

Christian Early Childhood Education Association of Aotearoa Inc

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008



NEWS IN BRIEF:

- CECEAA National Conference **2009** dates 22nd-24th May 2009 Waikanae
- Welcome to our new members

Elim Early learning centre Christchurch

Elim International Kids Wellington
- Congratulations to

The Ark Kaiapoi on their 20th anniversary

Spreydon Baptist ELC on their 25th anniversary
- A teacher noticed that a child leaned out the window and used the digital camera to take a picture of the sky. The next day the child did the same thing. The teacher wanting to understand the child's thinking asked them why they were taking these pictures. "I'm taking a picture of God" the child replied.
The Ark Kaiapoi

From Executive

Remind me again!! Why am I doing this????

I wake up believing it is Saturday. "Ah! Lovely," I think to myself, and I luxuriate in the knowledge that I can (maybe) lie here for a wee bit longer and then I might just sit in the sun for a while and then I'll... anyway, why DID the alarm go off.

A slow trickle of realisation filters through to my grey matter that, possibly, it might NOT be the day I THINK it is, and that I had better start getting ready for a completely DIFFERENT type of day. A day filled to the brim (and beyond) with excitement, frustration, determination, hilarity, consternation, problem solving, perseverance, danger (?), exasperation, fulfilment, bureaucracy, negotiation, prayer, friendship, exhaustion, snotty noses, exploration, arbitration, success, irritation, intervention, and adventure. And THAT'S all before lunchtime!!!!

It never ceases to amaze me the fervour and enthusiasm with which we, as Early Childhood Teachers, travel through our day. And, yes, we often DO encounter many of the afore mentioned "states of being" in a single day, and very often not in isolation.

It's no wonder that we are able to confidently have and in depth discussion with a parent, dig a huge hole in the sandpit, redirect inappropriate behaviour, share a storybook and photograph, document AND print a learning story all at the SAME time.

All this is turmoil is balanced by the absolute joy of witnessing and encouraging a child, with special needs, in her first tentative steps, and the genuine support and praise of her peers, clapping and cheering her on. Or, overhearing a theoretical discussion between 4 year olds as to how you can KNOW God really exists. Or, supporting a parent who is anxious to give her child the correct answers to, "Why did Jesus die?"

It makes the question "Why am I doing this?" seem completely unimportant.

As we wind our way, (sometimes precariously) towards that blessed time of the year, when we are able to, once again, share the REAL reason for Christmas, my prayer for you all, is that over the holiday season, your alarm does NOT go off and that your break will be filled to the brim, (and beyond), with Saturdays.

Liz Lam Sam
Executive Member



Update from the National Coordinator

Greetings

As I look back on 2008 this had been an eventful year with the global credit crisis, a change of government after 9 years, our first full year of 20 hours free, the introduction of the 50% registered teacher milestone, the launch of the new criteria and guidance, B4 school checks and the baby birth explosion among other events. We have welcomed three NEWLY OPENED Christian services - Kidz Way Tapanui(Otago), Elim International Kids (Wellington) and Ashburton Baptist Community Preschool... (Ashburton) among other new members with other new services in the pipeline to open in 2009/2010. We have also seen other member services reach 20 and 25 year milestones. Across the network our teacher led services continue progress towards gaining and maintaining the 100% registered teacher target with this continuing to be one of the significant challenges for 2009.

As I look towards 2009 I believe that along with other early childhood organisations there will be much work to do on your behalf in continuing to lobby for full implementation of the Early Childhood Strategic Plan, continued implementation of the new criteria and guidance for ECE as both these have been produced after much consultation with our sector and study of the research of what constitutes quality for children. The purpose of the new criteria was to bring clarity and consistency in interpretation of the early childhood regulations across the country. While our new government plans to pause implementation of the new criteria for further consultation, I would encourage you to continue to use the material available as part of reflecting on your service quality as teams. You should all of received a hard copy of the criteria for your service type and the guidance information is available at www.lead.ece.govt.nz at this stage. As an organisation we will be lobbying for the reduction of the under 2's ratio to 1:4 to be seen as a priority as well as continuing funding to meet pay parity.

