

# Nancy Winter Early Childhood Centre

Governed by The Raetihi Early Childhood Education Trust (RECET)

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021

### Philosophy

A nurturing home away from home in which to love, learn and play for tamariki, whānau and community.

When children feel secure in warm relationship they can relax into their play and learn.

I see you,  
I hear you,  
I know you.

Play naturally unfolds in young children and is the way they learn holistically.

Therefore, we believe that growing self-directed and unhurried play is best for our children's learning.



### Relationships

### Tikanga

### Play

### 2021 in Review

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# Governance Report

## From The Chairperson

Kia ora koutou

### **Leadership**

The Raetihi Early Childhood Education Trust who govern the Nancy Winter Early Childhood Centre, continues to be committed to providing a sustainable, quality early learning Centre for the Waimarino community, based here in the historical and wonderful township of Raetihi.

We have had some changes of trustees as their circumstances changed during 2021. We thank Sean Drinkwater, Monica de Joux and Jessica Pharoah for their time and expertise on the trust, especially both Sean and Jessie for stepping into the chairperson's position at their respective times. We wish all of our leaving trustees well with their next plans.

Our current governance group (at the time of print) is made up of Tony Maclean (current Chairperson), Fleur Brown and Jules Robbie.

We do have spaces available on the Trust and are looking for individuals that would like to grow their skillset of governance and give back to our community. Please make contact with any of our Trustees or Centre Manager Brenda for more information or to attend the next meeting to see what being a Trustee entails.

### **Our Team**

We are pleased to support our provisionally registered teachers as they work their way to full registration. Our Centre actively supports any aspiring teachers to train as ECE teachers and some of our relief teachers that are unqualified have been fulfilling their requirements with us as they investigate study options.

At the end of 2021 we said farewell to Aroha Williams after fourteen years of service. Aroha began at our Centre as an untrained teacher and during her time with us, completed her training and became a fully registered teacher. We thank Aroha for her service as a much loved kaiako and wish her the best on her next endeavours.

Brenda Burnard continues to lead the business of the Centre and she recently celebrated 10 years of service with us. Brenda does an amazing job of balancing legislative requirements with an overwhelming care for the children and whānau of the community and their education journey with us particularly with another challenging year due to the effects of Covid-19.

We also want to thank all the staff for their amazing commitment to the love, care, and support for the tamariki in their care once again despite the challenges that a global pandemic has brought.

## **Sustainability**

2021 had its challenges with the impact of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and the parameters that had been put in place to minimize the spread of this. Information for managing our early learning service was provided to us by the Ministry of Education as advice and guidance. The information provided was very regular and significant meaning that we had to be responsive to the changing situation often with little notice. This has continued into 2022. Our Centre continues to follow the advice and guidance from the Ministry of Education to ensure best outcomes for our tamariki and we thank families for your on-going support with this.

The Centre strategic direction continues as aligned with the infographic that you'll see in this overall report and located inside the Centre.

## **Our Thanks**

As we continue to strive to provide experiential learning for our local tamariki based on our collective pasts, and their passions we want to thank our staff, management and especially the families and community who continue to share their beautiful and amazing children with our Centre. We are humbled by your decision to send your children to the Nancy Winter Early Childhood Centre where our staff provide love and quality care, alongside a curriculum that aims to inspire, grow and ignite their minds and curiosity which will set them up well to be confident, resilient, self-led Ruapehu learners as they journey through life.

Ngā mihi

The Raetihi Early Childhood Education Trustee's (RECET)



# Strategic Plan

## Trust Strategic Goals

1. Provide a Centre where learning and care is based on current theory and practice, underpinned with teachers' ratios that maximises the learning exploration of children and ensures their safety.

2. Provide an environment where children, community, whānau, teachers and Trustees needs and aspirations are identified and responded to. Communication is clear with open information and consultation sharing.

3. The Centre is operated in a principled, consistent manner underpinned by clear process and review.

4. The Centre is sustainable and an integral part of the Waimarino Community, forming strong collaborative meaningful relationships with local Iwi and Hapu and all other cultural groups within the Waimarino Community.

