

School Start First Impressions



School Start First Impressions (SSFI) Pilot Report

We opened the SSFI (Addenbrooke Foundation) bank account with a donation of \$10,000 on the 4 June 2015. We then set about to create our identity and detail our purpose and process for our first initiative School Start First Impressions.

Our SSFI Logo is the creative genius of Lucy and Amilea Sparrow from Invercargill (the twin girls of Jane and Graeme's niece). These two young artists 8 years at the time created their impression of the feel of what School Start First Impressions meant to them. We loved their interpretation and we have used it on all of our collateral from business cards, sticky post it notes (that depict a story of our little girl on the swing), to our flyers and now proudly to our very own designed SKitboxes and website.

Our first SKitBox was delivered on the 13 August 2015 to a little boy with learning difficulties who was being transitioned into Pukekohe Hill School. He was referred by his SENCO teacher, and by giving the SKitbox the school was able to forge a happy relationship with the family from the outset.

Our second child another little boy (with autism) was referred by Family Start Manukau and to our delight the social worker concerned was so excited to receive the SKitBox that she ran out to greet us as we drove up with the box sporting its balloons. Since then we have also given a box to this little boy's sister who is also autistic plus mute ... to our delight we learnt that she squealed with excitement when she opened her box and found silver glitter gumboots.

In all through our pilot we have presented 40 SKitBoxes through our referral agencies. These agencies are our heart and soul who understand our purpose and who believe also that children must be given that opportunity to shine in the centre. We thank our pilot referral agencies Family Start Manukau, Pukekohe Hill School, Te Nuinga Trust Engaging Priority Families (Franklin), Te Hononga Puna Reo (Pukekohe), Whanua Resource Centre (Franklin), First Steps Puni, Papakura Plunket. The team at School Start First Impressions acknowledges the support received from the above agencies.