

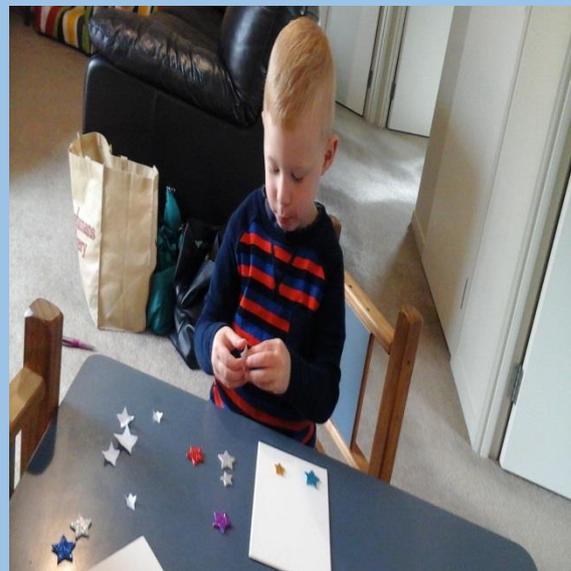
Bright Child Newsletter, July 2018

Matariki

This month we have been focusing on Matariki or Maori New Year. This is named after a cluster of seven stars - the Pleiades which disappear early in May and then become visible again in late May/early June. Historically this has told the Maori people when to begin harvesting and then Matariki is celebrated when the stars reappear and the storehouses are full of food ready for the winter ahead.

We have linked an art activity to Matariki and used seven star stickers on a black or white background to create Matariki pictures. Using stickers is a great way for children to practice fine motor skills, hand-eye co-ordination, spatial awareness, colours and shapes. The younger children have also enjoyed exploring a Matariki themed treasure basket.

There are lots of Matariki activities around at this time of year so why not see what is advertised in your community and try something new.



Science Playroom



On Monday 25 June we held a very successful playgroup at the Science Playroom in Henderson. This was the perfect place to be on a wet Monday morning. There were so many different things to explore - some favourites were the black light room, the topography sand box, thermal imagery, musical instruments, an air blower tube and of course the interactive colour mixing and volcano experiment.

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There was plenty of time and space for everybody to explore, have a break for the morning tea we provided and make new friends.

Some of our Bright Child families came and we also had lots of children and families from the rugby league playgroups around Auckland.

Playball

We are very happy to announce that next term - beginning July 23 - we will offer FREE Playball and gymnastics classes around Auckland. Look out for the information about dates, times and locations - we'd love to see you there.

Physical activity is so important for children's learning and development. It gives them the opportunity to develop large motor skills, which, in turn, contribute to the development of fine motor skills. They also learn about and practise using co-ordination, turn taking, following simple rules and playing in a team. It also facilitates the mind-body connection which is so important in all aspects of learning and development and is a fun way to introduce the importance of a healthy, active lifestyle.



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