5. The Centre holds a strong, reputable, leadership position within the Waimarino Education Community.





# Manager's Report

Brenda Burnard

Kia ora koutou katoa

During 2021 we continued to operate through the pandemic finding our way with new enrolments and children moving on to school. As we neared the end of 2021 it became evident that Covid-19 would eventually spread throughout the country and we continued to operate with the traffic light system in mind. Our Centre did find this challenging (like most other businesses and organisations in operation), but we carried on and found our way forward. We continue to build our resilience in the current climate and be there for tamariki and their whānau in our community. The Education Review Office visited our Centre during 2021 and we were pleased to share this review with our community. You can read more about the review in the Teaching Team report and the final report [here](#).

## **Enrolments**

We welcomed many new whānau to our Centre, with an increasing number of families moving to our region from out of the area. Covid has presented opportunities for parents to work from home and we noted there seems to be an increase in these circumstances with our families. We welcome all of our new enrolments and their whānau to our NWC community. Our enrolment numbers continued to be steady in 2021 despite Covid restrictions. We were not at capacity but comfortable for the staffing we had at the time. Some of our children continue to share their time in ECE between our Centre and other services, which we support with clear communication with the families and services concerned. Children cannot be booked in at a service at the same time as another. We work hard to meet the needs of our Nancy Winter Centre whānau as this is part of the strategic vision of the Centre.

## **Sustainability**

Financial viability during Covid has always been a concern. The Ministry of Education funding continues to be flexible and encompassing of the Covid climate, however there has been limited increases in funding to reflect the increasing inflation rates that started in 2021. We can attribute some loss in income from not charging our families during Covid restrictions eg. Centre closure during the alert level systems. We have worked hard to minimise the financial impact on families during these trying times and we will continue to do so with the sustainability of the Centre also at the front of our minds.

During 2021 we received grants or sponsorship from COGS, TG McCarthy Trust and WPI which helped support our Centre operations and was much appreciated.

We are conscious of keeping on top of repairs and maintenance at our Centre and with this in mind we ended up running at a slight deficit for 2021.

## **Staffing**

During 2021 we said farewell to Natasha Casey (administrator) and welcomed Leah Stuckey into this role. Thank you to Erin Larsen for filling in as our relief administrator for some short periods of time. It was a big help in the office. Aroha Williams, one of our original staff members, finished at our Centre at the end of 2021. We thanked Aroha for her many years of service as an original team member and the NWC team and Trust celebrated this at the end of the year. We wish Aroha well with her next endeavours.

Other changes in the Centre included Teri taking a leave of absence from September as she welcomed her new daughter into her family, as did Kookie (Odette) in December. We look forward to the return of both of these ECE trained teachers during 2022, but fully support them both as they adjust to family life with their new pēpi. Thank you to Kirsty and Karen for filling these fixed term positions.

### **Environment**

At the end of the year, we freshened up indoors with interior paint, the first time in the fifteen years we have been open. Our outdoor area continues to be developed with the outdoor kitchen becoming quite a feature. This will develop further in 2022.

### **Whānau/Community**

Covid has created some barriers to events and our interaction with whānau and community. During 2021 we tried to find a balance between developing and fostering relationships and adhering to the advice and guidance we have received from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. In many instances we are having to rely on technology to build and maintain relationships, which is a new way of working for us. Wherever possible our first choice is to be kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) with people, especially young children. We were pleased to be able to celebrate Puanga in 2021 (photo below).

I continue to represent our place in the Ruapehu Kāhui Ako (Community of Learners). This group is represented by leaders and principals of schools from ECE through to college. It is the only forum that ECE can be involved in (and the ECE voice shared) and I value the work that is being done for education across all sectors in this group. I continue in the lead position of this group which sits alongside my role as Manager of this Centre. Our Kāhui Ako have partnered with CORE Education who are providing us with professional development for our teachers and guidance in progressing our achievement challenges. During 2021 our Kāhui Ako appointed two Learning Support Co-ordinators who work across all sectors supporting tamariki, whānau and kaiako across our Kāhui Ako. One of the key areas they will be supporting will be transition from ECE to school and school to college.

