



Hukerenui School
Crows Nest Road
RD2 Hikurangi
0182

READY TO LEARN TRANSITION GROUP – HUKERENUI SCHOOL

This is to provide some information around the reception group in our Yr 1 class.

The decision to include this group to our school is based on the pedagogy that children aged 5 are generally not ready for higher order abstract learning.

The MOE states the following:

"Children most commonly start school when they turn five even though schooling is only compulsory from age six.

Where children start school for the first time after the age of six, they are placed in the same year as other children of the same age."

There are many facets of a young child's physical development that needs strengthening before an expectation for abstract learning can be expected from them. Gross and fine motor control and spatial awareness should be automatic so that students don't have to spend all their mental energy on efforts to hold a pencil, understand left from right, have good muscle tone, struggling with eye movement from left to right, crossing the midline and many more.

We at Hukerenui School believe it is our responsibility to give every young child an equal opportunity to succeed and have researched and are implementing programmes that would benefit our young children to develop school readiness further as part of a 10 week programme.

Most effectively is when students begin the programme at the start of a new term as part of a stable little group without the interruption of staggered start dates. Importantly this means they are all covering the same work at the same time and as they develop it is so much easier to assess their development and help them immediately should they struggle. Developing as part of a little group within the bigger class room supports them emotionally and develops confidence to take risks in learning so much more.

Research shows:

"The success of school is also undermined when children begin without the necessary core skills and experiences." Schools struggle to overcome these initial differences in children.

(Cunha et al 2006, Karoly et al The Magic Caterpillar's Building Blocks to Literacy: Getting it Right from the Start Barbara Brann 2011 6 2005)

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“ Later attempts to compensate for un-readiness are less effective and may be more expensive than providing the resources, programmes and resources needed to ensure that children start school ready to continue learning.” (Policy Brief No 10 P2) Furthermore, “Life trajectories for children become increasingly difficult to change as differences in skills and abilities become entrenched and initial differences between school ready and school unready children are amplified.” (Cunha et al 2006 p2)

“In Australia, children enter school with marked differences in the cognitive, non-cognitive and social skills needed for success in the school environment ... These initial differences are predictive of later academic and occupational success.” (Policy Brief No 10 p1)

Some programmes we will be implementing are: Perceptual Motor Programme (Gross motor control, perceptual awareness, oral language development, memory, etc.), Smart words, phonics, Fine motor skill development for writing, Sandpit play (Fine motor control, Oral language development), etc. We employ a teacher's aide to support the effectiveness of this programme. This means that the group will have a support person with them to help these little ones develop the skills needed in a caring and well catered for environment.

We have invested \$9,000.00 in the Perceptual Motor Programme with all the relevant equipment. As part of this our staff has been trained by the developer of the Perceptual Motor Programme. This programme supports gross and fine motor control which helps with automaticity of writing when students are faced with higher order abstract learning tasks.

As all students at Hukerenui School are tutored according to their ability, students who show readiness will move to a group compatible to their development.

Please contact us for more information. We are happy to spend time with you to explain and support you with anything you may want to know.

We have an open door policy and you are welcome to visit the class at any time. Help is always appreciated so please make it known to us if you would like to give us a hand!

Yours sincerely,

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