

Whānau Newsletter

Term One 2025

McKenzie Centre
Realising a child's potential

Welcome to Term One Whānau



Happy New Year from everyone at McKenzie Centre. Welcome back to those who have been with us previously and a warm welcome to any new families that are joining us this year. We are looking forward to introducing you to the extended McKenzie Centre whānau. Check below for important dates and events this term.

Dates for Term 1, 2025

28 January	Term 1 starts
6 February	Public holiday - Waitangi day
3 - 7 February	Parent focus Week (Thurs Whānau on 13/2)
Hangouts	Dates to come - we will notify via FB and flyers
Welcome BBQ	Date TBA
3 March	Josette Kilian, Dietician, will provide a workshop from 12-1pm
Week 6 and 7	Richard will provide a two-part workshop on sleep on Wed and Fri
11 April	End of Term 1
28 April	Start of Term 2

Staff Updates

Welcome to:

Beverley Haddon – Executive Lead: I am truly excited to be joining the McKenzie Centre team and becoming part of the wonderful work they do. I feel especially connected, as two of my grandchildren have attended McKenzie Centre. I am fortunate to have six children and six grandchildren, which brings so much joy to my life. With over 30 years of experience in early childhood education, beginning as a volunteer and later managing a group of three ECE centres, I am passionate about supporting young children. In my free time, I enjoy gardening, sailing, and spending time outdoors. I look forward to contributing to this amazing community!



Staff Updates continued

Welcome to:

Nikki Abrams – Occupational Therapist: I am excited to have the opportunity to work at McKenzie centre. I have been an Occupational therapist both in the UK and NZ and really enjoy working alongside Tamariki and their whānau to support the young person to reach their full potential. I love being outdoors and can be found on my days off in the ocean or the beach, paddling waka ama or looking for shells on the beach. I look forward to meeting you all.



Farewell to:

Linda Depledge, Tuakana, is stepping down from her role as Tuakana and will be leaving on 12 February 2025. Her passion and vision was crucial to the creation of our Tuakana role and music will not be the same without her!
Joanna McIlroy, Music Therapy student, finished her practicum with us at the end of last year; we will miss the fun and connection she created through music.
Also good-bye to Keren Edwards, Tuakana, who is heading back to nursing. Her kind, friendly approach will be missed.



Occupational Therapy at McKenzie Centre

Occupational therapy (OT) in early intervention focuses on helping children develop the skills they need to participate in daily activities and reach developmental milestones.

Developmental Support:

Supports to develop fine motor, gross motor, sensory, and cognitive skills.
Promotes self-care skills such as feeding, dressing, and toileting.
Addresses delays in play and social interaction.

Family-Centred Approach:

Involves families in goal-setting and therapy planning.
Provides strategies to integrate therapeutic activities into daily routines.

Play-Based Interventions:

Uses play as a medium to build motor, sensory, and social skills.
Encourages exploration, problem-solving, and creativity.

Sensory Processing:

Helps children regulate sensory input to improve regulation attention and learning.
Supports children with sensory processing issues to navigate their environment.

Environment Adaptation:

Modifies the child's environment (home, daycare, or school) to enhance participation, including safety concerns in the home environment.
Provides assistive equipment or tools as needed such as seating and toileting equipment, mobility aids, adaptive cutlery.

Collaborative Teamwork:

Works alongside other professionals, such as speech-language therapists, physiotherapists, and early intervention teachers, to provide comprehensive support.

Nikki (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays) and Emma (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays) are the Occupational Therapists here at McKenzie Centre. Please come and talk to us or talk to your contact person about any ways that we can support your child and whānau.

Emma – I have been working at McKenzie Centre for the past four years. I have 25 years of experience working as an Occupational Therapist with children. I love spending time alongside tamariki and whānau on their journey through McKenzie Centre supporting with developing skills and participation in everyday activities.



Emma



Nikki



End of Year Party

Thank-you to everyone that attended the end of year party in 2024 and made it such a fabulous event. It is always special to see our families together, smiling and having fun to celebrate the end of a busy year.

Sign IN and OUT every session

We encourage you to stay for the full session. There are a lot of important learning opportunities for you and your child. Please sign in on arrival, and out when you leave, as this is an early childhood licensing requirement from the Ministry of Education.

