

NANCY WINTER EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Nancy Winter Centre Past and Present Staff and Trust 2017

*The Nancy Winter Early
Childhood Centre is governed by
The Raetihi Early Childhood
Education Trust.*

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GOVERNANCE REPORT

BY ERENA MIKAERE-MOST

Tēnēi te mihi ki a tatau, tēnēi te reo o te poari o te kopae whaka tupu nei a Nancy Winter, e mihi kau ana I runga itearoha ki a kautau katoa.

2017 was a busy and challenging year for the Trust. As the Raetihi Early Childhood Trust, who govern the Nancy Winter Early Childhood Centre we continue 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.

Leadership

There were a few movements on the Trust, and within the Centre this year. After over a decade of service to the Centre Andy Entwisle stood down from the Trust at the end of 2017. Andy, alongside the thought leadership of others set up this wonderful facility for our community and looked after it so well, that he was integral to the fact that after 10 years it is still serving the community to its original purpose; to provide quality early learning for the Waimarino. Andy has left with us a great legacy to now care for, and on a personal note I am grateful for his guidance this year in my role as Chair as we had to navigate our way through some challenging financial times. Our thanks go out to Andy and his family, who continue to support him as he continues to volunteer his time to lead other kaupapa for our community.

This year we also fare-welled Sarah Gunnell, similarly after nearly a decade of association with the Centre and more recently as Trustee, Sarah moved to Wellington to pursue a fantastic career opportunity – again thank you Sarah and we wish you and your whānau all the best.

We welcomed Robbie Lilburn on to the Trust this year, who has been a great addition. The current Trustees are Amoa Hawira, Erena Mikaere-Most (Chair), Lauren Wikohika, Robbie Lilburn and Sean Drinkwater. We are currently seeking expressions of interest for other trustees.



At the end of 2016 the amazing, creative and wise leader that is Lynne Pope left the area and departed the Centre. Lynne was instrumental in the success of the Centre and a strong community advocate for Raetihi founding the Raetihi Community Charitable Trust. We wish Lynne all the best in Wellington alongside her whānau and thank her for years of dedication to our tamariki and the area. Her love for the centre and why it exists to provide for local families is relentless so we know she will be back often to visit.

With Lynne's departure, we needed to recruit for a new manager, and were very pleased to appoint Brenda in January 2017. In her first year she has shown determination, strength and passion for the role and its important responsibilities, as well as introduced some new initiatives and team processes that we already see the benefits of. We look forward to continuing to support Brenda lead the Centre in the years to come.

And finally, we continue to provide early education leadership support to all our peer providers and local entities and are engaged and valued as a key stakeholder of the *Ruapehu Whānau Transformation* plan and the new *Kāhui Ako – Southern Ruapehu Community of Learning (COL)*.



Sustainability

The impact of the government's seven-year funding freeze for the early childhood education sector started to take its effect on us. Despite inflation, the funding for the sector has not increased, and is being felt by all providers across the country, not just ourselves. As a not-for-profit Centre, we rely on the government's obligations to our sector and despite the election we still have not seen any change. 2017 was a difficult year financially with the quantity of children heading off to school being the greatest we have ever had, and subsequently the Centre ran at a loss in 2017. We took a proactive move and reviewed the Centre this year (see detail below), and alongside management and staff are actively monitoring our finances, with utmost priority being given to the quality of care and education for our tamariki.

Review

One of our biggest and most important responsibilities as a Trust is to ensure the Centre remains sustainable and financially accessible to our Raetihi and wider Waimarino community. For this reason, we reviewed the expenditure and the infrastructure of the Centre this year, with the following considerations:

- the funding freeze in the ECE sector, and the subsequent decline in the financial position of the Centre for the last two years.
- our absolute commitment to providing a sustainable quality early childhood Centre for the Waimarino area, now and for future generations.
- our philosophy to ensure our practice improves, and we continue to meet the needs of our community while providing a sustainable high quality early childhood education service.
- the fact that we strive to maintain a high ratio of 80% qualified registered ECE teachers at any one time on the centre 'floor'.
- The shared leadership model and dispersed leadership in practice already at the Centre.

We recognised the need for a change in the way we resource the Centre to ensure the sustainability of this quality early childhood centre for our community remains for all, which resulted in a slight restructure of the Leadership Team.

