



Policy on Parent Needs & Aspirations

We recognise that parents/guardians and whānau have needs and aspirations for their children. We believe that it is essential for families to be given the opportunity to express these needs and aspirations in an atmosphere of respect and support. When both Centre staff and parents work in partnership, strengthening bonds between home and the Centre, a flow of information occurs that will support and enhance the learning and development of the child.

Rationale:

The Centre acknowledges the fundamental role that parents/guardians and whānau play in the education and care of their children. Parents/guardians and whānau can provide centre staff with a unique insight into their own child. Centre staff need to be aware of what parents believe and what special needs and aspirations they have for their children.

Procedure:

1. The Centre acknowledges that parents/guardians or whānau have needs and aspirations for their children. These needs and aspirations for a child may include all aspects of their views on:
 - a. How the child is treated
 - b. What the child does or is encouraged to do
 - c. What knowledge or skills the child gains
 - d. How the behaviour of the child is managed
 - e. How the child relates to others
 - f. Eating, dietary and sleeping habits
 - g. Religious or cultural practices
 - h. The safe environment that their child is interacting within
 - i. Other associated aspects in the relationship between the child, family and the Centre.

2. The Centre will provide an opportunity at the time of enrolment for parents/guardians and whānau to communicate any special needs and aspirations they have for their child. These may be in terms of their care, education, behaviour management or other matters associated with the service provided by the Centre. Where practical this information will be

recorded and kept within the child's file and communicated to (or available to) those staff that will be working with the child.

3. The Centre will provide other opportunities, while the child is at the Centre (such as communication notebooks, parents voice sheets, parent/whānau aspiration sheets, questionnaires, interviews, enrolment up-dates) for parents/guardians and whānau to communicate any changes for further special needs they may have for their child.
4. The staff, where practical, will consider this information when analysing their needs, 3 monthly analysis and planning, or considering any individual needs, strategies or responses related to the child, or in reporting to families.
5. The Centre will ensure that other practices and policies used by the Centre take the principles of this policy into account and do not conflict with this policy.
6. Whilst this policy to 'acknowledge' the needs and aspirations of families it does not mean we have to always accept or agree, the staff will take account of these views. The Centre is obliged to balance these views against professional knowledge and experience, practicalities or group care/education, the Centre's philosophy, social norms and legal imperatives.
7. The Centre will develop methods and systems (through interviews, surveys, questionnaires) that will include opportunities for the parents/guardians and whānau to record/express their level of satisfaction with the way in which the Centre is meeting the needs and aspirations they have for their child and opportunities to record/express any suggestions that may improve this level of satisfaction.