

Proposal to early childhood centres to trial cloth nappies

Auckland Council and the Nappy Lady (Kate Meads) have been collaborating with Early Childhood Education Centres (ECEs) since October 2012 to encourage them to try using cloth nappies, rather than disposables. Many of the ECEs that have taken part in the trials so far have decided to switch to cloth nappies long-term. These include A'oga Fa'asamoa in Grey Lynn, KINZ Mission Heights and Tamariki Ātaahua in Panmure.

What your centre should gain by participating:

- Cost savings on waste disposal and disposable nappy costs
- Environmental benefits – reduced footprint
- Earlier toilet training
- Greater engagement between parents and centre staff
- Understanding of the types & volume of waste produced at centre
- Support and information on how to reduce centre waste



How the eight-week cloth nappy trial works:

Planning

- Liaise with the cloth nappy programme co-ordinator at Auckland Council to see if your centre is suitable for a cloth nappy trial. We then meet to plan the trial, review centre washing/storage facilities, and address any concerns of staff/parents.

Pre-trial waste audit

- Once the centre has agreed to go ahead with the trial a waste assessment will be conducted, and a report produced to determine what types and quantities of waste the ECE is producing. We can also arrange an optional 'Waste 101' session for staff to deepen their understanding around waste issues and why we are promoting reusable products.

Trial commences

- Cloth nappies will be delivered by the council and one of The Nappy Lady's team spends half a day at the centre to support staff to set up their systems and practice using cloth nappies.

During the trial

- Parents & staff will be encouraged to attend local cloth nappy workshops, where starter packs of two cloth nappies are available for \$15 (worth \$80). Staff can attend for free but won't receive the nappy pack.
- If there is strong interest within the community, we can arrange a smaller, more focussed session with Kate Meads for staff and whanau associated with the centre. We have smaller trial packs available for \$5 available at these sessions. The centre would be responsible for hosting and promoting this workshop.

Post-trial activities

- Second waste audit - toward the end of the trial a second waste assessment will be conducted to determine how much waste has been reduced.
- At the end of the trial, the ECE commercially launders and stocktakes the cloth nappy trial pack, replacing any missing nappies from the trial pack.
- The centre must complete the survey and case study provided by the council and have a debrief with Council staff.

What we will offer:

- Support and mentoring from Kate Meads' team, council staff, and staff from ECEs that already use cloth nappies (as available).
- Access to public workshops about cloth nappies.
- Assistance for the centre to buy cloth nappies at wholesale prices, if they decide to use them after the trial has been completed.
- A booklet designed to assist ECEs over the course of the trial.
- A waste assessment before and after the trial to establish the savings made to your waste (in tonnes) will be completed.
- During and after the trial we may be able to assist you to reduce other waste that your ECE produces, such as food waste and improved recycling.

What we will need from you:

- Open feedback and communication, including a debrief at the completion of the trial.
- To complete two online surveys – one at the start of the trial, and one over the course of the trial, plus simple parent and staff surveys (templates provided).
- To assign a staff 'nappy champion' at your centre; this person needs to be at the centre often, will attend a council nappy workshop, is at the introductory first day and has a genuine interest/passion for 'going cloth'.
- The willingness for staff to mentor other centres that participate in cloth nappy trials (when available and appropriate).
- Hot washing facilities (including bag or bucket for dirty nappies).
- To provide your own nappy liners (if you choose to use these).
- To stocktake and commercially launder all nappies provided (& replace where necessary) at the end of the trial for collection by Council staff.

For more information, please email the programme co-ordinator at wastewise@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

For nappy-specific questions, contact:

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