As a Trust and team, we identified, and all committed to a new enhanced distributed Leadership Model that will:

- provide a structure that the Trust can financially sustain.
- provide a caring, effective and quality learning environment.
- allow for succession and growth of staff within the Centre.

The change included the disestablishment of the Head Teacher role, and instead created a Leadership Team of three Senior Leaders (which was previously two leaders and the Head Teacher). They all still lead the curriculum design and delivery at the Centre through an approach with dispersed responsibility.

The final structure is one which we believe will best support achieving our goals and provide sustainability into the future.

Celebrations

2017 marked 10 years of the Nancy Winter Centre being opened and serving the community. We hosted an event to celebrate with the community, past and present Trustees, staff and children, alongside the ever-supportive Winter whānau. It was a great day!

This also meant that we had several of our long serving staff members celebrate 10 years' service to the Centre. We acknowledged our amazing staff with a special dinner alongside the Trust and a specially chosen taonga for each member to reflect and symbolise the taonga that they each bring to our Centre and children every day! Ānei rā te mihi ki ngā wahine toa rā ko Sheena, ko Fiona, ko Sharon, ko Aroha rātou ko Pipi.



Acknowledgements

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. The importance of their care is not lost on us, and 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 an innovative 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.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the Centre or the Trust, please contact myself or Brenda Burnard – Centre Manager.

Naku iti nei,

Erena Mikaere Most (Chair)
Raetihi Early Childhood Trust

“Poipoia te kakano kia puawai”.

“Nurture the seed and it will blossom”.



The Trust reviewed the strategic goals for the Centre in 2017 and they have been set as follows:

NANCY WINTER EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE STRATEGIC GOALS 2017 TO 2020

Goal 1

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

Goal 2

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

Goal 3

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

Goal 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.

Goal 5

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



MANAGERS REPORT

BY BRENDA BURNARD

Enrolments

In 2017 we had a much larger than normal number of children turning five which of course had significant funding impact as these children moved on to school. While the Ministry of Education discussed the possibility of cohort entry (starting school at a set time eg. Beginning of term), our Centre considered this and promoted children starting school when ready, rather than on their fifth birthday. So, many parents made the decision to start school later and many waiting until the beginning of the school year in 2018, which was a move that our Centre fully supported. The legal age to begin school is six years old and research supports children starting school later than age five.

Our Centre continues to promote casual hours for free for children who have three bookings per week, to encourage further participation in ECE. We are pleased to offer plenty of flexibility in bookings for families to meet the needs in our community.

Staffing

The office welcomed Tania Smith as administrator, who works three days per week at the Centre. Tania is also on our relief teacher list, so we often see Tania in two different roles at the Centre. Darnell returned from maternity leave which meant we farewelled Charmaine from her fixed term position. Darnell returned to work with our under twos with Aroha and Pippy. Teri Webb, our student in training, spent time at our Centre in a fixed term position too, which met her study requirement and provided cover for busy times at the Centre.

Aroha became our champion for the local child protection panel. We look forward to supporting Aroha in this position with PD for 2018 planned to support this. Our joining school team (Sharon, Mairi and Aroha – Akomanga -New Entrant bilingual class at Raetihi School) were kept busy with our five year olds transitioning to school.

The Trust and staff celebrated ten years' service to the Centre for Sheena, Fiona, Sharon, Pippy and Aroha. We were pleased and proud to be able to acknowledge this significant milestone and to continue sharing and celebrating together.

Environment

While our Centre established core values and reviewed the philosophy, our team continued work on making our Centre more homely, utilising resources that promote the comfort of home such as couches, full sized tables that provides our tamariki with real life experiences that support learning and development in children.

Whānau/Community

2017 saw the Centre celebrate it's tenth birthday, which was a well celebrated milestone with a special gathering of current and present, tamariki, whānau, staff, trustees and interested community members including the Nancy Winter whānau whom our Centre is fondly named after. The cake was cut by some of our oldest past enrolments who had entered their first year of college with some of our youngest current enrolments. It was great to see and share the collective impact our Centre has had in our community over the past ten years.

The Winter whānau presented an outdoor art piece, a bell made by one of Nancy's son's which now takes pride of place in the Centre grounds.