The executive met recently in Palmerston North to look at planning for 2009 including national conference. We are planning to bring our regional contacts together early 2009 to develop a plan for strengthening the CECEAA regional networks. Work to redevelop the website is underway.

I wish to thank our volunteer executive for all the time and energy they put in on your behalf to ensure the smooth functioning of CECEAA. To all our member services and individuals I wish you all a special Christmas and a well earned holiday break and that you may " *grow in the grace and knowledge of our lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen* "

2 Peter 3:18

Alison Ford

National Coordinator

National Conference 2009

National Conference 2009 Friday 22nd-24th May "Are you listening?"

Planning for conference is well underway. Conference brochures will be sent to services late February 2009. For those keen one's among you who are already thinking about booking flights to Wellington in order to get the cheap ones.... please note....

The sessions for Managers/Trustees/ Supervisors begin 2pm Friday. Flights arriving BY 12pm work well for shuttles to Waikanae.

For main delegates arriving Friday don't forget it is 1 ½ hr to Waikanae from Wellington so on behalf of your teachers please book flights early so you don't end up on late Friday ones..

CONFERENCE WILL FINISH EARLIER NEXT YEAR with shuttles leaving 1.30pm so book outward flights around 3.30-4pm.

All enquiries please contact CECEAA National Office.

Team Work

We have been looking at aspects of centre/service management over the past few newsletters and this time I want to explore the concept of teamwork. There is a lot of information available on developing teams, but Brian Atwood from Pathway Baptist Church in Alabama had some practical things to say in a sermon preached to his congregation. I thought they were worth using (though I have changed some of the concepts to fit our setting)....

Simon Peter, a rough-cut, outspoken yet tenderhearted and insightful apostles of Jesus wrote several letters in his later life to strengthen the church's teamwork. In 1 Peter 4:8-11 he wrote, "Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you. Are you called to be a speaker? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Are you called to help others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then God will be given glory in everything through Jesus Christ. All glory and power belong to him forever and ever. Amen."

Legendary football coach Vince Lombardi was once asked what it took to make a winning team. He said, "There are a lot of coaches with good ball clubs who know the fundamentals and have plenty of discipline but still don't win the game. Then you come to the third ingredient: if you're going to play together as a team, you've got to care for one another. You've got to love each other. Each player has to be thinking about the next guy. You've got to do your job well in order that he can do his. The difference between mediocrity and greatness is the feeling these guys have for each other."

*That's profound and its also very practical. Great teams in sports, in business, and especially in the church, are formulated when the members of the team love each other. That's why Peter assigned this principle the "most important of all" status. "Most important of all, continue to **show** deep love for each other." It's not enough to have love in your heart – you must **SHOW** love in your life!*

*There's no question that every one of us wants to be loved and to love others. But it's not enough for others to know that you love them – you must **SHOW** you love others! Love is not an abstract idea. Love must be manifested. True love is not just something you feel – it's something you demonstrate! Marriages have problems when partners don't show love to one another. A husband and wife may love each other deeply but have a miserable marriage because they don't know how to show their love for one another. You can't raise kids properly without showing them love. You can't have true, lasting, satisfying friendships if your friends can't tell that you love them. You can't experience relationships in your centre without showing and receiving love.*

HOW do we show love to others? Jesus said in Luke 6:31 (CEV) "Treat others just as you want to be treated." This has been called "The Golden Rule" because it is so valuable. It's like gold. You want others to treat you with love and respect and there's nothing wrong with that. Jesus uses something you can readily understand to teach you something you need to know. You need to treat others just as you want to be treated.

