

Early Years Whānau Centre



Haere mai, welcome to the Early Years Whānau Centre.

We are a Playgroup open for individual and group sessions from the hours of 9.30am - 12.30pm,

- Monday/Wednesday at Prebbleton Plunket, 3 William Street, Prebbleton.
- Tuesday/Thursday at Ko Taku Reo Sumner Campus, 38 Truro Street, Sumner, Christchurch.

We work closely with:

- Advisors on Deaf Children.
- Ko Taku Reo Resource Teachers of the Deaf.
- Cochlear Implant Habilitationists.
- Ko Taku Reo Audiologist and Paediatric Audiology/CHAS.
- Other specialist Early Intervention Providers such as Champion Centre, CCS, BLENNZ and Ministry of Education.



Sessions

The focus of the program is parent-child support and empowerment.

- Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) children aged 0-6 years may be enrolled in the centre.
- Siblings of (DHH) preschoolers and children of Deaf adults (C.O.D.A) can be enrolled in the centre.
- We welcome all whānau such as grandparents, relatives and friends to come and join in group sessions.
- DHH preschoolers and their families that are not enrolled in the centre can visit with their Advisor on Deaf Children.
- A parent/caregiver attends each session the child is enrolled in.
- Dates and times of attendance are decided in consultation with the parents/whānau.

Parents/whānau

We encourage parents/whānau to work in partnership with the staff in all areas of their child's development.

Parents/whānau are expected to attend their child's sessions and participate in formal and informal monitoring of children's development.

Teachers support families to practice effective techniques and strategies for developing their child's communication skills through the provision of targeted individual sessions and group sessions.

What to bring

Families are asked to bring some food for their child to have at morning tea. We encourage healthy foods i.e. fruit or cheese.

Encouraging independence

Children are encouraged to follow the routines and expectations of the group and individual sessions they attend. Initially they will need help to:

- Find their photo and place it next to a hook.
- Put away their bag and put away their lunch.
- Follow the routines at music, play and story times.

Experience books

Parents/whānau are supported to develop a personalised Experience book for their DHH child with the goal of providing a meaningful basis for daily communication interactions.

Individual Plans (IP)

DHH children may have an IP or Family Plan. These plans are written at meetings which are held approximately twice a year and facilitated by your Advisor on Deaf Children. Early Years Whānau Centre teachers will work alongside parents/whānau to identify next steps for their child's developments.

Parents/whānau support

Support groups are held regularly during our sessions throughout the year. Parents/whānau can request topics for their meetings which may be informal, involve a guest speaker or NZSL tuition.

Trips

We regularly go on trips into the wider community to extend the child's language. A Risk Assessment is completed by staff before each trip. Parents are asked to read and sign a Parent Information Form outlining possible risks and their responsibilities before each trip.



A person with long, curly blonde hair is seen from the side, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt. They are sitting on a green carpeted floor, playing with colorful plastic blocks. The blocks are in various colors: yellow, green, and red. One red block is being held by a hand on the right side of the frame. The person's hands are positioned to stack or move the blocks. The background shows a light-colored floor and a blue chair leg.

**Our aim is
“to build foundations for
Deaf and Hard of Hearing children
and their family/whānau to enable
them to become capable, confident
communicators and learners.”**



Audiological equipment

Children who wear hearing aids may access support from audiologist after discussion with their Advisor and current audiology service provider.

Storypark

We use the Online platform Storypark to create digital portfolios for your child. Storypark creates a secure Online network of people that you would like to include in your child's journey with us. It helps us connect with parents, other educators and specialists.

- You own all content and control your child's digital footprint.
- You manage who's invited to your child's Storypark community.

Parent corner

We provide access to books and articles that are of interest to parents of DHH children. Each term families receive a newsletter advising of our term dates, programmes and activities. Policies and procedures are also displayed here.

Health and hygiene

- We have instructions on the wall in the adults toilet for nappy changing. Adults are asked to follow these when changing their child's nappy.
- All adults and children need to wash their hands before handling and/or eating any food. Dish washing instructions are in the kitchen.

- Adults and children with upset stomachs or are feeling unwell need to stay home to avoid cross infection.
- Smoking and vaping are not allowed on Ko Taku Reo premises.
- We need to sight each child's record of immunisation.
- Hot drinks must be consumed in mugs with lids.
- Safe, supervised sleeping provisions are available.

Preschool Residential Courses

During the year, families from around New Zealand may visit for three days course of support. These families become part of our centre for the week and always appreciate the opportunity to meet other families with DHH children.

Visitors

We often have visitors to the centre. These may be teachers in training, teachers from mainstream early childhood centres, staff from other specialist early intervention services or audiologists.







Contact us

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Teacher of the Deaf

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