Thanks

To our Trustees who work behind the scenes to provide strategic direction to ensure we are meeting the needs of our tamariki and community, I'd like to acknowledge and thank them for their time and effort, which is on a volunteer basis.

To our staff who are the face of our Centre, an extra big thank you for all of the mahi, aroha and energy you give to our tamariki. I applaud the learning you support and the memories that you are making.



CURRICULUM DELIVERY REPORT

BY THE TEACHING TEAM

Curriculum

A significant portion of our planning is around **Relationships**.

Aspects of focus for 2017 have included how we welcome and meet the needs of new whānau joining our centre, with particular emphasis on lead carer/s for each whānau to build warmth, belonging, and genuine communication.

Alongside bringing whānau into our centre, we have also continued building our mahi around whānau leaving for school. With weekly visits to school prioritised in our centre and Raetihi Primary close by, natural movement between unfolds with familiarity, which was neat in a year that saw such a large number of children turning five. It was exciting to see the Akomanga class begin at Raetihi Primary which offered another avenue in joining school, and was embraced by the team and a number of children from Nancy's. Of particular interest were the eleven children who stayed on at Nancy Winter in term 4, after their 5th birthday, choosing to begin school at the beginning of 2018 as their preference.

Building and maintaining friendships is always an important area of curriculum for children. It empowers social, emotional, and language development, and builds a child's sense of identity as they get to know others and themselves better. The team have supported this in setting the environment, provision of opportunities and resourcing, and planning that allows children to work together in areas such as cooking, gardening, creative and artistic endeavours, moveable outdoor resourcing requiring cooperation such as trolleys and transporting, and huts - culminating in our 'Big Party' planned by tamariki as a celebration of whanaungatanga.

Community events enjoyed by tamariki, whānau, and kaiako have included Te Raa o Papatūānuku, Raetihi Cultural Festival, Nancy Winter's 10th birthday celebration, and Puanga.

Moving to Learn

Another vital curriculum area for young children is movement as the basis of all learning and development. From new born to beyond beginning kura, movement is foundational and naturally unfolds for children. Setting an environment rich with opportunities that challenge and provoke movement, and that is appropriate for a variety of ages is a priority, as is supporting tamariki as they develop their own sense of risk analysis and what to try next.

Outdoors

We can only love our planet if we know it, so we view connection with papatūānuku as paramount and the opportunities afforded as valuable. We plan outdoor play daily and embrace the chance to move freely, loudly, and robustly alongside neat opportunities to explore nature and science. We love bugs [our mini zoo], growing kai, playing around with force through jumping, throwing, running, trolley play, and climbing, finding out about the elements, like fire, water, ice, mud, weather and the seasons.



In 2017 we have had a great deal of input from Learning Support, formerly Special Education, particularly from Alice the Speech and Language Therapist, which has been very heartening. Many children have been visited for assistance in language, positive play, and good relationship outcomes, and it has been neat to have support and plans in place with a bigger picture focus from others outside of our centre.



Reviews

We regularly review various areas of Centre life – always looking for ways to improve what we do. This included revisiting a number of our policies 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:

- Kaupapa Wharepaku/Toileting,
- Kaupapa Kope/Nappy changing,
- Emergency Plan,
- Kaupapa Haereere/Excursion,
- Ka uru I te kura/Joining school,
- Kaupapa Here Tiaki Tamaiti/Child Protection.

A reminder that the Centre policies are available at the office.

With the Centre celebrating 10 years of operation, we felt it was time to review our Centre Philosophy and core values. We had much discussion amongst ourselves, with the Trust, with our families, and with some of our regular visitors, and engaged assistance from a Professional Development provider (more about that soon) to help us through the process. It turned out to be more involved and difficult than we thought it would be, and by the end of the year, we were close to being ready to promote our new philosophy – but not quite. That will take place early 2018.

The Education Review Office (ERO) visited us in October and they provided us with an 'outsider's view' on how effectively the Centre delivers quality care and education, providing for the needs of our children. They had helpful advice for us and gave us good direction on areas to develop. Our Strategic Plan for 2018 will be formed around their recommendations. The ERO report is available in the office, or may be read on line www.nancywinterchildcare.com

Professional Learning & Development

We have accessed a wide range of support from people outside of the Centre, to help us grow our knowledge, skills and practice.

