

Hora Hora Kindergarten Staff Community

Term 4 2018

High quality learning delivered - Learning outcomes for children; The learning environment both inside and out; professional learning undertaken; purchases, plans for change, Te Ao Maori

A collaborative and cohesive team provides and engages in a programme responsive to individual children's learning needs leading to the opportunity for all children to be engaged in a programme that allows and encourages their growth and development. We have adapted our planning procedure to better meet the needs of all children. Our planning meeting ensures that we discuss the children's current interests, abilities and needs collaboratively and this is then valued as meaningful learning through the documentation of this learning in learning stories and photo stories.

The staff have all begun their journey on the new NKA Appraisal system which is inquiry-based research. The team have identified areas that will support our learning community grow as well as individual teachers developing and strengthening their knowledge to share with the tamariki attending Hora Hora Kindergarten. These areas are: Providing meaningful curriculum design (learning programme) for a group of mixed age children to ensure that all needs are provided for; Sustainability; Oral literacy/Communication; Rituals.

The teaching team has been involved in current professional development this term including topics such as Children Experiencing Trauma and Loss – Building Trusting Connections; Nathan Wallis – Child Development.

Receiving Government Equity Funding and the new Target Funding we have been able to purchase new resources, for example natural wooden work tables for the children, family play dress ups that reflect the diverse ethnic origins of our tamariki, outdoor equipment to support the differing developmental stages of our children – wheelbarrows for filling up and pushing.

The continuation of redesigning both our outdoor and indoor environments is planned for in our 2019 Annual Plan to ensure that we keep the sources current and well maintained for our tamariki and their whanau.

This term we welcome Kim Barnes as our qualified lunch cover teacher as well as our 5th teacher for 10 hours per week. We are also able to employ Kim for an extra 10 hours per week due to the Targeted Funding from the government that we can now access. Having Kim for these hours provides many benefits for our children as she embraces our learning programme to support the tamariki in their learning experiences. Our children are enjoying building a relationship with Kim as she engages and supports their engagement in the programme.

The teaching team have all begun their journey with the new NKA Appraisal system. This will strengthen our pedagogy and teaching practice as we grow and develop through this as well as we begin implementing and embedding this into our programme.

Hui-Min is using her appraisal topic to grow her (and then the teams) pedagogy around sustainability. This will be shared with our tamariki as it is introduced into our learning programme at a deeper level.

The flower and vegetable gardens continue to be an area that children explore with their peers.

We have a strong focus on social competency growth. Children are encouraged and supported to develop meaningful friendships with their peers. This includes using oral literacy/language skills to express themselves to effect positive outcomes as well as being kind to others and showing empathy as they support each other.

Relationships – Strong sustained relationships and partnerships: Community Engagement: Pumanawatanga, transition to school visits, trips, visitors into the kindergarten, special events, etc.

Whanaungatanga is a part of who we are at Hora Hora Kindergarten. Building of our relationships with all tamariki and their whanau is first and foremost in our learning environment. Our daily practice of making everyone feel welcome and responding to individual family's needs is valued through respectful interactions and support.

All children benefit from having the opportunity to be involved in learning and gaining knowledge of other peoples and their cultural practices and protocol.

We recently invited the children to bring a soft toy/teddy to kindergarten. Their whānau were invited to a shared lunch and the teddies had a sleepover at kindergarten. The team photographed the teddies "playing at kindergarten". This was enjoyed by many of our children and their whanau and the teaching team. The teaching team took this opportunity to engage in friendly welcoming conversations with our families as well as introducing people to others that they had not known previously.

I would like to thank Tricia's mother, Sue Anne for coming in regularly to share her amazing dance skills with our children. They are learning new dance moves each time and gaining in confidence. It is fantastic to see their "I can give this a go" attitude develop. We are growing some amazing dancers through this opportunity.

We have strengthened our physical programme by inviting Active Attitude (children's gym provider) to visit monthly. Ashley arrives in her van full of exciting resources that encourage and provide physical challenges that are achievable for our tamariki and are FUN.

We will be having an end of year Christmas gathering with our children and their families at Heritage Park where mini train and steam train rides plus horse and cart rides will be available. This is a family picnic day that will be attended by Santa.

We continue to attend meetings and support our Kahui Ako group as we develop relationships that grow the transition of children as they continue their learning journeys at school.

Promotion – Lifting the profile of the kindergarten within the community: newspaper stories and photos, open days, kindergarten out in the community, promotional flyers sent out, etc.

We continue to update our website termly to ensure that it has current information for families to be able to make informed choices regarding their child's early childhood learning provider.

I believe that word of mouth from existing families is our strongest pathway for new enrolments to join the community that is Hora Hora Kindergarten.

Shared events at kindergarten as well as face to face conversation/building relationships is a very important part of this as we support them to transition into our kindergarten and to continue this throughout their time with us.

Finance – Financial Stability: Management and administration (roll numbers, variation report explanation, fund raising, grant applications etc.

The benefit of being able to access both Equity and Targeted Funding has made an immense difference to both the resources that we have been able to provide as well as employing a 5th qualified teacher for an extra 10 hours per week. The kindergarten will remain financially viable and be able to maintain and purchase relevant resources as well as maintaining the environment to a high standard that is safe and hygienic.

We continue to maintain full/near full rolls to maximize accessible funding despite our families moving due to housing and employment opportunities.

We remain Fees Free which is a huge benefit to our whanau/families and enables many of our children to attend for more days.

Services – Services delivered that are relevant to the communities they serve: Ensure our services meet our communities' needs. Working alongside of NKA: PPM, speech and Language therapist, Pou Whakarewa Tikanga Maori visits. Environmental sustainability,

The teaching team at Hora Hora Kindergarten continue to work within the policies and procedures of NKA Management to ensure that all children and their families are treated equitably and any concerns are responded to efficiently and that the families gain a sense of belonging in their chosen place of education for their child/ren.

We have several children with diverse learning needs. To support them in their learning and development we work closely with MOE Learning Support including the families as we set learning goals for them individually. We also access the services of NKA's Speech Language Therapist to support oral literacy and language development.

The children have participated in Active Attitude's physical development programme. They bring the equipment to us and Ashley, the teaching team and the children work collaboratively as we participate in the programme. The children celebrate their achievement and show the fun that they have enjoyed visually and verbally.

This term saw our last visits from our PPM, Gillian. She has worked alongside us offering support and guidance as well as building relationships with our children. Thank you Gillian for your work.

We will now come under the guidance and support of Kim as our PPM from term1 2019.

General Comments:

The children have enjoyed and benefitted from the use of the wet weather gear with our changeable weather this term. It has allowed discussions about the weather – using the senses to experience it and to grow knowledge around the different weather types.

Unfortunately the wooden tables began to show large cracks and the sealant was not strong enough to prevent leakage of paint and pens to stain the wood. The Spruce Up Company has willingly taken them back and is solving these problems for us and we look forward to the table arriving T1 2019.

Acknowledgements:

A huge thank you to our children and their families who have supported us through sharing their time, and skills to help make the kindergarten an amazing place for their children and for the teaching team (kaiako) to teach in. Thank you!!!

As mentioned above I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gillian from the teaching team and support staff at Hora Hora Kindergarten for her time, knowledge, advice and support.

Also I would like to acknowledge our faithful neighbours/kindergarten family, Jaimee and Paul who continue to look after the grounds as well as being aware of anyone entering the grounds after hours. You do an amazing job for us.