

Pinocchio's Nursery School Ph: 365 1761
Merivale Preschool Ph: 352 9930
St. Martins Preschool Ph: 332 1944
Belfast Preschool Ph: 323 7500
Beckenham Preschool Ph: 337 3134

PO Box 21 181
Christchurch
Ph: 365-9468
Fax: 365-9705
Email: enquiries@gcitypreschools.co.nz
www.gardencitypreschools.co.nz



30 April 2004

Christchurch City Council
P O Box 237
Christchurch

Attn: Ms Patrea Downey

Dear Ms Downey

**ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION
RE: PROPOSAL TO INCREASE WATER CHARGES FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL
PROPERTIES.**

We recently received a letter from the City Water and Waste department advising us of proposed increases in water charges in the Council's 2004/2005 Annual Plan.

The current council policy has a blanket residential/non residential classification. This needs to be reviewed and perhaps a different set of classification/(s) introduced in order to facilitate a fairer system.

Our preschools cater for very young children, under the age of five. Water is used to meet strict health regulations to wash children as required and maintain clean play areas and working surfaces where constant level of activity can be a health hazard for infants.

Our staff are aware of the need to save water. We do not have lawns and garden areas that are constantly watered.

Most of our water usage is during off peak periods and no usage during the weekends. Unlike Motels and other businesses we are very limited and restricted in terms of our operating hours, staff child ratios and numbers of children we are allowed to have on the site at any point of time, and also limited in the fee that we are able to charge the parents. These additional costs will only take money away from other resources that are required for the children.

To a large extent Childcare facilities are akin to community assets. As such any proposed charges should be viewed with the intention of benefit to the community. We feel that Preschool facilities should be exempted from excess water charges.

We would appreciate your consideration of our concerns regarding this matter to reach a favourable decision that will benefit the children in our community.

Yours faithfully

Shangar Singh
Director