in managing this routine for themselves. There is not the expectation that all children must eat morning and afternoon tea as we accept that some children may

not be hungry.

Children are encouraged to feed themselves when they are old enough to do so. They take part in laying food out, setting the table, helping each other, tidying up afterwards and washing their faces and hands.

All staff learn hygiene basics. All food will be stored in airtight containers or in the fridge where it will be covered, labelled and dated.

All children and adults must wash their hands before eating.

Children are encouraged to drink water at any time from the fountain or the jugs and cups that are available to them.

Reference:

Licensing Criteria 2008, Health and Safety, Food and Drink documentation required:

HS19: A record of all food served during the service's hours of operation (other than that provided by parents for their own children). Records show the type of food provided, and are available for inspections for 3 months after the food is served.

HS20: Food is prepared, served and stored hygienically;

HS21: An ample supply of water that is fit to drink is available to children at all times, and older children are able to access this water independently;

HS22: Children are supervised while eating;

HS23: Under 2 year olds – Infants under the age of 6 months and other children unable to drink independently are held semi-upright when being fed. Any infant milk food given to a child under the age of 12 months is a type approved by the child's parent.

Date:-----

Signature of Licensee:

Date for Review:-----