

Tēnā koutou, Salam, Hello, 안녕하세요, and 大家好 educators, families, and caregivers, welcome to our Pandas Newsletter for May 2025. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our families and educators that joined us for the first time and those who are returning from their breaks. We hope you have had a smooth transition so far.

Learning Stories and Uploads:

It has been another month in our beautiful Autumn. We have seen and heard lots of great experiences about what our tamariki has been busy exploring among the colorful leaves and autumn sunshine. Natural play offers rich, meaningful opportunities to support children's learning and wellbeing through **Māori values**, particularly when grounded in **Te Ao Māori** (the Māori worldview) and values such as **manaakitanga**, **kaitiakitanga**, **whanaungatanga**, and **mauri**. Autumn in our beautiful Ōtautahi provides a calming, sensory-rich environment—rustling leaves, earthy smells, golden light—which supports our tamariki's emotional balance and presence and restores their mauri ora. We would love to hear about your experiences in this special season, and how they become meaningful to you, your tamariki and their families.

For educators, please keep on track with your regular uploads and share any emergent meaning with in-between your learning goal-reflected stories. Jessie, Tanya and Ming are willing to offer their support for new and existing educators on this topic, and keep the kōrero going. Please do reach out if you are facing difficulties.

What has been happening in April:

It was such a pleasure to meet our educators, tamariki and their families outside of their home at the Children's Interactive Concert at the end of school breaks. Organised by Julie Wylie and the Baroque Music Society, this event not only offered our tamariki opportunities to be absolutely absorbed in playing with the musical sound, but also reminded us as educators and parents that, everyone can be musical and music is for everyone to create, play and appreciate. This workshop also aligned perfectly with our monthly play idea— the Communication strand in Te Whāriki. As children are offered opportunities to explore different ways of being communicative and expressive, they are being handed with lead and allowing us to learn from them through their songs and dances(Wylie J, 2022). Further exploring on strategies and ideas about music play at home, we would like to share with you the following link, which unfolded great tips and advice for educators and parents, and discuss through hands-on experiences about how music play can benefit children at all ages:

<https://www.juliewyliemusic.com/feed/categories/early-childhood-centre-music>



Whakamaharahanga / Reminders:

Attendance Record in Discover App:

From April we are rolling out the handwriting sign in/out method. Attendance and absences are now being recorded on our Discover Childcare, through the parent's 4-digits code. In **May** visits, our visiting teachers Jessie and Tanya will bring the April timesheets (on which attendance has already been recorded) to each home, for Educator and Parent/Caregiver to confirm and sign. Confirmation from both parents and educators are needed each week, please ensure that you check all records in prior signing on the timesheet.

Heading Into Winter:

With the Hōtoke/Winter season approaching, your tamariki may be interested in finding the mushrooms, making foot prints in the frosted garden, and hunting for minibeasts hiding among autumn leaves. This is a great opportunity to extend their language, curiosity and sense of taiao, however please also keep in mind the supervision requirements and any underlying health and safety hazards. Please also keep updating your **Hazard Identification Form, Excursion Permission and Excursion Record**. Thank you.

Medication at Homes:

If your child requires medical assistance for ongoing conditions such as asthma, eczema, or severe allergy, and requires educator's administration of their medication, please contact your educator and our office to complete a medication form(Action Plan). For educators, please follow your child's action when there is an emergency and seek assistance from emergency services(111). Please also report to our office so we can assist you.

Reviews and Evaluations:

In March and April we have been working on reviews of:

- Sleep Policy;
- Internal Evaluation Policy;
- Illness Policy.

Thank you for participating in the review and having the discussions with your VT. The updated policy are now available on : <https://pandashomecare.educa.co.nz/centre/policies>

We are now moving onto the review of Hygienic Laundry Policy and Child Protection Policy. A copy will be brought on your upcoming visit for educators and parents/ caregivers to view and discuss.

Change of Person Responsible:

As you have already been informed, Tanya is away during 2/5/25-10/05/25. Emma Clifford will be acting as person responsible during Tanya's absence and meet with some of her educators and families. If you need to contact Emma, she will be reachable on: 020 41616927. Alternatively, you can also contact Jessie on 027 422 1985. Tanya will still be contactable during 3/5 to 9/5, she will still be happy to help on any non-emergent inquiries.

Thank you for reading our Haratua newsletter, ka kīte.