

Soft Toys for NICU Siblings



When a newborn baby requires time in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, siblings can suffer.

They may need to be cared for by relatives or friends, to allow the parents the time to spend in NICU. Preschoolers may see a lot less of their parents than usual.

In a special gesture by pupils from Harewood Primary School, siblings in this situation are being singled out for attention.

Forty Cookie Muncher soft toys have been presented to NICU for older brothers and sisters, so they can feel special too.

In a generous gesture by MacLarens Young International Global Claims Services, funds were donated to the Harewood pupils in order to buy the toys for the NICU siblings.

'The idea is that siblings can understand that they haven't been forgotten in the big picture,' said Noeline Soper, for MacLarens Young.

The Harewood scholars and their teacher Sandra Olliver have been engaged in the e-TIME Entrepreneurs, a new enterprising and innovative programme involving business challenges suitable for children in Years 5 – 8. Cookie Munchers and New Zealand Trade and Industry support the programme through teams which gain skill from real-life entrepreneurs such as Jason Gunn, and Guy and Michael Mayell, who run Cookie Time.

Noeline Soper from MacLarens Young International has first-hand experience of the NICU – her son Hayden, now 9 and one of the Harewood pupils, spent five weeks in the unit when he was born.

Mark Wilkinson, Stuart Malden, Hayden Soper and Scott Tynan from Harewood Primary School present soft toys for NICU siblings.