

Raising our Tamariki/Children USING QUESTIONS

Yes when your tamaiti/child turns four, they will be asking an average of 437 questions a day. Are you ready for this? Some of you may already feel tired with them all, yet this is a vital part of the tamariki/children learning and gaining more information.

They may be learning: the skill of asking questions to gain information; to clarify something that has been said; to recall what has already been said or learnt; how to evaluate something; the positives and negatives of what is being discussed; to encourage further thought; and so much more

There are two main categories of questions:

Closed questions: the choice for the answer is limited, (i.e. give a yes or no response; give a choice from a list given).

Open questions: allow for much longer responses and thus information given. This is the area that we want to be using the most to assist our tamariki with their questioning and thinking skills.

The best thing we can do for our tamariki/children is not only to respond to their questions in a positive and responsive manner, but to also reflect the questions back to them to answer. This helps them with their thinking skills too.

We encourage you to have a look at some information about De Bono's six Thinking Hats to assist you in helping you and your tamaiti/child become more skilled at questioning and thinking, which will also assist language development.



A NOTE FROM SHARON:

I hope you enjoy a restful holiday finding new adventures to have with your children. Lunch under the table, huts in the lounge, baking, walking, outside scavenger hunts, library visits, bus rides, and reading books! ENJOY!



from the Shalom team: Sharon V, Sharon H, Loretta, Vanessa, Sheryl, Jann, Jess, Kristy, and Raewyn.



Shalom Kindergarten Newsletter

JULY 2017

576 2891 - 021 191 9933
info@shalomkindergarten.co.nz
PO Box 6056 Tauranga



Dear Parents/whānau/caregivers,

Last week of term, and it is getting colder and wetter. There has also been a lot of sickness this term, so we are all looking forward to everyone, tamariki/children and kaiako/teachers having a refreshing and relaxing break. Thanks to you all for keeping your ill tamariki at home so that they can recuperate, and to stop the spread of the bugs. Just a reminder too, that the tamariki are required to be kept home until 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhea. And do remember to let us know if your tamaiti/child will not be attending. Lets look forward to everyone coming back to kindy healthy, refreshed and relaxed.

Thank you

- Esther and Amaris for helping us make fried bread
- Jo and other parents who came to our Matariki celebration
- For recommending Shalom to other parents, especially parents of two year olds
- To our staff who work hard, remain kind, caring and enjoying having fun



Term Dates:

Term 2:

Last day: **Friday 7th July**

Term 3:

Tuesday 25th - 29th September

Please Note: Monday 24th July is TEACHER ONLY DAY, so the tamariki/children will not be attending this day.

Term 4:

9th October - 22 December

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

This term we held a workshop at Shalom introducing what we can do to assist our tamariki/children with their speech and language. The two main things that came from this is the importance of reading 'with' our tamariki/children, and the importance of talking 'with' our children.

It's not just talking or reading 'to', but actually 'interacting' with them. We need to be interacting with them on a regular basis verbally, because as role models, we are modelling to our tamariki/children so many aspects of pre-reading skills that are paramount to our tamariki/children gaining a good grasp to the spoken and written language.

Some other information you may like to know is most children:

- at 18 months - can use 20 words; starting to turn pages and look at pictures in a book
- at 2 years - 25% intelligible to an unfamiliar person; use over 50 single words, and starting to combine words, e.g. 'go car'; enjoy interactive books
- at 3 years - 50% intelligible; use sentences of 3+ words; recognise a few letters
- at 4 years - 90% intelligible; use questions to gain information; identify first sounds in words

Vanessa and Raewyn also attended an Oral Language workshop that also reiterated reading and talking 'with' our tamariki/children. There were some aspects talked about that you may like to discover further information, and that we recommend you take a look at.

On the Talking Matters website: <http://www.talkingmatters.org.nz/>

You will find some great information and resources. Have a look at their first video titled 'Talking Matters for NEXT Foundation' - it's a great introduction to talking with babies and toddlers. And have a look at some of the other videos too, as they will help us all realise more about the importance of talking and reading with our tamariki.

Another you tube clip is about 'The crucial dyad relationship for infants' by Nathan Wallis
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UWbCnv1vno

This is a very informative video clip, but the key thing to remember is that we can make changes to what we are currently doing for the benefit of our tamariki.

We look forward to having ongoing conversations with you all about how we and you can assist your child with their acquisition of oral language, as well as pre-reading and reading skills.

Parents should talk to their children, even when they are babies and can't talk back.

— Robert Winston —

Reading to children at night, responding to their smiles with a smile, returning their vocalizations with one of your own, touching them, holding them - all of these further a child's brain development and future potential, even in the earliest months.

— T. Berry Brazelton —

END OF TERM

It's time to check the **Art boxes and folders** for your tamaiti's/child's art and masterpieces to take home. Remember the paintings can be used as wrapping paper - or maybe you could re-wallpaper the bedroom.

Please also check the:
Lost property, and Bring and Bless table
- as these will be given to those in need or donated to a charity.

Please also return any books that you have borrowed from Shalom. Thanks



MATARIKI

It has been great to learn about and celebrate Matariki with the tamariki/children and whanau/families at Shalom. As we, the kaiako/teachers, gain more understanding and knowledge about what this key part of our nation's cultural heritage is, we are implementing more into our centre and with the tamariki.

Some of the key learning is that Matariki is a time of recognising the seven stars, (Wiati, Waita, Waipuna-a-rangi, Tupu-a-nuku, Tupu-a-rangi, Uru-a-rangi, Matariki). These whetu/stars represent a time in the calendar which symbolises the Maori New Year, and also a time to be thankful for the harvest we have had, as well as planting the new crops. It is also a time of getting together with whanau/family, sharing a meal and remembering the sad and good times over the previous years.

It is with this in mind that we had the local tamariki/children from Otumoetai Primary School Junior Kapa Haka group come and do a performance for our Yellow group one afternoon. We made soup and fried bread, and shared it with the tamariki/children and their kaiako/teachers. It was a good time to experience a Kapa Haka performance, as well as being able to see some of our tamariki/children who have since left Shalom kindy and started at Otumoetai Primary School.

We would love to be able to share more cultural aspects with our tamariki, so if you have something you would like to share with us from your culture, please let us know.