Again, we had to be creative to participate in the Cultural Festival this year. Many of our schools and ECE services that are a part of our Kāhui Ako used the digital platform for the Cultural Festival in 2021. You can view all contributions on the [Ruapehu Cultural Festival](#) channel on YouTube. We know it's not the same as actually attending the event but we were pleased to be able to participate nevertheless in the digital version. Check out our contribution here: [Nancy Winter Centre – Cultural Festival 2021](#).



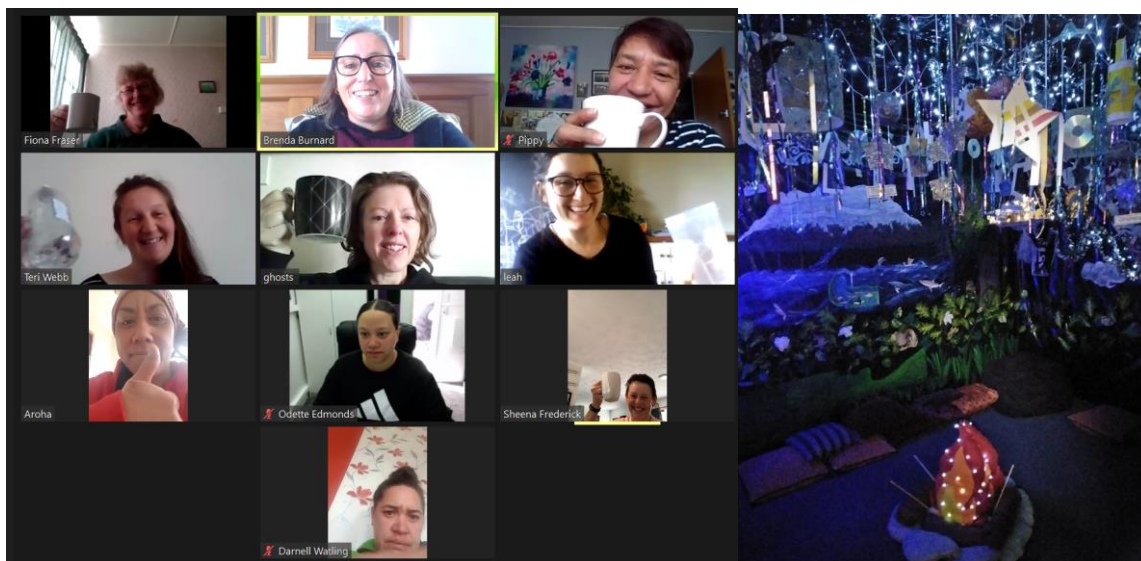
## Thanks

Every year we have many different people or organisations that support our Centre in some way. Of note we'd like to thank: Raetihi School for their donations of excess food, the Hammond whānau (0800 Woodguy) for running a firewood raffle for us and the Powderkeg for funds from a sausage sizzle. Please support our wonderful local businesses as they have supported us. There have been many other instances of kind offerings to our Centre, in particular from our NWC families. Thank you for supporting us, it certainly helps.

Please read our page of gratitude where we have acknowledged our funders and kind donations throughout 2021.

We have a committed teaching team who focus on building strong relationships with our tamariki and whānau. Supporting our teaching team are a group of relief teachers who seamlessly fit into our place and we could not do without. A big thank you to our whole team (administration, cleaners and kaiako), for the commitment you give to your positions. It's all for the benefit of our tamariki.

A big thank you to all of our Trustees but in particular outgoing Trustee's in 2021 Sean Drinkwater, Monica de Joux and Jessie Phaorah. We thank you for your commitment and time to our place helping guide the strategic direction. We do currently have space on our Trust. Please chat with me if you are interested in joining our governance team. No governance experience is necessary. All we require is a person to be a big picture thinker who is collaborative with a willingness to learn about governance for the benefit of the tamariki in our community.



*Photo: Farewell to Teri on Parental leave via Zoom during lockdown and our Puanga room.*

# Teaching Team Report

## From The Leadership Team

### ***External Evaluation***

Our year started with the news that ERO was coming. ERO begin their visits with an Akanuku / Assurance Review which assesses whether the Early Childhood service is meeting the regulating standards and licensing criteria. Using our newly compiled Operations Manual – Health & Safety section, and matching it to our daily practice, we were able to clearly demonstrate a high level of compliance. The Operations Manual is available for everyone to read (at the Office) and we encourage you to do so, if you want to know more about how we meet the legal requirements of providing a healthy and wellbeing-promoting environment.

