

August-September 2010



Newsletter

Shhhh...it's story time!!!

Bright Sparks Children and Waitakere Central Library

Our second exhibition at the Waitakere Central Library was received with great enthusiasm by the children, the librarians and the general public.

We would like to thank all parents who supported us in making our children's commitment to literacy a visible and all encompassing learning experience.

The exhibition can be viewed in our foyer, from the 6th of September.

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Western Leader

On Friday, the 20th of August, Western Leader acknowledged Bright Sparks' involvement in making visible children's learning engagements, teachers' contributions, as well as parents' involvement, to the wider West Auckland community.

On the 13th of September, Chai Martin, the Manager of Bright Sparks Childcare- Henderson, returns from her holiday.

Important!

Until then do not hesitate to contact me at 8362500 or e-mail me at chai@bscc.co.nz

Regards, Cami Margasoiu

Offer to all Bright Sparks parents

Dear Parents,

In the past two and a half years we have employed many forms of advertising our services to the wider Auckland community, and the most reliable approach has been through your word of mouth. As a result, a high percentage of our enrolled children have been referred to us by other Bright Sparks parents. We thank you for it, and we also thank you for your support and commitment to us.

At the moment, we would like to extend to you an additional offer...’ If you refer us to new parents and those parents enrol their child with us, you will get a \$50 credit in your account for every child you refer.’ It is a great offer and we think you should take as much advantage of it as you can.

Thank you again.

Regards,

The Bright Sparks Team

REMINDERS:

- Did you know that your 5 year old is still entitled to 20ECE? If you would like to have your child attend Bright Sparks after s/he turns 5, we are more than happy to accommodate you and your child, provided the learning environment is still beneficial to your child’s holistic development. If you are interested send us an e-mail at camistellar@gmail.com or talk to the teachers.
- Fees: Please be reminded that all fees are due to be paid in advance. This means that your account must always have a nil or credit balance. Please ensure that you submit your payments as per the agreed Fee Payment Schedule.
- All important information regarding your child’s attendance at Bright Sparks must be done in writing. You can use a Change of Details form or, alternatively, e-mail us at chai@bscc.co.nz
- Should you wish to withdraw your child from Bright Sparks, please be reminded that the notice must be given in writing, two weeks prior to your child’s last day of attendance.

Workshops

Transition to school workshop

It was a highly informative night, with Mrs. Shelley Quinlivan, Deputy Principal at Epsom Primary answering all the questions parents asked about public Primary Schools, how to choose the best school for your child, what you can do to support children's transition to school and many more....

Thank you for attending.

The wonder of learning– Dialogue with materials

An invite to all Bright Sparks parents!!!

If you want to know more about our source of inspiration, the Reggio Emilia philosophy, now is the time... Reggio Children and RE Provocations New Zealand have brought the internationally acclaimed "Wonder of Learning" exhibition in Auckland.

Daily Viewing

The Exhibition will be open daily from 10am till 3pm weekdays with a longer day on Saturday and Sunday of 10am till 4pm. Entry during these times are free.

There will be hosts there to welcome you and discuss the different aspects of the Exhibition. A large range of Reggio Children publications will also be available for sale.

Viewing the Exhibition in an organized field trip with your parents and children can be a wonderful way to share the Reggio Philosophy with them, allowing them first hand to experience this world renowned educational approach.

The Floating Pavillion, The Viaduct, Auckland
Exhibition - 20 August to 17 September 2010

About the location

The Exhibition is being hosted at the Floating Pavilion at Gate 1, Hobson West Marina, in the Viaduct. There is parking available right alongside the venue, although for less expensive options, it would be best to use either of the Wilson car parking buildings close by.

We are reviewing our Philosophy at the moment. We would really appreciate your feedback.

Our Philosophy

Image of the child

At Bright Sparks we believe that children are unique individuals who deserve to be treated with respect, who are acknowledged as reflective thinkers, explorers, capable of making sound decisions with regards to their own learning. We view children as communicators who have the right to use multitudes of forms of symbolic representation: drawing, painting, building, shadow play, dramatic play, music, movement, words. We believe that the consistent availability of materials, the meaningfully arranged spaces, the open dialoguing, and the multitude of intelligent materials support and promote valuable learning encounters.

Image of the teacher

At Bright Sparks Childcare, our highly qualified teachers become collaborative partners of our children and their families, exploring, questioning, theorising together. Open-ended questioning supports the general growth of ideas, furthermore offering meaningful opportunities for better understanding the child and her/his interests. The teachers listen with all their senses, thus the rhythm of learning and teaching, follows the specific needs of each child, of each group. To ensure the consistent quality of our programme, all teaching teams engage in on-going reflective dialogue, professional development, training and theoretical exploration.

Image of the parent

Bright Sparks Childcare has developed opportunities for consistent parent involvement, through: Parent evenings, newsletters, Parent-Teacher interviews, and a Parent Committee that addresses many concerns parents might have, as well as offers support with the organisation of fund-raising events.

Programme

Our programme is based on three educational pillars: Reggio Emilia principals, Te Whariki- The New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum, and Christianity.

Assessment

Assessment plays a quintessential role in our programme, as it creates opportunities for collaboration, consistently deepening our understanding of children, our programme, and our environment, provoking and challenging us further.

Environment

Bright Sparks believes that *'the environment should act as a kind of aquarium which reflects the ideas, ethics, attitudes and life-style of the people who live in it.'* (Malaguzzi) Bright Sparks Childcare offers environments that are reflective of the children's age; environments that provide vast interactive opportunities, have well-designed areas that suit both individual and collective engagements, are inviting and aesthetically pleasing, are well-organised and respectfully reflect and acknowledge the communities and cultures inhabiting it.

Culture and Faith

At Bright Sparks we affirm and celebrate each child's culture in a myriad of ways. We welcome and support families from various religious and non-religious traditions alike.

This might be of interest to you...

Waterproof overalls and trousers in a size 1-4. These are great for keeping children dry while playing outside. Please check out this website for further details. www.ezpzbaby.co.nz



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Parents Networking Board

Have you ever looked at a parent and wondered how you know them? Our Parents Networking Board is an ongoing resource.

Our parents represent a diverse set of talents and skills and we would like to connect you when possible or when needed.

Would you be interested in adding your business card or profession to our Parents Networking board? Would you be interested in advertising your business in our Newsletter?