To make the session flow, we have made some changes to the session routine:

10:15 – 10:45 am: Fast Focus workshops

10:45 am: music time

THURSDAY:

12.45: Music

1pm: Fast Focus Workshops



Curriculum Updates and Areas of Focus for Term 1

As a team, we enjoy meeting the diverse learning needs of McKenzie Centre children. At the beginning of each term, we plan together as a team to formulate goals for each McKenzie Centre session.

Please check our Te Whāriki Curriculum goals which are on display on the whiteboard beside the sign in sheet.

This term you will find a particular focus on children's regulation and considering their sensory needs, music and mini workshops for our parents during sessions. During the beginning of the Term the topics will cover support services, play ideas and sleep. Please take advantage of these workshops as they are a great way to extend your learning and support your child. We will continue to encourage our tamariki and parents to attend music time as music time offers a great opportunity to practice skills that are particularly important for the children that are transitioning to school.

We will not be offering a shared kai experience during our sessions this Term. Please bring kai and a water bottle for your child's morning tea, to be enjoyed during the session.

Planning for our playground development is on-going - we will keep you posted as plans evolve!

Health and Safety at McKenzie Centre

Emergency drills:

We practice fire and earthquake drills in session and lockdown drills with the staff only. These drills are practised every three months. We will have a Fire Drill on 18 February and Earthquake & Lockdown Drill 25 February. This is an early childhood licensing requirement so we are all prepared should an emergency event occur. If you are unsure what to do, please talk with the staff.

Medication:

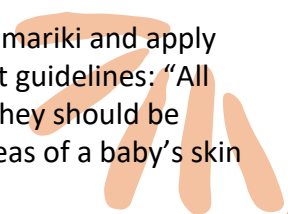
If you are bringing any medication, including Paracetamol, Disprin etc. into McKenzie Centre, please leave it in the office for safe keeping. Little fingers can get into bags left unattended.

Allergies:

Please let us know if your child has any allergies (food and other) so that we can adjust our planning around safety. Many of you have done this as part of the enrolment procedure but let us know if there are any changes.

SunSmart:

Now that the UVI levels are rising again, please make sure to pack a hat for you and your tamariki and apply sunscreen. We have spare hats available and also sunblock if necessary. From the SunSmart guidelines: "All babies under 12 months should be kept out of direct sun when UVI levels are 3 or higher. They should be protected by shade, clothing and broad-brimmed hats. Sunscreen may be used on small areas of a baby's skin but do not rely on sunscreen as the primary method of protection".



Changes to attendance

If you have or would like to make changes to the day that you attend McKenzie Centre, please talk with your contact person and have a chat with Henny in the office. We also need to know if your child's enrolment days/hours at Early Childhood Education Centres have changed as this affects funding claims.

Loan Items

Please remember to bring back any toys or items that your whānau borrowed. If you're still using them, please touch base with your contact person.

Early Intervention Fees

We have an Eftpos machine at McKenzie Centre, so you can make payments when you are here. Please see Henny or Lillian who are happy to help you. Thank you for supporting McKenzie Centre with your payment of the Early Intervention Fees. They are essential to the running of our service. The WINZ Childcare Subsidy is available for many families and may cover the entire cost of the Early Intervention Fee. We can help you apply for this, or find another option for you, so that your financial burden is eased. Please see your contact person or the Admin team – we are happy to help. Some people pay us a smaller amount every week – talk to Henny or Lillian and they will help you with this.

If you're a MSD/Work and Income client, you can apply for Childcare Subsidy using RealMe on the SmartStart website, or if you prefer, you can continue to apply through MyMSD or on paper.

Policies and Procedures

All Policies and Procedures are on a review cycle, so they always remain current and relevant. A full list is available in the yellow "Licence, Policies, ERO Report" folder in the Whānau Room.

Those under review will be shared during Parent Focus week or listed on the wall in the Whānau Room and families' opinions are an important part of this review process. If you want to know more about any Policy, Procedure or how they are reviewed feel free to ask Lillian.

Thanks So Much To All Our Volunteers & Sponsors

We are very grateful to the many people and organisations that support McKenzie Centre and the work we do. We could not do what we do without you.



Best wishes from: Beverley, Suzanne, Rachael S, Henny, Lillian, Steph, Emma, Rachael F, Richard, Susie, Linda, Eram, Victoria, Siobhan, Diana, Larissa, Shanayd, Liesl, Chrissy, Michael and Nikki.