

Little Explorers

Information Sheet

Monday and Friday - We begin our session with a group time at 12.45pm. During these sessions there will be a focus on early literacy/numeracy, as well as focus and extension on areas of current interest.

The children/tamariki develop early literacy/numeracy skills through art, storytelling, music and drama, games, construction. There will also be opportunities to develop early writing skills and letter recognition within the context of the programme, and a child's readiness.

On Monday we have a library time where the children are able to choose their own books. These books are books of interest only. This experience is NOT about teaching your child to read. It is about fostering an interest in books, learning routines and teaching your child how to respect and look after books. We would like the books to be visited several times through the week. The books will go home on a Monday and must be returned by the Friday. If the Book Folder is not returned your child will not receive new books that week.

During the term the tamariki have the opportunity to go on outings. Learning outcomes from these excursions are massive.

- Involvement in the natural world, love and enjoyment of the natural world.
- To explore confidently.
- Social rules in different settings e.g Library - learn to be quiet and respectful to others.
- How to keep themselves safe, holding hands, looking both ways, what to do if they get lost, following instructions.
- Learn alongside adults/children, make discoveries, sharing knowledge, listening, talking to each other.
- Physical activity in natural environment, greater well-being, motivating factors to be active.
- Building knowledge, awareness and spirit of our local community.

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On occasion we will take a small group of the ten oldest children on a local excursion i.e Dingle Dell, St Heliers Beach, Library. The rationale behind these excursions is that the experience for the children is more beneficial in the small group atmosphere. Every child will have the opportunity to be part of this group as the oldest children move onto school. The children remaining at the centre will continue to engage in the afternoon programme that we offer.

DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

As our Little Explorers programme aims to prepare children for school we encourage parents to say goodbye to children promptly. Please collect your children promptly at 3pm.

DRESS

Fun play often means getting dirty or messy therefore please dress your child in appropriate clothes. Due to more physical activity occurring as part of the Little Explorers programme can you please ensure that your child has a raincoat, gumboots, and extra leggings/shorts in their back-packs. If you have any spare plastic bags we would very much appreciate these also.

SELF-HELP SKILLS

Children have a drive to be independent and do things on their own. This is a healthy part of normal child development. As children grow, they learn to do more and more tasks. Early childhood educators and parents can help young children become independent by allowing and encouraging them to take responsibility for themselves whenever possible. It can be faster to do things for children, but they learn so much from doing things for themselves. When children practice self-help skills, they practice their large and small motor skills, learn to follow instructions, gain confidence in their ability to try new things and build their self-esteem and pride in their independence. These are all skills that we promote and encourage in our programme on a daily basis.

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LITERACY/WRITING

Your child will be beginning to gradually engage in more writing as part of the Little Explorers programme. As part of the programme we extend the children's literacy and communication skills such as: listening skills, being able to retell a story, beginning writing skills eg: pencil grasp, letter formation (individual readiness), and letter sounds.

Please refer to the 'lower and upper case alphabet' sheets over page to assist you in supporting your child to form the letters correctly at home.

GROSS MOTOR

Gross motor skills involve large-body movements. With practice, young children can build speed, balance, endurance, and the more sophisticated levels of coordination necessary to master new physical activities, such as riding a bike, dancing, swimming, swinging on a jungle gym, team sports, even helping them to be able to sit straight and comfortably on a mat or chair, and hold a pen. Beyond honing physical abilities, teachers and parental encouragement of physical activity will also in-still a love of physical fitness (and health) that can continue through adulthood.

Most complex activities children try will seem difficult at first, and require lots of patience and practice to master. Teachers and parents can both teach and encourage; modelling how to kick a ball or balance on a bike, as well as supporting children as they inevitably fall and must start over again. These are all skills that we promote and encourage in our programme on a daily basis.

BOOK FEE

There will be a \$20 book charge when your child is first enrolled in the Little Explorers Programme. This will cover extra resources, such as Book Bags for the Library, Writing Books, and Activity Clear Files.