

What's the kindergarten advantage?

“For the tamariki it's all about fun and friendships”

Kindergarten offers a unique environment devoted to the development of pre-schoolers

Our commitment to children and to quality early childhood education are at the heart of everything we do. It's that commitment that's underpinned sweeping changes introduced over the past three years while retaining all that's good about kindergarten.

And we deliver superb education at the most affordable price possible, Napier Kindergarten Association president Jude Henderson says.

“At our kindergartens, children are thoughtfully inducted into a warm, nurturing environment where their ability to learn through play is guided by skilled teachers.

General manager Helen McNaughten adds: “For the tamariki it's all about fun and friendships. They are engaged in a wide range of interests and excursions that support their innate curiosity about the world while our spacious, natural, outdoor play areas entice children to explore, run and frolic.

“Parents enjoy the inclusiveness of kindergarten and the opportunity to share experiences with other parents. Our teachers are able to provide support, advice and a listening ear to those that need it, their expertise a natural complement to the role of parents and caregivers.”

Education managers Eileen Kennedy and Beth Huddleston say kindergarten understands the ongoing benefits and importance of quality early childhood education. “That's what has motivated us to provide only trained professionals to teach our children for over 50 years in Napier. This approach, coupled with access to regular professional development means we have no trouble attracting and retaining inspiring, passionate teachers who deliver the best in current teaching practices.

“Our teacher's knowledge of children's

—To Page 15



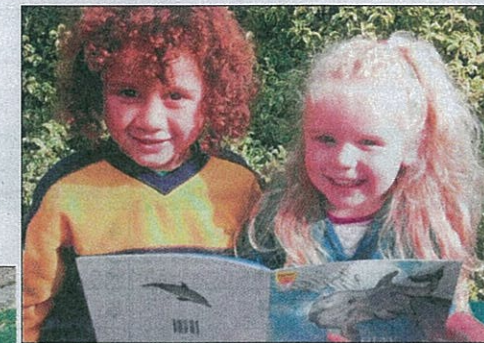
COMPUTERS are a popular choice at Carlyle Kindergarten.

Teachers focus on what they do best

—From Page 14

development means they are adept at early identification of learning difficulties and can successfully assist children with special needs.

“As well as providing a trained teacher for every 10 children enrolled, we employ additional non-teaching support,



BETTE Christie Kindergarten youngsters enjoy getting into books.



“The icing on the cake has to be the low cost of accessing our exceptional early childhood education”

THE Marewa Kindergarten rabbit gets plenty of attention.

which enables teachers to focus on what they do best. Parents are able to choose from a range of enrollment options for up to 28 hours a week.

“The icing on the cake has to be the low cost of accessing our exceptional early childhood education. To start with, we don't charge optional charges or excursion fees. All families, irrespective of income level, receive association-funded fee subsidies, so for the majority of our families kindergarten is entirely free. It doesn't get much better than that.”