The new ECE curriculum was released during 2017, so we were involved in several opportunities related to this including some staff attending Victoria University Spring Research Seminar; an evening with Margaret Carr – one of the writers of the new curriculum; and regular webinars with CORE Education.

Reviewing our philosophy was a major project for the year, as our philosophy guides us in all decision making, keeping us focused on our 'why'. We contracted a highly regarded Professional Learning provider to assist us along the way – Kimberley Chrisp, whose input and guidance were invaluable.

Several of the staff took the local opportunity, offered through REAP, to be part of Whetu's Te Reo Māori beginners' class.

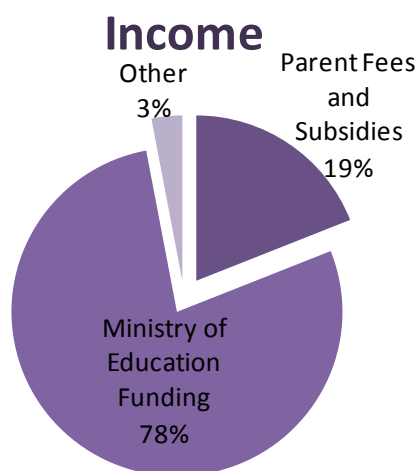
REAP were also key players in establishing a network of teachers throughout the community closely involved with transitioning children and whānau to Primary School. This helped to build relationship and understanding across sectors and the community, with thought provoking kōrero around values and curriculums, and sharing of understanding and opportunities as a result.

A number of the team attended an evening in Whanganui hosted by the Ministry of Education, unpacking the new Education Act changes followed by insights into the changing contexts of professional learning and development in ECE. It's great to gain understanding around new expectations from the Act and to align our professional learning and practice with national practices.

A few of the team have sporadically attended Kahui Ako hui – our local Community of Learners group. Great to know and be known in our community, and opportunities to share from an Early Childhood outlook abound in these hui which is very pleasing.

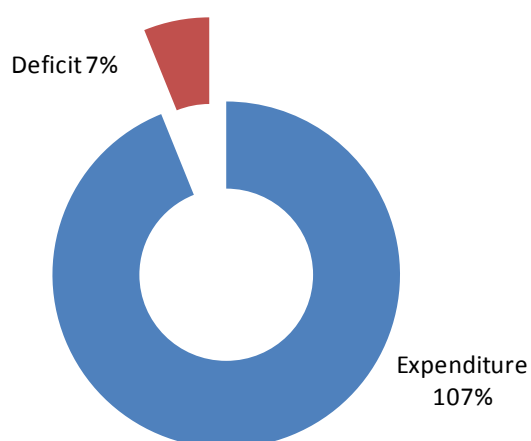


AUDITED ACCOUNTS SUMMARY 2017



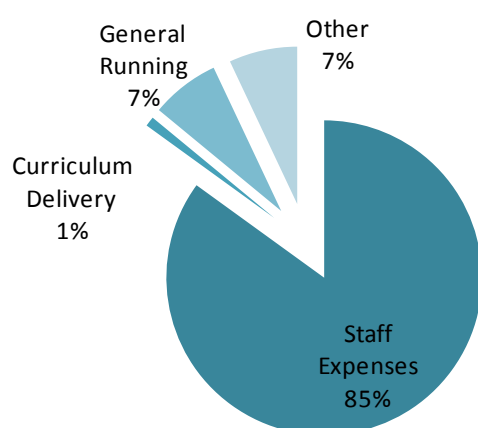
2017 saw a smaller roll which meant less income. The 'Other' income was mostly made up from a COGS grant, through the Department of Internal Affairs which we really appreciated.

Income vs Expenditure



Ministry of Education funding has remained the same for many years which is continuing to impact on income vs expenditure. This combined with a large cohort of children entering school, led to the Centre's second deficit in ten years.