You want others to listen to you when you talk. You want them to think about your needs. You want them take initiative in seeking you out. You want them to show you love by the things they do for you. You want their love and forgiveness when you misbehave. You want understanding and second chances. Jesus says then, you start doing that for others. Start listening when they talk. Be interested in what they're saying – don't just yawn and look away while they're talking. Don't just be thinking about what you're going to say next – really focus on what they're saying. Start taking the initiative in seeking others out. Start meeting their needs. Start showing them love by the things you do. Forgive others and be patient with them. Be kind and understanding even when they aren't acting right.

The second law of love builds on the first one. Not only should you treat others the way you want to be treated, you should treat others the way Jesus treats you. John 13:34 (NLT) - "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. (And then Christ tells us HOW to love each other.) Just as I have loved you, you should love each other."

Jesus says, "I want you to love others the way I love you. I want you to treat others the way I treat you." That's pretty good treatment! Some have even dubbed this "The Platinum Rule." The Golden Rule is to treat others the way you want to be treated and one step up from that is to treat them the way Jesus treats you! All you have to do is ask yourself, "How does Christ treat me? That's how I need to treat others."

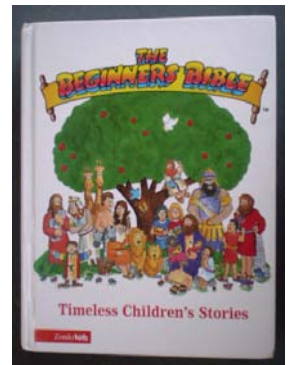
How does Christ show His love for you? That's the way you need to show your love to others. If you ever begin to feel unloved, if you get to the place that you think no one loves you - look at the cross of Jesus! He loves you so much He was willing to die for you! God is not just a God who talks about love. He shows you how much He loves you! And that's what He wants us to do for others. If you're going to love others the way Christ loves them you're going to have to give yourself like Christ gave Himself.

*As we enter the Christmas season where we celebrate love being born Brian has certainly challenged me to look at how I **show** deep love for the other members in my team. How do you cultivate teamwork in your centre team? As Vince Lombardi said "The difference between mediocrity and greatness is the feeling that [the staff in your centre/service] have for each other."*

Raewyn Overton-Stuart

Through the eyes of children....

Recently a couple turned up at our church's newcomer group. When asked their story... their daughter had been presented a Beginners Bible as a gift as she left the church community preschool for school. The daughter had asked her father many times to be read this bible to her at bedtime. While the mother was away on holiday the father decided to check out this church. He was warmly greeted and started attending services. When his wife returned he told her he had started attending church. The wife started too... They have begun an unpressured journey of discovery about "this Jesus fellow".... This is one of the many stories that we have been told about the impact of those bibles. We began giving them out as a preschool after a visit to Mount Roskill Baptist Kindergarten(Auckland)inspired us...



Alison Ford

What is happening in ECE for men?

I have attended both the early childhood menz summits that have been held. The first one was held in Christchurch 2007 and the second, held this year in Wellington. At the Wellington summit it was decided to form this support group, a group were nominated to be the first delegates and a president established from that group. I see some benefits of belonging to this group being:

- The opportunity to network with other men in the field.
- The opportunity to support students through training by being available to talk with them.
- The opportunity to support men in the field who at times feel isolated and at times we are the man.

Below is the details of an e-mail I received this week, please feel free to join up it is free between now and February. So feel free to pass this on to the men you know, in the field, in training or even thinking of training

Phillip Ozanne
National Executive
CECEAA

IMPORTANT! - MEMBERSHIP of EC-MENz November 2008

EC-MENz is now officially an Incorporated Society. We are still awaiting the slow process for Charitable Status. As a result, it is vital that you become members.

Browse to <http://www.ecmenz.org>

Click on the "membership" tab of the navigation bar to enrol.

We are offering a free Foundation Membership for members registering before 14th Feb 2009

Advantages of membership:

- * Reduced Registration Fees for the next ECMENz Summit (conference details will be posted to you shortly)
- * Access to the ECMENz Members Forum which will only be visible and accessible to Members
- * Inclusion on the EC-MENz Mailing List to inform you of new developments.