ERO then moved us through to an Akarangi Review - one of only a handful of ECE centres in the Whanganui region to have done so at that time. We are hugely proud of that!! An Akarangi/Quality review evaluates the extent to which the early childhood service has the learning and organisational conditions to support equitable and excellent outcomes for learners.

We found the ERO visit to be an enjoyable time of great professional development, with many empowering and validating conversations with the ERO team. We were very happy with their report, and have added their recommendations to our Teaching Annual Plan.

### ***Internal Evaluation***

Our evaluative question this year has been 'how well do we use assessments to strengthen our teaching, so that children's learning is extended?'

Keeping the recommendations from ERO to the fore, and benefitting from various Professional Development opportunities, we worked on improving our capabilities in this area.

There has been some very inspiring input of how our strategies have made a difference to children's learning. It was clear that the team would clearly like to work on this further next year to really embed this into our practice.

### ***Centre Policies Review***

We review a number of our policies each year to make sure we are providing quality care and education. The policies are reviewed on a three-yearly cycle with this year's reviews being:

Social and Emotional Learning

Hazard Risk/Benefit Analysis

Hazard Policy

Emergency Plan/Policy - this is having a major revamp and will be completed next year.

We value the input we receive from whānau in reviewing our policies.



## ***Planning***

Our individual plans for our tamariki are thorough and collaborative. Each learning journey group shares plans with the team at staff hui to include multiple perspectives.

Childrens' individual plans are now shared on Storypark and this has had a huge impact on whānau having easy access to contribute to the writing and on-going work of the plan.

Our Transition to School visits were restricted due to Covid. We hope to be able to resume these in 2022.

Centre-wide planning this year has included learning and celebration around Puanga, and growing Te Reo Māori in the centre.

Covid continued to be a thorn in our sides. Although it was challenging at times, the team managed to continue to work through, and we offered support to our whānau through Storypark, Zoom calls, and phone calls.

## ***Professional Development from External Providers***

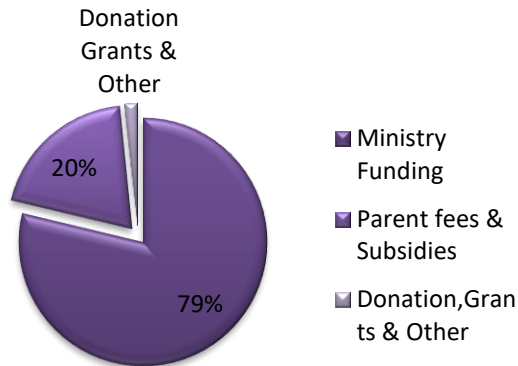
We have had a good number of opportunities to attend off-site Professional Development courses. Shared professional learning allows us to grow our understanding and practice together. So far this year, kaiako have attended:

- He Māpuna te Tamaiti
- Incredible Years
- Evaluation as a Motivation for Change
- Child Protection
- Te Whare Tapa Whā