Expenditure

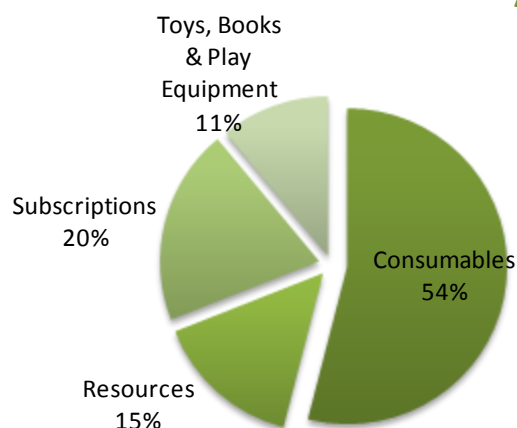


A full set of the audit report is available upon request. Our accounts are required to be audited and are done so yearly by an independent auditor.

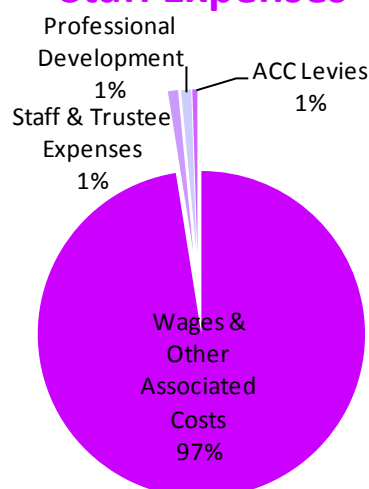


AUDITED ACCOUNTS SUMMARY 2017

Curriculum Delivery

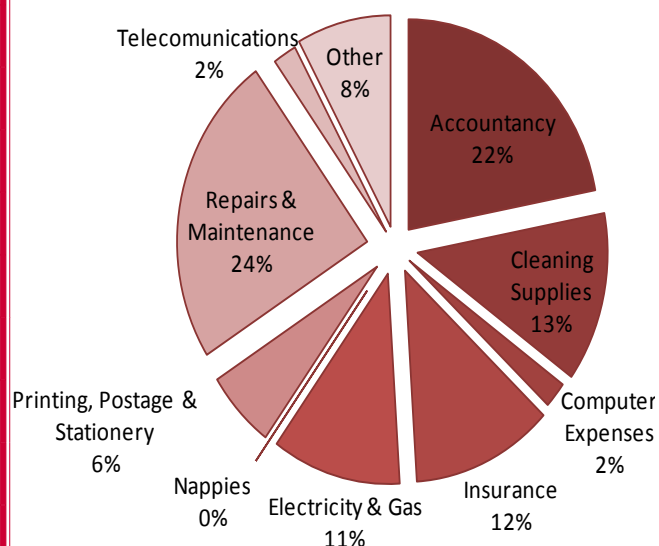


Staff Expenses

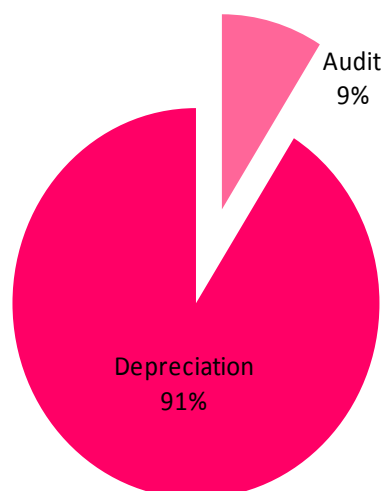


The Trust, Centre Management and all Staff worked hard to reduce spending in 2017 to lessen the impact of less funding. Curriculum Delivery moved towards using natural resources and toys that encouraged open ended play which inadvertently supported spending only when required. Our staff are our biggest asset and we take pride in still employing more staff than required by regulation and we remain in the 80% qualified teachers funding band.

General Running Expenses



Other Expenses



Nancy Winter Early Childhood Centre 2018 Whānau Survey Results

The Nancy Winter Early Childhood Centre is governed by The Raetihi Early Childhood Education Trust.

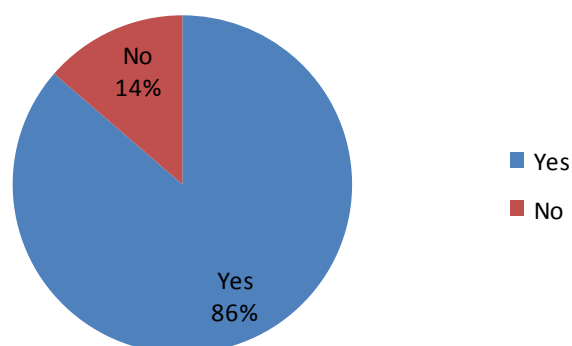
Titirowhakamuri, kōkiriwhakamua

Look back and reflect, so you can move forward

- 1 Does Story Park keep you informed of your child's learning and help share information with your family/whānau?