Enrolment fees:

Foundation Members (enrolled before 14 Feb 2009) - Free

After 14th Feb 2009:

In full-time employment - \$20.00 p.a.

In Part-time employment, unwaged or in training - \$5.00 p.a.

Phil Ozanne

Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators

The Ark and the Rainbow are two Christian Early Childhood Centres that run a ministry for the children and families of Kaiapoi. Between them, the two centres have over thirty staff and recently we booked Caleb Leadership Ministries to run a special version of the Bridge Builders course as part of the teachers' professional development,

The Centres reach over three hundred families in the area and, in line with our ministry focus, the management wanted the staff to build up their skills in forming relationships and taking the message of God's love and hope into the community. Another important aspect was that the teachers could continue to build up loving and positive relationships with each other.

The full day course was informative, fun, interactive and definitely worthwhile. The feedback from every staff member has been full of praise, each one gaining positive learning even though we are at different places in our lives and Christian walk. The course provided practical tools for relationship building and communication, we all learnt more about each other and from that gained added appreciation of our place in the team. There was great use of humour and practical application; the course content was both simple but profound and, most importantly, we all felt energetic and encouraged at the end of the day.

Jo Bisseker

Balloons

We are all learners, sometimes we just need a little diversion to bring back the enthusiasm and discussion!

What can we learn from a balloon?

Its wacky Wednesday in the Nursery, the team had spent time changing the area around and putting items in wacky places, inside equipment outside and bikes inside. There is a lot of interest in what has happened to the room as people walk in this morning, something even more exciting was J's arrival, she has a surprise, it is really big and everyone notices as she tries to get through the door with a big white sheet full of something! Something that's not heavy just big. All eyes follow J as she moves to one corner of the room, then squeals of delight follow as she releases lots of balloons. Toddlers make their way to the corner very quickly to run through the balloons but they stop and look as they notice these are not like the balloons they have seen before. These balloons are clear and all had something inside, each one different and exciting.

There was not one person who entered the Nursery without picking up one of the balloons and commenting, it was exciting to see and hear the reactions.

The children spent a lot of time working with the balloons, they were thrown up and down, shaken, rolled, bounced and even kicked and amazingly only one popped by the end of the day.

So what was in the balloons? I saw, coloured feathers, a smaller balloon (blown up), raisins, curly wood shavings, colored sticks, chocolate chips, heart shaped glitter, shiny confetti, Jelly beans, macaroni elbows, some deflated balloons, sparkly pompoms, pipe cleaners and more.

The children had an amazing experience as they learned so many facts about these balloons, changing their pedagogy of the humble balloon that stays in the air for a while when you hit it upwards and pops if you are not careful. These were different, yes one or two stayed in the air for a short time but some just sank heavily to the ground no matter how hard they were hit upward. Some had to be shaken very hard so the contents made a noise but some were very loud with little effort. The children named the contents, colours and talked about the different items could see,

The parents were amazed that the balloons were still in one piece at the end of the day which created lots of discussion about how affective the balloons were and how easily it could be done

at home. The teachers were able to pass on their knowledge, such as it's a good to use a pump to blow the balloons rather than your moist breath. There was discussion about why the only balloon that popped was the one with Jelly beans in – and contrary to what you might think the child was only shaking the balloon to make a loud noise, and was so surprised it popped that he didn't even try to eat any jelly beans. One parent commented, while shaking the raisins around the balloon, how hard the raisins hit into her fingers and wondered why they didn't make the balloon pop? We are truly all learners- Thursday's professional discussion between the staff was on such things as why certain balloons popped first, why did certain balloons deflate overnight and not others, How come the smell of the chocolate chips can through the balloon? From this one activity the whole centre community grew in knowledge about the humble balloon. All stakeholders were empowered by new knowledge and there was a lot of fun in the process, isn't that

what learning is really about! **Chris Reid**



Celebrating God's grace and reflecting on the importance of recording the stories.....

