



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**PreSchool get set for ‘On Your Marks for Little Hearts’ - Pg 1**

This Heart Children Week (23-29 May) Pre School will take part in ‘On Your Marks for Little Hearts,’ an event that encourages our under fives to run for fun to help children whose hearts don’t work as well as theirs.

A new event by Heart Children NZ, ‘On Your Marks for Little Hearts’ will be held in pre schools around the country. While the emphasis is on fun, ‘On Your Marks for Little Hearts’ is also a wonderful opportunity to talk with children about the heart, the role of the doctor and nurse and why children go to hospital.

Pupils who participate will bring a gold coin donation with funds going to support children living with the daily challenges of childhood heart disease and their families.

Pre School will get set to run between 50 – 500 metres on at .  
If the wee runners need a helping hand from Mum or Dad by way of a piggy back or a quick ride in the pram it really doesn’t matter, after all having fun and helping out is what ‘On Your Marks for Little Hearts’ is all about.

“We’re extremely grateful to the staff and pupils of Pre School for their energy and commitment,” says Heart Children NZ’s Event Manager Liz Beck. “Through ‘On Your Marks for Little Hearts’ Pre School children will gain a better understanding and empathy for children who have a heart condition and then play an active role in making life a little better. Kids helping kids.”

More to follow ...

## **PreSchool get set for 'On Your Marks for Little Hearts' - Pg 2**

You may be surprised to learn that by the time you sit down to dinner tonight two children will have had open heart surgery at Auckland Hospital. By the end of this week twelve babies will be born with a heart defect in New Zealand. That's an additional 600 children every year. And sadly, this year childhood heart disease will claim more young lives than any other single cause.

Heart Children NZ is the only organisation to provide life long support to children and their families affected by the world's most common birth defect. Heart Children help with practical issues, emotional support, advice, information, advocacy, equipment, training and friendship, through the good days and the bad.

For more information on Heart Children Week events visit [www.heartchildren.org.nz](http://www.heartchildren.org.nz).

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