Comments:

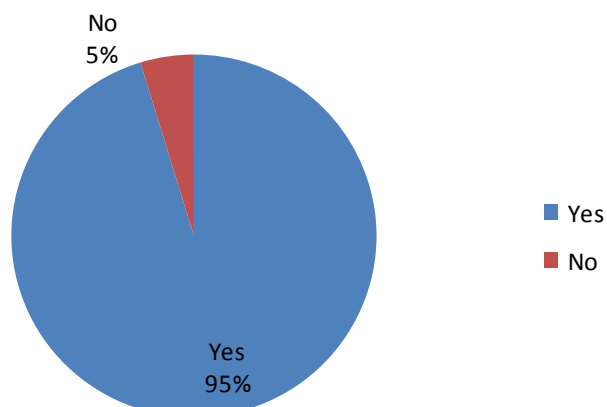
- Love it.
- Love to see what they're up to during the day.
- Would like more stories.
- Yes, I like seeing the photos of things they are doing day to day at Nancy's.
- Would like more updates.
- Our family afar benefit a lot to be kept in the loop what our kids are doing/learning and it's always nice to see them pop up in my emails that there's a story about them.
- Still not sure how it to work it.
- I love having story park available! It's so nice to keep up with their activities, but it also makes it super easy for my parents as well.
- I haven't been on it or seen it.
- Only just started using it, but it's looking good so far!



- 2 Would you like to receive more information through Story Park?

Comments:

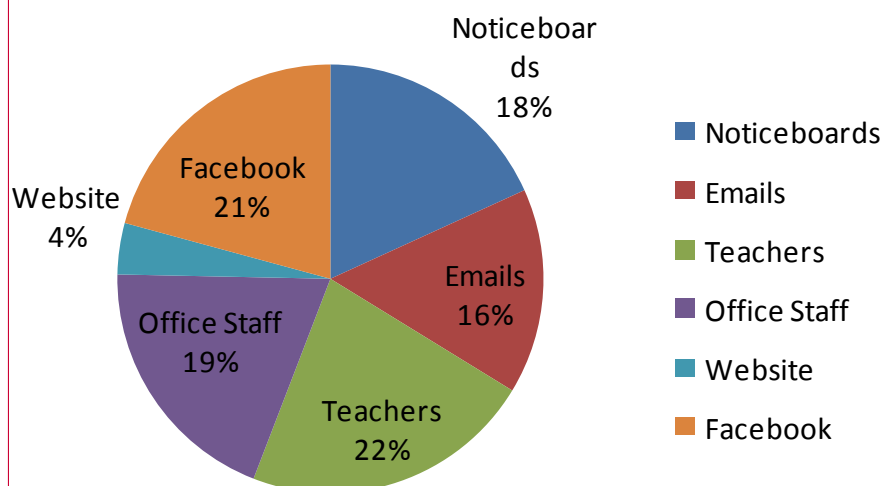
- Events, happenings at the Centre through the community page of Story Park
- Or any other platform you recommend.



3 How are you receiving information from our Centre?

Comments:

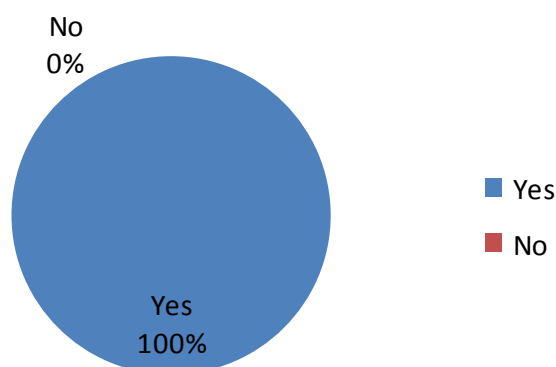
- Communication is very good currently. Anything happening I'm getting plenty of notices, emails, facebook and verbally.
- Like, do pictures of the work they have done during the week or photos, even just an A4 page with a picture of them doing their mahi - split the kids into groups and one teacher do one paper for one kid.