Recently our centre celebrated its 25th anniversary. One of our trustees who had recently taken a course in creative writing interviewed past and present staff in order to record the story of the last 25 years. This included the moving of the whole building round the corner to extend the church and get the new site in operation within 2 weeks total, an addition to the building for under twos and the purchase and altering of our four year old building, three previous managers and many wonderful past staff to interview and video... . Photos to locate – 'I didn't know they worked here!, what was her name?...''remember that climbing frame''. We even found a video of the building being moved with much prayer as it was suspended over the neighbour's house-“ hey it looks as if the floor is just about to fall out!! “

What we discovered is that in the business of these years we have been remiss in recording our story as it happened. We were fortunate that some of the early staff were still around to share their stories- we could have missed the vision under which it all started so easily and the heritage on which we stand... We also found that with time we had conflicting memories of what happened...

I would encourage you all to record the stories of your visionaries and early staff, changes in buildings , special events etc as they happen so you don't get caught at your 25th...

What we have decided to do in future is.

- Ensure we take staff photos regularly and write names on the back.
- Start an album with one photo of all children who attend the centre – to create a sense of the past and the future, to foster belonging... we can bring these out when they return with their children....or they become our next prime minister...
- Take pictures telling the story of alterations
- Use the newly created booklet telling the centre's vision and story in our induction packs for new staff

I also had the privilege of visiting The Ark Kaiapoi on the occasion of their twentieth celebration. As part of their celebrations , in their church foyer, was a fur tree with bows and cards nearby. It was called a tree of remembrance where people were encouraged to write on the names of those who had been involved in the Ark over the 20 years but who were no longer with them. I was touched by this remembering of those who were missing this earthly celebration.....and the honouring of their involvement by the bows.

A happy memory is on earth perhaps truer than happiness

A.de Musser



TOWARD THE FUTURE MEETING NOTES

The Trust Board held its annual vision and forward planning meeting on the 16th October where we reviewed our mission statement, our core values and our philosophy. We then looked at the things that impacted on our services and shared our dreams and visions for the next 5 years and into the future.

The new ECE Regulations require us to build in a separate sleep area for children under two. Because of limited space at the centre, this would mean taking away part of the over 2 play space and thereby limiting the number of children we could take and this in turn would adversely affect our funding. We therefore decided that perhaps the time has come to purchase another building nearby for a separate under 2 centre.

This would allow us to find the much needed sleep space for the older children. Now that the centre has so many 2 year olds we have as many as 15 children over 2 requiring sleeps in the afternoon.

We would also look at putting a kitchenette in the playroom so all the children have space to sit down at meal-times with the staff. The kitchen would then become the reception area and Manager's office and the present office would be made into work space for staff doing their assessments and planning.

The outdoor play area at the ELC is also due for a revamp to bring it into line with the new playground safety standards. This means lowering the fort and replacing the pea gravel with some other form of soft fall. We would like an old row boat for outdoor play if anyone knows where we can access an old one.

The centre is ageing and therefore there is a lot of equipment needing replacement as well – washing machine, dishwasher, carpentry bench and storage, sound system, office chairs, children's tables and chairs, highchairs.

We also want to put in a storage area for parents to leave their prams and car-seats out of the rain.

The Preschool needs some type of verandah or carport to allow children semi-outdoor play in winter. The acoustics of this building are a huge problem. A children's garden with Fijian type vale is due to be put in and a fence between the preschool and the neighbouring property needs to be put up.

We are still working towards giving our staff pay parity with other teachers and this should be achieved within the next 2 years. With the need to have all teachers fully trained and registered by 2012 we will have up to 4 staff in training next year and 4 working towards their full registration. They need study time for this so we need to employ 2 full time relievers – especially as staff get a 5th week of annual leave from next year on. We need to build up our pool of relievers.

Staff are to do an ALPHA course next year. We want to have a greater number of staff who are committed Christians and we want to attract men to the profession.

We would like to work towards having a greater visibility among the fellowship.

The Trust Board will look at ways of becoming more visible to the staff and families. They may look at taking on a chaplaincy/support role for the staff.

