

Birthday Policy

Rationale:

Birthdays are an important milestone in everyone's lives, but especially so for children. The acknowledgement and celebration of birthdays supports the expectations outlined in Te Whaariki (MOE, 1996) that "...children and their families [should] experience an environment where they know they have a place." and where "...they feel comfortable with the routines, customs and regular events." (p. 54).

Objectives:

- To ensure that each child's birthday is acknowledged and celebrated as a 'special event'.
- To foster children's perception that the celebration of birthdays is a regular ritual at Small World to be enjoyed by all, and each individual in turn.
- To ensure that the celebration of children's birthdays is managed in ways that are safe, equitable and not overly disruptive of regular routines and programmes.
- To ensure that families are aware of their right to request that their child does not participate in the celebration of birthdays.

Procedures:

- Small World will provide a special cake for morning or afternoon tea in the child's room.
- Teachers and classmates will sing happy birthday to the child and the cake will have candles for the child to blow out and "make a wish".
- Families can additionally bring a small selection of extra treats for children if they wish, but must check with teachers beforehand to ensure that they are suitable.
- Entertainers and special activities may be provided by families in special circumstances and at the teachers' discretion (but are not generally encouraged at Small World).