

Bear Park from Home

Dear Parents of Bear Park,

As we begin our second edition of Bear Park at Home we would like to take this opportunity to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all of our parents who are members of the "essential services" group and especially those who are on the "front line" in the hospitals.

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



Conversations

Children are such wonderful instigators of conversation and it us sometimes as adults that do not pause long enough to allow for this sharing of ideas to happen.

So take this time together with your family as a way in which you can start to slow down, to truly pause and listen, to engage in that rich dialogue and create those meaningfully rich conversations with your child or children.

Ask those magical questions and sow those seeds of imagination: "Do ants wear gumboots in the rain?" and enjoy the immersion into the world of wonderment.

Online Resources

A link to online books: www.getepic.com They run a 30 day free trial, and after that it is \$7.99 per month

Banana Muffin Recipe



Some of our fondest childhood memories are in the kitchen with our family, baking up a storm. It is all about making the memories in the kitchen together that makes this time so special and hopefully, you will also have something yummy to nibble on too.

Banana Muffins Recipes:

1 1/2 C self raising flour
2 ripe bananas
2/4 C sugar white or brown
1 egg
1/2 C oil or melted butter (oil is a great alternative to butter and makes a moist muffin too)

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 175 degrees.
2. Line a 12 hole muffin tin with paper cases or grease with butter.
3. Mash bananas in a bowl with a masher.
4. In a large bowl combine flour, sugar, egg, oil and mashed banana.
5. This can all be mixed with a large wooden spoon
6. Spoon mixture evenly into the muffin tin and bake for about 20 minutes until golden.
7. Check muffin's are cooked with a toothpick or fork by pushing this into the middle of the muffin and if this comes out clean then you are all done.
8. Remove from oven leave to cool for a few minutes then enjoy together.

Happy baking Bear Park Bakers!

My Mihi

Mihi is a way of formally introducing oneself by way of acknowledging your whakapapa (genealogy). In Māori culture this provides a way for the people who are speaking with to connect to you, and understand who you are, and where you come from.

By supporting the children to use mihi at the beginning of our meeting times at Bear Park we are celebrating our bi-cultural heritage and aspiring to promote use of te reo Māori in a way that is authentic and practical. I'm sure many of have had children practise their mihi at home. Here is a guide to how we have structured a simplified mihi for the children to use as a guide. Perhaps you might like to support your child in practising their mihi at home during this time, and in the true spirit of ako (Māori pedagogical concept where teacher and learner roles are fluid), I'm sure your children will love supporting you to try your own mihi!

Tēnā koutou katoa

Ko _____ tōku papa
Ko _____ tōku mama
Ko _____ tōku tuakana
Ko _____ tōku teina
Ko _____ tōku tuahine
Ko _____ tōku tuangāne
No _____ ahau
Ko _____ tōku ingoa

Greetings to you all

My father is _____
My mother is _____
My older sibling (of the same gender) is _____
My younger sibling (of the same gender) is _____
My sister (regardless of age, if I am a boy) is _____
My brother (regardless of age, if I am a girl) is _____
I am from _____
My name is _____

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa Again, greetings to you all.



Heuristic Play



Our world revolves around plastic, but for children plastic is dull, disappointing and un-stimulating. Introducing heuristic play with your child stimulates all of their senses, creating a rich learning experience.

Heuristic play entails sensory exploration with real objects that you will have in and around your house. This could include a spatula, wooden spoon, whisk, a feather, a shell or a pine cone, the list is endless. My challenge for you is to create your own heuristic basket for your infant or toddler at home and watch as their senses are heightened through their exploration of these everyday objects.

"The predominant way that babies under the age of one discover and learn about their world is through sensory motor development, during this stage a baby's primal instinct is to explore objects by handling and mouthing them in order to find out about their physical characteristics. By using a treasure basket with children at this age you are providing them with rich mental stimulation, which not only activates the growth of the brain but also provides richly satisfying experiences for the baby". (littlecornstomightyoaks.co.uk).

Creating a Dialogue

Some of you may have stocked up with an array of art materials and some may have forgotten all about it. Don't worry! Setting up an atelier can be as simple as providing pencil and paper. It can be inside or outside in your garden or your balcony.

As I said before the important part is the dialogue you create with your child during the process.

Some children can be very chatty, and tell you all about their ideas, some children are rather quiet.



Before you ask questions like "what are you drawing?" It might be a good opportunity to step back and just observe and see how your child approaches the materials.

Let your child explore, watch his/her process of making marks and what decision he/she makes. Perhaps when he/she is finished ask some open-ended questions like

"Can you tell me more about your work?"

"I can see a long or squiggly line here, what encouraged you to draw this?"

Let your child do a series of drawings and then create a dialogue about the same and/or the different marks and approaches. This way you are opening up a dialogue about ideas and ways of thinking rather than narrowing it down to the representation of a subject.