

Katoa Kindergarten

52 Takapuwhaia Drive, Elsdon, Porirua
Phone – 237 4642 Cell – 0210379398

Session Times:

Monday and Friday – 8.45am – 12.55pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – 8.45am – 2.45 pm
Playgroup Monday 10.00am -12.00pm

Information for parents about Katoa Kindergarten

The team at Katoa Kindergarten welcomes you; we strive to make children’s time at Kindergarten enjoyable and a wonderful basis for their future learning. We have put together some information to provide you with a snapshot of our programme, day and opportunities for whānau involvement so that you know what to expect and how you can be involved in your child’s learning



The Team at Katoa Kindergarten from the left is – Diana (Acting Head Teacher), Larissa (Teacher), Jessica (Teacher), Simone (Teacher), Nicola (Teacher), Leigh (Admin)

Participating in your kindergarten

Parents, caregivers and whānau are always very welcome to stay for all or part of the kindergarten session. You are invited to be part of the learning community and participate in many different ways. You may wish to be a parent helper in sessions or be part of the kindergarten fundraising group (Friends of Katoa), and help with the end of term clean up and other odd jobs that come up from time to time.

Friends of Katoa

The Friends of Katoa work alongside teachers to organise social and fundraising events. You are welcome to be part of this group, look out for notices with the next meeting date.

What is unique about our programme?

In particular Katoa Kindergarten is community focused; we value the relationship that kindergarten has with local Marae and the inclusion of bi-cultural practice within the programme. Kindergarten is supportive of whānau by offering a playgroup each Monday that runs alongside the session and establishing activities of interest such as craft group evenings, parent education and support. Children have the opportunity to be part of inclusive

environment that acknowledges the importance of social skills and values that support children for future learning. The large playground provides opportunity for group games and challenge course activities. We also like to grow fruit and vegetables to share with the community; this assists us in learning about gardening and sustainability. Indoors children can develop and explore interests through art and craft activities, construction and information technology.

Children's Portfolios

Each child has a portfolio folder that is presented to families on starting kindergarten. Your child's portfolio is a collection of documentation about the significant learning that they have been experiencing. We value your thoughts on your child's learning and invite you to contribute to their portfolio. The information from you, your child, and us is used to plan how we can support children's learning.

What food do parents need to provide?

Please see the list attached for healthy lunch box ideas for the types of food that are appropriate to bring for lunch at kindergarten. We have obtained the Healthy Heart Award from the Heart Foundation and to maintain this award we are required to ensure our children bring healthy lunches to eat at kindergarten.

Children can also bring 2-3 pieces of fruit each week to contribute towards our shared morning tea. The kindergarten provides healthy snacks, e.g. rice crackers or popcorn and fruit. Lunch time is between 12.30 and 12.45 approximately and this is when your child eats from their lunch box.

Clothing

Each child needs to bring a named bag to kindergarten with changes of clothing suitable for the weather conditions, please ensure all clothing is named.

Sunhats and Sunscreen

Children wear sunhats outside during the summer, Term 4 and Term 1, and we actively remind children to keep their hats on. We ask that you apply sunscreen before your child comes in the morning and for your child to bring a sunhat, we will reapply sunscreen after lunch time.

Bathroom routines at Kindergarten

If your child needs help to go to the toilet or is using nappies please let the teachers know. We will work together to support your child to become independent with their toileting. If your child is using nappies please keep a supply in their bag. When we change children a record is kept in the bathroom on the sign in register a blue dot will be by your child's name to let you know that we have changed your child, the blue dot is a reminder for you to sign the toileting chart in the bathroom.

Community Partnerships

We support the Before School Check health program. Coordinators come in to kindergarten to carry out the checks in the year prior to each child starting school. Hearing and vision testing is also undertaken at kindergarten for children aged three and four by hearing and vision specialists. We also liaise with our local schools to support

this important transition for children and families. Information packs are available for parents to assist you in getting familiar with the schools in our community.

Excursions

As part of our learning programme, children have the opportunity to go on excursions; your permission will be sought on each occasion. Parents and caregivers are welcome to join us and notices will go out to all families prior to the excursion.

Attendance/sign in register

Each day you are required to sign the attendance register at the time of dropping off and collecting your child. This is a requirement of the Ministry of Education. If your child is going to be absent due to illness or being holiday please let us know you can either txt the kindergarten cellphone **021 0379398** or phone **237 4642**. If you notice a colored dot on the register next to your child's name it will mean one of the following –

- A **Red** dot means your child has had an accident, one of the teachers will inform you of this and require you to sign the accident register
- A **Blue** dot means your child has been changed due to a toileting accident or water play, please sign the register in the bathroom
- A **Green** dot means that your child has had a sleep during the day and you will need to sign the sleep register

Immunisation

We support your choice to either immunize your child or not. We are however required to keep a record of immunization for all children. Your co-operation with the provision of this information is appreciated.

Notices

Newsletters, excursion forms and any invoices will be placed in your child's wall pocket, located on the wall by the office.

Policies and Procedures

To operate in New Zealand, every Early Childhood Education service must meet Ministry of Education regulations. Katoa Kindergarten has a Policy and Procedure booklet which relates to the attendance and the welfare of your child whilst at kindergarten, this is available for you to read in the lounge area by the kitchen.

Enjoy your time at kindergarten

Teachers like to work in partnership with families and we hope you feel welcome to spend time with your child, as an individual, with siblings or extended family members. A key aspect of our programme is the ongoing collaboration and connection with whānau so it's important to us to foster a strong relationship with you.

Lunch Box Ideas

Sandwiches – pita bread, wraps, rice cakes, white and brown bread

- Fillings – marmite/vegemite, jam, honey, ham, luncheon, tomato or salad, hummus, cheese, eggs
- Fruits and Vegetables
Sliced carrot sticks, cucumber, celery, broccoli or cauliflower, any fruit, fruit jellies

Biscuits/crackers – **please no chocolate biscuits**

- Rice crackers, snacks, muesli bars (**but not chocolate coated**)

Other ideas

- Home baking, cold cheese on toast, popcorn
- sunflower/pumpkin seeds, muffins, scones, yoghurts
- dried fruits, e.g. apricots, raisins, sultanas etc.

Only water in drink bottles – no juice or flavoured milk

Suggestion:

With regards to chippies in lunchboxes we would like to remind you of the incredibly high fat content in them. They can be replaced by rice crackers which come in lots of yummy flavours.

These food items are not suitable for kindy lunches:

- Pies
- Orange coloured chippies, e.g. twisties etc
- Chocolate covered biscuits
- Chocolate or lollies
- Fruit strings, roll ups etc
- Juice, flavoured milk

