

Feedback from recipients of the Early Childhood Clothing Initiative included in Donna's report to the donor family

Overall the teachers noticed:

- Children are more engaged and involved in the learning
- Haven't noticed an improvement in attendance but those present are more willing to try new activities e.g. water play and baking without worried about getting their clothes messy
- Children love the gumboots especially jumping in the mud and puddles
- There have been no complaints from parents with children in wet socks.
- Now have a supply of undies and sweaters to change into if needed
- The summer hats with brims and back flaps have been very successful. There was a rule of no play outside in term 1 or term 4 without a sunhat. Now no-one misses out. Some families have been noticed at Aotea Lagoon wearing the sun hats
- More noticeable is the lunchboxes are fuller with better food although some are embarrassed about lack of food
- Children attended even on rainy day
- Family are always rugged up, well clothed
- More children attending more regularly. They are more caring and listening to each other. They are more supportive when a child is upset? Tying in with the Kaupapa
- Parents say a big weight is lifted. A Mum was crying that she knew her boy had grown out of his clothes but she couldn't afford the next size with the power bill
- Some families are more shift workers, or on welfare, and are still more supportive of Kindergarten. Way more involved in staying a bit longer watching their child settle. Not embarrassed to hang around and get involved
- Kindergarten now has spare clothing kept here for emergencies and accidents
- Kindergarten used to have to wash and dry clothes but not needed now. Savings on Kindergarten power bill
- Children are calmer. Not worried about getting clothes dirty
- Child told to keep his clothes and shoes clean and dry for Sunday church. Now thrilled with the gumboots
- Some families wanted to keep the clothing for best. Now don't worry if it gets dirty. Can be easily washed
- Children not coming in damp clothes.
- Children love to play outside even if it's wet. They love jumping in puddles. Spare clothing if they get too wet. Love playing in the new sandpit no matter the weather
- Mum's reaction to wet child is less of a concern. Not scared now. There's enough clothes. Parents are saying it's a relief not to be so worried
- Parents say the child is happy and learning
- Teachers noticed Children ready for deeper learning because they are warm, dry and happy
- There are healthier food choices in lunchboxes and Kindergarten still does baking
- Families are paying the power bill. More holistic improvements because of the clothing
- No one is in clothing too small
- New children have enrolled. Children attend more regularly, one more than his 5 siblings did
- Teachers noticed the staff changeover is steady compared with 2 years ago. Clothing is linked to the Kaupapa of learning with lots of photos on the wall of being kind and building empathy

- The clothes are put out in sizes like a shop. It's advertised to families on Facebook and Story Park to all families. Families grew in confidence to take what they needed. Children are noticed being less upset, more engaged, having fun, more sharing
- The Kaupapa was to protect the mana of the child at all times
- A lot of Manaaki from Whanau. They are so grateful
- There is more connectedness and sharing in the community
- A family has very little money but after the clothing they gave a \$10 towards their fees
- A family was grieving over the loss of grandfather and cousin. The child came with a burn on her arm. After the clothing Dad came and said he was a photographer and can take photos of the class
- The clothing has opened the dialogue. It is very appreciated. It has helped build relationships
- Attendance may not show a measurable improvement but the quality of the relationships is noticeable
- Rangikura the local school has not commented but transitions have gone smoothly with safe hands, kind words and improved behaviour and actions
- The best has been that the clothes are new not second hand.
- This week children are coming in the new puffer jackets. The hoodies have been popular. So have the sunhats
- The outside environment is more welcoming and child friendly

Ascot Park Kindergarten is so grateful to Rotary Club of Plimmerton and especially the donor family for this project

Next steps

We are proposing to use your additional donation of \$2000 to put towards a new pilot working with Awatea and Moira Gallagher Kindergartens following initial discussions with them.

The Rotary club of Plimmerton has also pledged \$2000 towards this project and we were successful in obtaining a matching District Grant for a further \$2000 to provide clothing. We are also proposing to put these funds towards clothing for Awatea and Moira Gallagher Kindergartens.

Once again, thank you for your support of our community. The provision of seasonally-appropriate clothing is important to children being able to attend and engage in early childhood education, and there is a sound evidence-base on the benefits of participation in good quality early childhood education in terms of children's life-long outcomes.

We would be happy to meet to discuss the programme to date and possible continuation in the future.

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