4 Do you feel welcomed to our Centre?

Comments:

- Everyone is always friendly and says hello to myself and the kids as we get through the gate!
- Always a smile and a chat. It's great.
- Yes, I appreciate as a mother the genuine interest every teacher/staff both talk to me and my children and seeing how comfortable my girls have been to spend the days and the endless activities at Nancy Winter make it comforting that my kids enjoy going back each day.
- Amazing welcoming vibe!
- Always greeted nicely.
- The teachers are always churpie, always say morning/hello, so welcoming I'm glad I changed and sent my baby there. You may have to pay but it's worth every cent seeing my baby happy and being around nice people.
- Very, we've only been coming a few weeks but we're very happy with everything up to now. I feel I can ask questions if there's anything I'm not clear on or wondering about, and all the staff are so welcoming and friendly.



5 How could we share information with our families better?

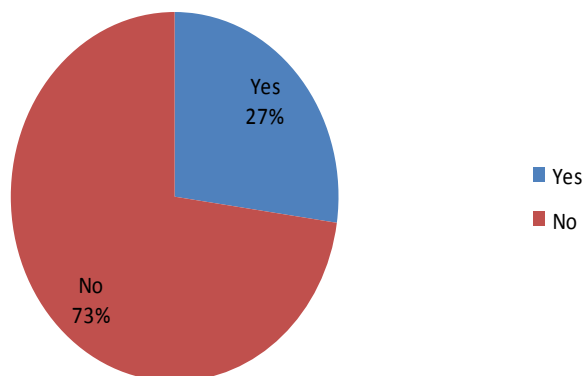
Comments:

- Texts, especially if it's big events.
- Just keep sharing through all avenues really.
- More whanau gatherings, kids day, invite to help celebrate special days like matariki, winter feast, summer BBQ etc.
- Display children's learning on the walls.
- School sends a 'what's happening this week' update through facebook. Might work here too.
- Email, texts, facebook page.
- I think you currently have it sorted. We are well informed, if we are wanting more as parents then we can approach and offer suggestions.
- Just when parents drop off or pick up their child, tell them then or send a letter home, put it in the kids lunch box then the parents can't miss it.
- Please email events like dress-up days etc, we don't always see the notice board.

6 Did you look at our Annual Report produced in 2017?

Comments:

- I'm not sure my grandsons parents understand it.
- If I did, I don't remember.
- Yes.
- Yes it gives me an overall on the previous year.
- Yes, it was a large part of why we decided to enrol our daughter with Nancy Winter ECE and not elsewhere in town.



The Big Party, planned and implemented by our tamariki with support from their kaiako.



7 Can you suggest ways for better sharing of information between the Trust and you?

Comments:

- Keep sharing.
- A newsletter sent home with tamariki.
- Bi annual meet the Trust evenings for parents.
- Email.
- Emails with links to online info is great. I can look at in my own time then.
- Email—I would suggest a hui but I can't always commit to being there.
- I presume newsletters/information sheets are sent home with the children if there are any big changes, major illnesses going around etc, or other things to be made aware of? If not then that would be good.
- Facebook.

8 How could our Trust support our tamariki and whānau better?

Comments:

- Listening to the needs and wants of the whānau.
- Getting to know them better by having a parents night.
- Currently the Trust are supporting us by working through operations and making decisions on behalf of my daughter and all the children. This is already a big help to us.
- We appreciate that some staff are able /happy to speak Te Reo to our daughter, we're very pleased about this. It'd be great if there was some support (phrase of the week/one off classes/ courses) for us to learn more Te Reo alongside her.

9 Do you wish to make any further comment on the education and care of your child or anything related to our Centre?

Comments:

- Doing a great job, thanks!
- Structure would be good....babies having a safe environment ideally their own area fulltime where they aren't subject to being hurt by the bigger kids just playing.
- Thank you staff and Trust.
- Thank you to the teachers and helpers of Nancy Winter Centre for everything you do. You are awesome.

The survey results presented are unedited. We appreciate the feedback and we look forward to addressing some of the comments that have been made to provide improved outcomes for children.

WE'RE ON THE WEB. VISIT US AT
NANCYWINTERCHILDCARE.COM

