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## Proposal to early childhood centres to trial cloth nappies

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Auckland Council and the Nappy Lady have been collaborating with Auckland Early Childhood Centres (ECCs) since October 2012 to encourage them to try using cloth nappies, rather than disposables. Many of the ECC's that have taken part in the trials so far, have decided to switch to using cloth nappies. These include A'oga Fa'asamoa in Grey Lynn, KINZ in Mission Heights and Tamariki Ātaahua in Panmure. Auckland Council offers ECC's the opportunity to trial cloth nappies and reap the benefits our trial centres receive.

### What you 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 cloth nappy trial works:

#### Step 1:

- Liaise with the cloth nappy programme coordinator at Auckland Council to see if your centre is suitable for a cloth nappy trial.
- Meeting between Auckland Council and key centre staff and management to plan the trial.
- Review centre washing/storage facilities, number, and size of children in nappies.
- Address concerns of parents and staff.



#### Step 2:

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

#### Step 3:

- Cloth nappies will be delivered by the Council along with supporting documentation and the nappy trial agreement.

- Implement cloth nappy trial at ECC for eight weeks.
- First day: Kate Meads (The Nappy Lady) spends half a day at the centre to support staff to set up and practice use of cloth nappies.

#### Step 4:

- Kate Meads (The Nappy Lady), and an Auckland Council representative are the first point of contact for support throughout the trial.
- Parents & staff will be encouraged to attend local cloth nappy workshops, where trial packs of two cloth nappies, along with other reusable products are available for \$25 (actual worth \$90). 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.

#### Step 5:

- At the end of the trial a second waste assessment will be conducted to determine how much waste has changed and been reduced.
- At the end of the trial, the ECC 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, Council staff, and staff from ECCs 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 ECC's 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 ECC 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 Kate Mead's 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 and a water supply which will reach 60°C).
- 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.

### **Contact Information**

#### **For more information from Council:**

Catherine Lord  
 WasteWise Advisor (Programmes)  
 Auckland Council  
 Phone: 021 587 379  
 Email: [catherine.lord@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:catherine.lord@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

#### **For nappy specific questions:**

Kate Meads  
 The Nappy Lady  
 Phone: 07-549-2995  
 Cell Phone: 0272211242  
 Email: [katemeads.co.nz](mailto:katemeads.co.nz)

#### **For information from other ECCs who have trialled cloth nappies:**

Jan Taouma  
A'oga Fa'a Samoa  
 Richmond Road Primary School  
 Grey Lynn  
 Phone: 09-378-0403  
 Email: [aoga@ihug.co.nz](mailto:aoga@ihug.co.nz)  
 Website: <http://www.aogafaasamoa.school.nz/>

Vaolele Walker  
Le Malelega a le To'elau ECE  
 Radonich Park  
 40 Cleek Road  
 Mangere East  
 Phone: 09 270 0263  
 Email: [lemalelega@gmail.com](mailto:lemalelega@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.fountainofknowledge.co.nz/our-learning-centres](http://www.fountainofknowledge.co.nz/our-learning-centres)

Tracey Mansell  
Ngā Kākano o te Mānuka (part of Te Wānanga o Aotearoa)  
 10 Canning Crescent  
 Mangere  
 Phone: 027 233 1435

Sharon Alderson  
Tamariki Ataahua ELC  
[sandsmanaakitanga@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:sandsmanaakitanga@hotmail.co.nz)  
 Phone: 09 527 1961