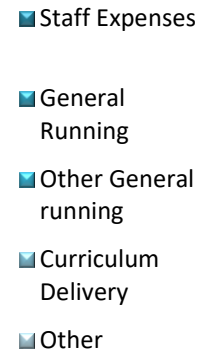


# Audited Reports

## Income



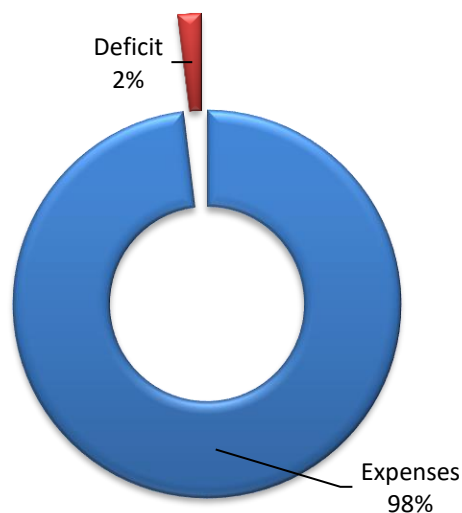
## Expenditure



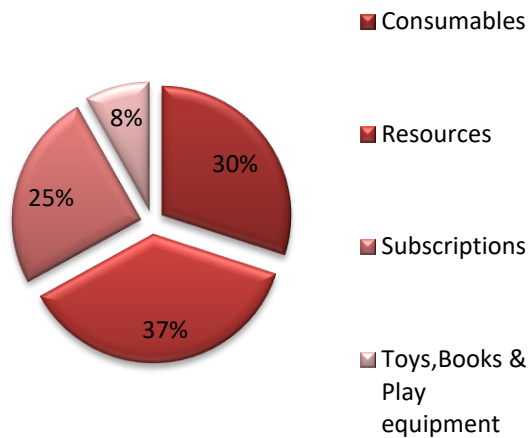
2021 continued to have some uncertainty about it and we were very thankful for continued support from the Ministry of Education to continuing funding during lockdown and a 'relax' on some of the stringent rules they have in place for funding in ECE. The Trust made conscious decision for 2021 to not increase Centre fees to support our NWC whānau in trying times.

There was minimal increase in funding (not even close to inflation) for 2021 from the Ministry of Education which has made expenditure difficult as we start to see the effect Covid is having on the rising costs of purchases.

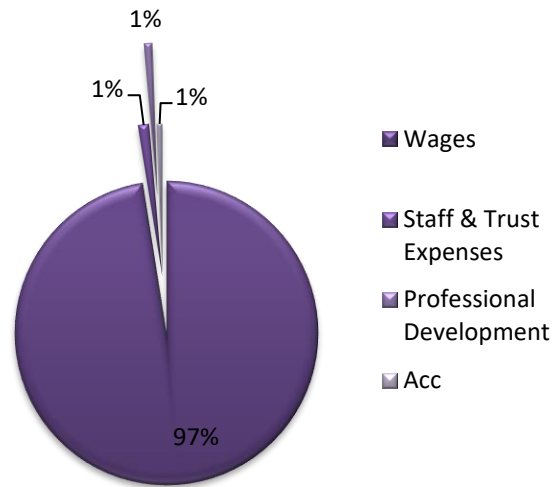
## Income vs Expenditure



## Curriculum Delivery

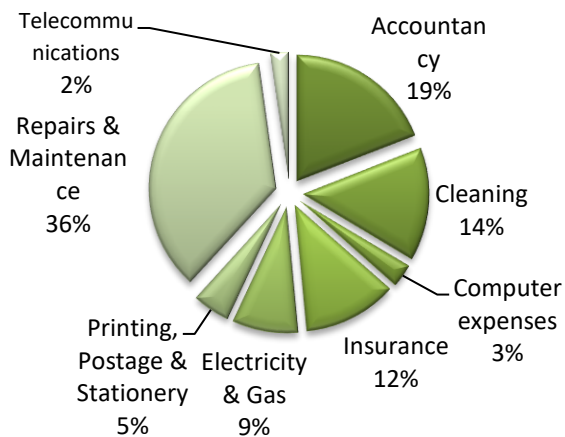


## Staff Expenses

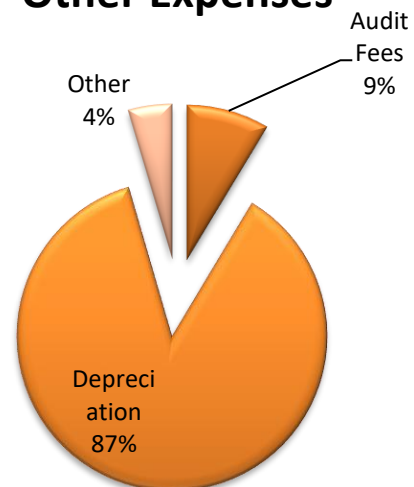


Being a community-based Centre means expenditure is considered on a tight budget putting everything back into the Centre for the best outcomes for children while remaining sustainable. Major purchase items have to be well planned for however sometimes repairs and maintenance and replacement items will often take precedent which happened to put us over budget during 2021.

