

Bear Park from Home

Dear Parents of Bear Park,

Welcome to our last newsletter for the week and we hope that you enjoy the many different ideas and suggestions.

We plan to continue with these as we enter into level 3 next Tuesday and hope that you all have a wonderful, safe and caring long weekend with your families.

Wishing you all well and keep safe.
Sue & the Bear Park Team

Jammie Dodger Recipe

- 125g butter, softened
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp grated lemon rind
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- Your favourite jam

Preheat oven to 180°C.

Cream butter and sugar until light & fluffy

Add egg and lemon rind and beat well.

Sift flour and baking powder together.

Mix sifted ingredients into creamed mixture & knead well.

Make balls from the kneaded mixture and flatten.

Add a dollop of jam in the middle.

Bake for 15mins or until slightly golden.



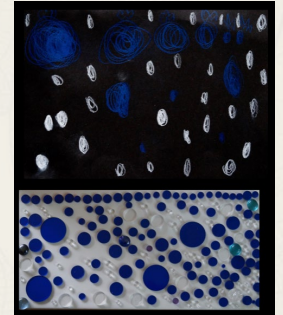
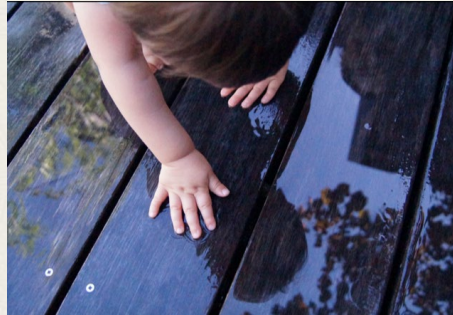
Yay, it's raining!

"Our embodied participation in the world makes possible an intimate relationship with the world, and knowledgeable residence in the world." - Ann Pelo

One of the main aspects of the atelier is to highlight sensory explorations and perceptions. It is designed to evoke exploration, to stimulate expression and to add richness to the learning of life. One of the principals due to this is that whatever we set up in the atelier we ensure that it is connected to external explorations or encounters in our child/ren's daily life.

So I'd love to encourage you and your child to explore the garden in the sun as well as in the rain. Here is some inspiration from an investigation a few years ago that started in the rain.

Go out in the rain and explore...*"What do you notice?" "Do you notice any change in the colours that you see?"* Is there a difference in the sounds that you hear? *"Does the smell of things smell different?"*



Take a camera with you and take photos of the traces of rain, the movement of the rain etc... Bring your experiences back into your atelier space and create pictures, or perhaps even take these magical expressive languages space outside in the rain.

"Can you catch a rain-drop?"

"Can you create a raindrop out of recycled materials?"

"I wonder what will happen when rain drops fall onto different papers or material surfaces?"

So through our questioning we are able to reignite that wonder and curiosity into something that is very commonplace within our lives here in Aotearoa.

Enjoy, explore with all your senses, imagine and create.

BUBBLE BUBBLE POP!!

Bubbles are a fun, interactive resource that encourage many areas of development and learning for children. They are also easy to make and can be used either indoors or outdoors. Because bubbles are visually pleasing and move at a slow pace, they are a great way to help your little ones develop their visual skills.

Whilst exploring bubbles alongside your child practice counting how many you can both see. Discuss which are big and which are small, or whether they are going fast or slow. This is a really good time to also introduce songs that will support their language development and counting. I will include a copy of a song that we sing whilst exploring the bubbles *with our younger friends.*

Create your own bubbles!

All you need:

- 1/4 cup of liquid soap
- 1 cup of water
- 1 teaspoon of cornstarch

Songs to sing with your child:

I had a little turtle, his name was Tiny Tim,
I put him in the bathtub to see if he could swim,
He drank up all the water, and ate up all the soap
And now he has a bubble, stuck in his throat
Bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble,
BUBBLE, BUBBLE, POP!

If you don't have a bubble wand, make your own using a pipe cleaner, a wire coat hanger, or any other item you can bend into a circular shape.



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A Collaborative Collage

It has been four weeks since New Zealand entered a national lockdown, and as we prepare to enter level three, perhaps we can propose a way to celebrate all the positive and enjoyable experiences that were possible over the past month.

"Collage is an ancient art. It was used by calligraphers in tenth century Japan, and can be seen in the gold-leaf panels in European cathedrals of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, as well as in the nineteenth century collagist techniques of such figures as Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque." (Collage: Assembling Contemporary Art, 1998.)

A collage is a work of art made by composing fragments of paper, cloth, cardboard, newspaper and magazine clippings, photographs, illustrations, and other printed material, and pasting them to a flat surface. "Collage" the French word for pasting, sticking, or glueing, is applied to the method as well as to the work produced.

So an idea could possibly be to put aside some time to reflect on your experiences with your whānau during this unique time in global history. Make a brainstorm or mind map of each family members most meaningful experiences during this time. Maybe Dad really loved having the time to share his favourite recipe with the family, perhaps an older brother or sister enjoyed the opportunity to bring their school to their home. Maybe simply taking a stroll in the neighbourhood together was something the whole family will cherish as we begin to transition to our new normal.



Support each other in collecting materials that represent these thoughts and memories. A leaf from your favourite tree, a list of ingredients to the delicious baking you created together, perhaps fabrics with colours that elicit feelings of warmth and togetherness, you could even add drawings that represent your family and your favourite moments together.

Magazines and newspapers are great sources of materials for collage, especially if you are unable to print images to include at home. Using the letters to spell out your values as a whānau can add another special touch, while also promoting early literacy for young children. Work together to assemble these precious items using scissors, glue and/or tape, have fun with your placement and enjoy the time spent collaborating on a shared artwork.

At Bear Park when an investigation comes to its conclusion, teachers and children work together to come up with a way to celebrate the journey and the learning that has occurred.

Creating a collaborative collage to summarise the lockdown experience for your family could potentially be a way to celebrate making it through this challenging time with kindness, creativity and love.

"He rāngai maomao ka taka ki tua o Nukutaurua, e kore a muri e hokia."

(We are on a mission together, there is no turning back.)

Meaningful Reflections

At Bear Park, we take opportunities to manipulate different aspects of our world through the use of technologies. A tool that is popular for this purpose in the Fantail room is our mirrors.

The intention behind this is to offer our children a new visual perspective of the environment and perhaps sharpen their awareness to parts of the world that may be out of their line of vision.



For example, underneath our large tree outside we have placed a mirror table that beacons the children to observe and interact with the tree intimately. Because the tree is so high, the children are unable to reach it, however introducing the mirror into the investigation allows the child to interact with the tree in a way that would not be possible otherwise.

Here the children often collect leaves that have fallen from the tree and place them on the mirror table so as if to re-attach the leaves back to the tree, or perhaps create their own version of the tree on the table image they see before them.

We also entice the children into different parts of our garden by laying small mirrors under our herb plants or flax tree's. These plants already hang low, and sit at a level where our children can interact with them, but by having the mirror placed strategically next to the plant or underneath it enhances this experience further.



So perhaps at home consider a space, whether it is in the garden, under a tree or a spot on the lawn where you can see the clouds. Set up a mirror on the ground and let your child be mesmerized by this new perspective of their world that is being captured through the lens of the mirror.

"Point out the loveliness of the morning dew, the beauty of the sky, the clouds, and the light that plays through the leaves. - All of this captures the child's attention, and his wonder at nature sharpens his awareness and intelligence." Yury Lijubimov.



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