

Connect with You



Newsletter – February 2017

2017...a year of fun & learning!

To all of our children, educators and families, **Happy New Year!**

To those of you that are joining us this year, **Welcome!**

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a lovely break with your family and friends.

The year has started off with such an exciting yet busy 'rush' that we can't believe it is February already. As many of you experience time goes so quickly and sometimes we have to take the time to remember to stop... and breathe!

The team at Connections In The Home took a moment to 'breathe' at the end of January when we spent the day together reviewing 2016 and planning for 2017. It was a really great, and productive, day and we hope you enjoy all that we have planned for the year ahead for the In Home Educators, and the children in their care (along with their families of course!).

Please enjoy the rest of the newsletter and if you have any questions at all feel free to give us a call ☺

Vicki and Sarah xxx

'A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instil a love of learning.'

- Brad Henry

ERO Report

Our ERO report is available on the ERO website or you can follow [this link](#).

Follow us on Facebook!

[Connections In The Home](#)

For regular updates ☺

Visit our website to learn more about our current In Home

[Childcare vacancies!](#)

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Communication...with everyone!

Parent/Whanau Communication

We communicate with our families in many ways.

Parental involvement is important to us and our communication methods include:

- ♥ Face to face – our favourite!
We often meet with our families....at our weekly programme, in their home, at the office in Howick, or on trips & outings!
- ♥ Educa – our online ePortfolio system direct to your inbox!
This is an important form of communication both about each child, visits to educator's homes and about our service and operations. All families are invited to join Educa upon enrolment and we highly encourage accepting the invitation!
- ♥ Phone, email or face to face with our team is always welcomed
- ♥ Families involvement & suggestions are invited in our regular reviews of Policy, Procedures & Programme
- ♥ Families are welcome at any of our Programme Events, outings and our Professional Development workshops too
- ♥ Newsletters
- ♥ Facebook
- ♥ Parent/Educator Surveys



We are always open to feedback & suggestions too!

Educator Communication

We communicate with our educators in many ways.

It is important to us that we speak to our educators regularly:

- ♥ Face to face – our favourite!
Our team see our Educators regularly along with the children in their care....at our weekly programme, in their home or on trips & outings!
Educators often call into see us at our Howick office and we love that!
- ♥ Educa – our online ePortfolio system direct to your inbox!
This is an important form of communication both about each child, visits to educator's homes and our service and operations. We support each educator in using this tool.
- ♥ Phone or email communication is welcomed
- ♥ Educator involvement & suggestions are invited in our regular reviews of Policy, Procedures & Programme
- ♥ All of our Educators are welcome at any of our Programme Events, outings and our Professional Development workshops at no charge to them or the families
- ♥ Newsletters
- ♥ Facebook
- ♥ Parent/Educator Surveys



*'Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak
Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen'*
Winston Churchill

What do we have planned...?

Here's a little taste of what is planned for our home based educators, children & families in 2017.... With a little bit of 'alphabet' fun underlying our programme this year adding to the learning outcomes for the children.



Alphabet & Ambury Farm Park



Cutting, counting, craft & communication



Dominoes and dancing



Easter Egg Hunt & Educator fun



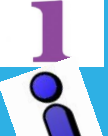
Friends, Fire drills & Fire Station visit



Games & gardens



Healthy Homes & Hopscotch



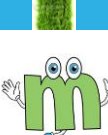
'I Spy' letters & sounds @ Botanical Gardens & Indoor Action Sports



Jigsaws & Jumping



Kites & kicking @ Little Kickers!



Letters & Language



Matariki, Marae & Magic Mat Time



Numbers & name recognition



Outdoors, Outings & fun!



Pencils, paper, 'pincer' grip & picnics



Questions & support



Respect, reading & Red Nose Day!



Sounds, songs, 'Splish Splosh Splash' day & sunshine



Te Whāriki & being 'Turtle Safe'



Unexpected surprises!