## General Running Costs



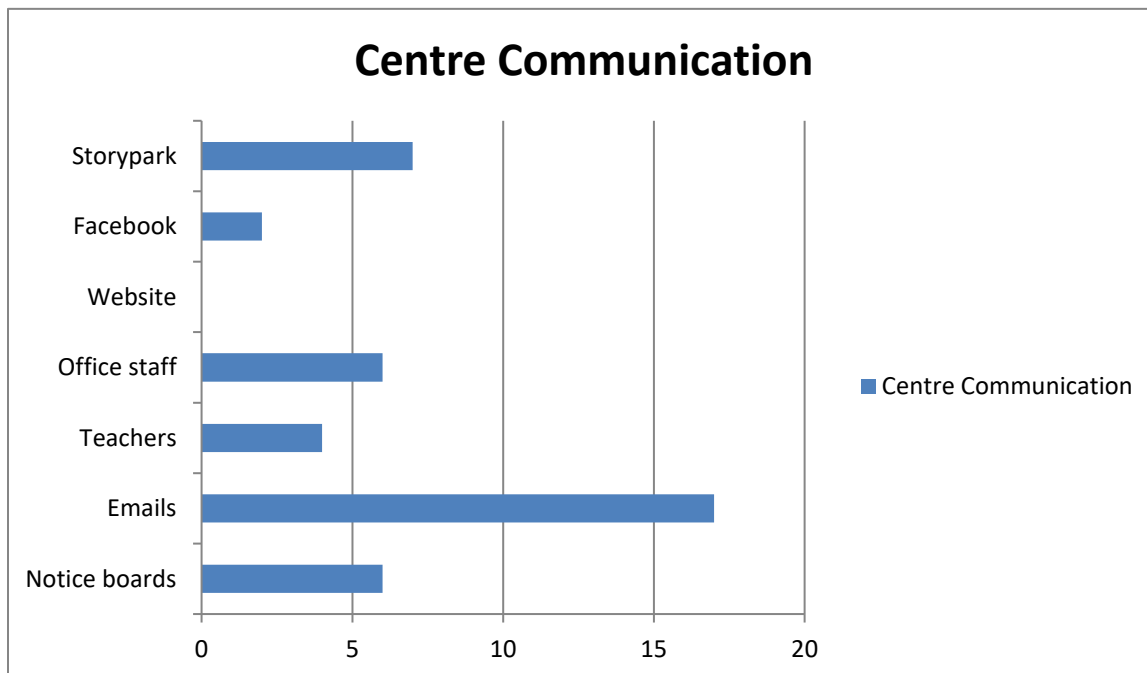
## Other Expenses



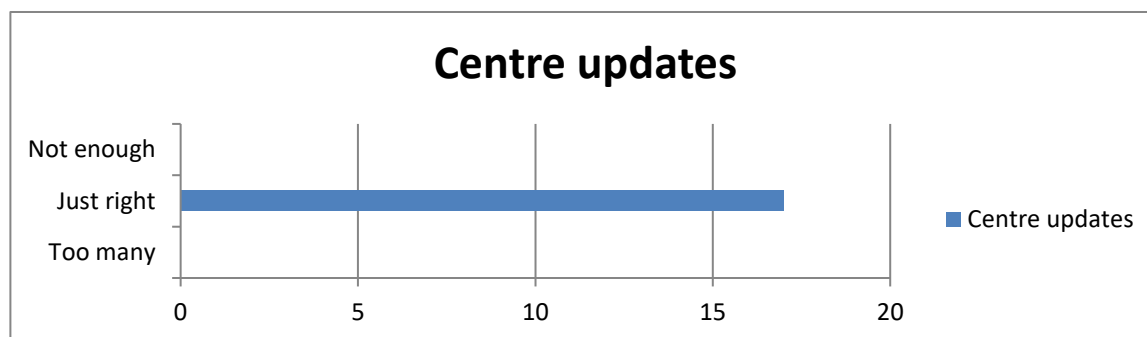
# Whānau Survey Results

We survey our whānau once a year. This survey was put out to our whānau at the end of 2021. Thank you to the families who responded. Below is the collated results of your responses and feedback which has been shared across the team for consideration.

