



# NEW ZEALAND HANDWASHING DAY 7 OCTOBER, 2011

Horoia ö ringa! Kia noho hauora ai  
Wash your hands to keep healthy



We are once again promoting **Global Handwashing** in order to educate children on **the necessity of washing hands with soap**. Due to Global Handwashing Day October 15th falling in the holidays, we are celebrating it early on the Friday 7th of October, the last Friday of term 3.

Washing hands with soap is the most effective way to prevent spreadable diseases such as diarrhoea and pneumonia which are responsible for the deaths of **3.5 million children worldwide**. However this number can be dramatically reduced by the simple act of washing hands with soap.

“Handwashing with soap and water is a very ordinary act with extraordinary results for children’s health, growth and development,” said UNICEF Senior Adviser for Sanitation and Hygiene Therese Dooley. In fact, handwashing with soap can make a significant contribution towards achieving the **Millennium Development Goal** of reducing under-five child deaths by two-thirds by 2015.

The use of soap is necessary to mix the oil on our hands with the water we are using to wash with. Otherwise the oil protects the dirt and germs and prevents them from being removed during washing. The use of soap also results in fresh and clean smelling hands, which makes promoting handwashing much easier.

You can order a copy of our Handwashing resource via our website or **email**. The cost of the resource is \$5 and includes a CD with the Wiggles’ ‘Wash your Hands’ song, printed lessons, and DVD containing posters, maps, images and powerpoint presentations.

You can also view an **interactive map** showing how other countries have participated in Global Handwashing day.

We are very keen to hear from schools or early childhood centres who take part in New Zealand Handwashing Day. Email [jacqui@unicef.org.nz](mailto:jacqui@unicef.org.nz) with pictures of how you participated in the day or your thoughts on how to improve either the resource or information about Global Handwashing day.