

NATURE FOREST KINDERGARTEN GROUP

MEETING DATE: Friday 5 February 2010

MEETING STARTED: 2.15 p.m.

PRESENT:

Karla Parton, Keren Ireson, Heidi Wrack, Mari Allely – Tikipunga Kindergarten, Louise Pemberton, Dilmarie Cedeno – Paihia/Waitangi Kindergarten, Irene Callen – Kerikeri Kindergarten, Debbie Woolston – Hurupaki Kindergarten, Barbara Harrison – Northland Kindergarten Association, Madhu Graham – Onerahi Kindergarten, Sue Guiney, Dawn Haora – Raumanga Kindergarten, Sara McKinley, Alishya Chircop – Ruawai Kindergarten and Gill Taylor – Itinerant teacher, Northland Kindergarten Association.

APOLOGIES:

Bronwyn Ward – Northland Kindergarten Association, Beverly Kaye, Dee Myhre – Manaia Kindergarten, Anna Thorpe – Onerahi Kindergarten and Rochelle Iturbe-Sgtenberg – Te Timatatanga o te Matauranga.

AGENDA: Purpose of the group
 Frequency of meetings – when, where, time
 Areas of interest

We had a number of discussions on our purpose and ideas we have. To follow are the main points.

FOCUS ONE:

We all value nature in kindergartens.

- How can we best bring the ideas and philosophies from the nature forest kindergartens to our centres?
- We want to share ideas, resources and knowledge and then how we can document and implement this.
- Implementing nature forest ideas in our own centres and learning to adapt each Kindergartens environment.
- How can we best use of natural environments?
- How best can things be used/utilized?
- Sue talked about a Kindergarten in Te Anau – every week go out (10 children) to lake, jetty, bush (brought all clothes).
- Read about ideal experiences; let others know good books or sites.
- The more people that are interested in nature and reconnecting children with nature the better.
- Create a forum for talking via the website – see Kathryn about a thread for nature kindergarten ideas. Possibly Google Docs. It was decided Louise to start the thread on the NKA website. Please reply to her.

Within this area there was also discussion on risk assessment.

- How can we implement nature/forest kindergarten ideas within the regulations?
- Risk Assessment? Sue is doing a half day course through Mindstretchers while she is in Scotland. Will let us know when she is back on how they do their risk assessment.
- Need to manage risk and let children manage their own risk.
- Research into risk management.
- Health and Safety issues regarding meeting early childhood regulations.

FOCUS TWO:

New Kindergarten, land, building etc.

- Possible land for everyone to use but not one kindergarten.
- Talk to DOC or another landowner about leasing land to use.
- Build new kindergarten next to some of this land. Types of nature kindergartens – look at a New Zealand model.
- Look at local 'iwi' land.
- Possible excursions?
- Kids owning their bush.
- Barbara to talk to Mari and Dawn about possible sites for a nature experience/kindergarten.

What next:

- Meet once a term. Organise a big meeting when Sue comes back and then decide what avenues we want to look at and investigate after that. Debbie to contact Sue and set up a date.
- Possible professional development in the future, after session, evenings or in the holidays.

Websites:

www.worldforumfoundation.org/nature

www.worldforumfoundation.org/wonder - NACC newsletter can be downloaded.

www.mindstretchers.co.uk

Meeting Closed: 3.15 p.m.