Staff will continue the third and final year of the Information Communication Technology Professional Learning contract – rounding up our research and continuing to disseminate the findings at various hui and conferences.

We are to get a wireless network between the two centres.

Visions for further into the future include:

- establishing a parent centre with a family support worker and access to counselling, budget advice and courses and networks to teach craft, cooking, parenting skills, etc
- establishing a resource library with librarian for sharing resources between the centres and staff
- extending the staffroom at the ELC
- building out over the verandah at the ELC to establish an entrance with sign in desk, parent library and notice boards, bag and coat storage
- improving the car-parking for all centres
- a 6th week of holiday for staff to bring them in to line with other teachers
- providing out of school care services
- making it possible for as many staff as possible to attend the 2011 early childhood convention in Christchurch
- establishing an early childhood personnel agency
- finding space for a head office with board room/meeting space
- establishing a sessional centre on the new church site
- starting home-based care and nanny services

Somewhere in there, God willing, is my retirement!

Lorraine Bennet

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ADVERTISEMENTS /NOTICES

Wanted: ECE Teacher in Auckland

Olive Shoots Early Childhood Centre

is a purpose-built centre incorporating a Christian philosophy, located on the Laidlaw College West Auckland campus. Licensed for 50 children – 40 O2s/10 U2s. A Full-time position is now available in the Over 2s room for a Jan/Feb 2009 start. The successful applicant will have a minimum DipTch (ECE) or equivalent, plus 2 years experience; current teacher registration is also required.

If you are passionate about teaching in a team environment, have excellent communication & interpersonal relationship skills, and are competent with *Te Whāriki*, we want to hear from you. This role requires a commitment to our special character and ministry ethos. For additional information, contact Pearl or Naomi on 09 836 7838 or visit our website:

http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/laidlaw/home/college-information/job-opportunities/en/job-opportunities_home.cfm.

Are you interested in teaching children about their creator and His love for them?

We are looking for a qualified early childhood educator to join our team at Shining Lights Christian Preschool in Grey Lynn, Central Auckland.

We are a small "family feel" centre, with a big vision. Our vision is to provide quality childcare in a caring christian environment.

With a maximum of 25 children and stable staff we are able to offer great working conditions, holidays and rates of pay.

As employers we are committed to being the best we can be.

Recognising, supporting and mentoring our staff to be all that they can be. We are looking for a supervisor for our centre or a person that in time we can mentor into the role. Recent graduates are welcome to apply.

Join our community outreach, most children come from non christian homes and yet word of mouth keeps us full!

Application details:

Please contact Kim Taylor on 09 378 9025 or 021 214 2929.

Alternatively email me at taylorclan@maxnet.co.nz

The Ark Preschool

The Ark Preschool is a unique Christian community preschool situated in Richmond, Nelson catering for children from 2 ½ - 5 years. Our dedicated fun loving team require another teacher to bring our ratio up to 1/7 children.

Either a new graduate or qualified Early Childhood Teacher.

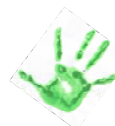
This position is for 21 hours per week consisting 5 morning sessions and staff meeting on Friday afternoons plus 3 hours non-contact time. We can be flexible with hours. The Ark Preschool is open during school terms.

The commencing date will be 3 February 2009. Applicants need to be able to demonstrate a commitment to the Christian ethos of the centre at both a personal and professional level.

Applications close 19 December 2008.

Please send your CV or enquires to The Administrator, Raelene Did-dell, PO Box 3242, Richmond, Nelson or email to theark@ts.co.nz Phone 03 544 2951

KidzWay



Early Learning Centre

We seek staff for the following positions at KidzWay Early Learning Centre in Tapanui, West Otago, starting in 2009.

- 1. Fixed term, part time position due to maternity leave. This is a job share Head Teacher position.*
- 2. Full time qualified teacher. This is due to increasing role numbers.*

You are invited to make any enquiries to ph/fax (03) 2048899 or e-mail kidzwayelc@xtra.co.nz