Vehicles & transport



Words and sounds



'X' marks the spot



You & us together



Zoo Trip

Each Educator has been given the 'tools' for each child to begin their journey this year with our underlying focus on phonics, language development and age appropriate emergent reading....the children won't even know they're learning as it is all designed to be fun!

Did you know that all enrolled families are welcome to attend our weekly events & trips too? We hope to see you!

Diary Dates for 2017



February 2017

6th February Waitangi Day
27th February 'Splish Splash Day' – Northpark – the children love this!

March 2017

15th March It's our 4th Birthday! We're taking the educators and team out for dinner!
29th March 'I Spy' fun with letters at the Botanical Gardens
6th March **Te Whāriki workshop with Sarah at Connections Cottage, Howick**

April 2017

13th April Easter Egg Hunt @ Crazy Craft (wonder if there will be a bunny too!)
14th April Good Friday
17th April Easter Monday
25th April ANZAC Day



May 2017

14th May Mother's Day
27th May **Child Protection workshop with Sarah at Connections Cottage, Howick**
31st May A trip to the Marble Park!



June 2017

5th June Queen's Birthday
26th June Celebration of Matariki at the local Marae

Our regular weekly programme

Monday

Magic Mat Time, Howick – Music, dance, Stories!

Tuesday

Indoor Action Sports, Pakuranga – Games, ball skills, running, jumping!

Wednesday

Our Educators are enjoying a day of 'being' – at home, or following each child's interests. Wednesdays are also a day that we regularly offer outings such as a trip to a farm for example. Where ever they may lead us....

Thursday

Crazy Craft, Lloyd Elsmore, Pakuranga – Arts, crafts, baking, balls and bikes...and more!

Friday

Little Kickers, Meadowlands – Ball skills, running, coordination, teamwork, fresh air!

Additional Outings...

Occasionally we may organise additional trips and events (see above) to follow a child led interest or thread within our programme. **Permission will be sought from families for all outings...and you are always welcome to attend!**

Weather Permitting....

The above events are reviewed regularly and may be altered from time to time based on feedback, attendance and weather!

All FREE for
enrolled children
& educators

Early Connections

Our Beachlands update!



We are getting very close to opening now! This week the flooring is going in, the kitchen is ready to be installed, the carpark concrete is being poured, new grass has been laid, and planting begins soon! We are just loving this process and all of the learning that it brings us along the way.

We have held close our hearts through this process our mission to carry the gorgeous home based philosophy into the centre. As expected, we are more sure as we progress that this is far more than just in the environment and resources.... It really is about the people. We have really enjoyed the interview process and have met some fantastic people on this journey. Our team is coming together nicely and we look forward to having them work as one in the centre with the children being at the heart of all that we do.

We have had amazing support from the local community and thank them for that....and also we have a large number of enrolments ready to go! We can't wait to get to know you all better very soon ☺

If you are interested in childcare in the Beachlands area please contact us on:

Phone: 09 536 6099

Email: admin@earlyconnections.co.nz

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sarah and Vicki xxx



Reading for you!

When we set up Connections In The Home 4 years ago we used a model of Attachment Theory called Circle of Security (1998 Cooper, Hoffman, Marvin & Powell) that we value and had been trained in as our model for the business.

For example, we established Connections Cottage in Howick as the 'Safe Haven/Secure Base' for Educators, families and children to feel welcome in...as well as others from the community.

This model of attachment, 'Circle of Security', is reflected every day in the relationships between the educators in the homes, their children in care and their families. The Educators themselves (the relationship they develop) are the 'safe haven' for our children while their parents are at work.

As a team, we will be ensuring that our daily practice in the centre reflects this theory.

To read more about the Circle of Security follow this link and you will find:

[Circle of Security – Brainwave Trust \(written by Keryn O'Neill, Senior Researcher for Brainwave Trust\). Enjoy the read!](#)