**1. Office Communication: During the 2020 outbreak of Covid-19 (1st lockdown) and into 2021, we have shared information with you regarding how this will affect the operations of our Centre during this time. What were the most effective ways you received information from us during this time?**



**2. Office Communication: Was the frequency of the information you received regular enough?**





### 3. Office Communication: How could we have improved our communication during the outbreak of Covid-19?

- It was fantastic
- You did well, updates at the time of changes were essential, which you did
- You guys did great
- I thought it was great.
- I have been more than happy with All office communication

### 4. Kaiako/Teacher Communication: Our teaching team made contact with families regarding the care and education of your children during the Covid-19 outbreak. How did they communicate with you during this time?

#### Teachers communication



#### Other/Comment:

- Communication was great
- Was really lovely to get a call from Mairi checking on our well-being. I was touched by the gesture.
- personal facebook messenger
- We had a phone call from our main teacher, a box of educational activities arrive from the MOH, and participated in a zoom call for a leaving party
- Also had a phone call or two during the lock down periods
- Phone and Storypark but I could only select 1 option.

**5. Kaiako/teacher communication: Curriculum delivery for Early Childhood Education is difficult without being with young children in person. Our team had a Covid plan to carry out for your child during 2021. Did our teaching team make enough contact with your family during the Covid-19 outbreak?**

**Did our team make enough contact?**



■ Yes

■ No

**Feedback :**

- One phone call asking how we were going, what we were getting up to.. was happy with this at the time as we were loving our lockdown time. Each teacher had turns (one per day) to load a video up and demonstrate an activity that the kids could do at home.
- There was plenty of storypark communication, happy with it

**6. Did your child get the support they needed to settle back into the Centre after having time away (lockdown)?**

**Did your child get enough support to settle back in?**



■ Yes

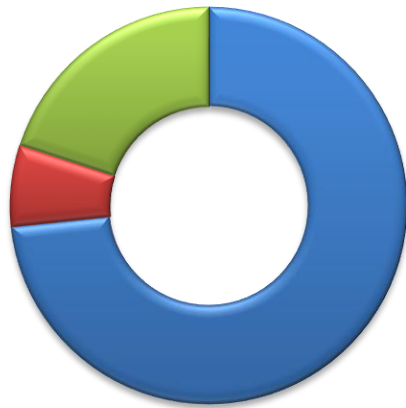
■ No

**Comment:**

- Not really sure there was a need
- We were able to settle them as needed despite level restrictions

**7. Centre Communication: Should we end up in a similar situation where you are remote from our Centre while your child is enrolled with us, How could we support your child and your whānau? (Tick all that applies)**

## How to support your family?



- Ideas to support learning through play
- Further information about the developing situation
- More video/Zoom calls to engage with children and Whanau

### Other thoughts:

- All of the above sound great! (it only let me choose one)
- Like the idea above, a video let's us connect and remember your lovely faces, and an activity to watch that helps them learn / that we could recreate would be awesome.

**8. Do you wish to make any further comments on the education and care of your child or anything else related to our Centre? Please do so below:**

- We love Nancy's
- You are all fantastic thanks so much for all you do
- We'd like our child to not take a long nap during the day. Also, when gastro or nits are going around an email notification would be great.

# Gratitude Page



We would like to take the time to acknowledge and thank our local Waimarino Community for supporting us.

## A big **thank you** to:

- ❖ The Hammond Family 0800Woodguy for supplying a load of firewood for a fundraising raffle.
- ❖ The Powder Keg Whanau for hosting a sausage sizzle and supporting the centre.
- ❖ Paper for trees in conjunction with Ruapehu district council and Otara Glen nursery for keeping our centre and community green and lush.
- ❖ Collective local grant schemes; WPI sponsorship; TG Macarthy Trust; COGS for always supporting the needs of our centre and the community we serve.



**0800 WOOD GUY**  
(966 3489)

Your Local Quality Firewood Specialist  
Ohakune | Raetihi | Waiouru | National Park

