



Te Kamo Kindergarten



Philosophy Statement 2020

At Te Kamo Kindergarten we actively engage in building quality, reciprocal, respectful relationships with tamariki (children) and whānau (families), and our wider learning community. Whanaungatanga (welcoming) and Manaakitanga (caring) are the foundations on which we build our practice. Open, positive, communication enables us to make these valued connections; to know each child, their whanau, and for them to know us.

Te Whāriki, The New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum, underpins our philosophy. Tamariki are viewed as individuals who are supported by kaiako to reach their full potential. We support social engagement and play as the vehicle for learning. We create an environment, based on tamariki interests, that encourages active investigation, exploration, observation, discovery, and unhurried time for tamariki to develop their unique talents. Tamariki are encouraged to be self-motivated learners and creative thinkers who are building resilience and self-help skills. Our programme promotes and supports the Healthy Heart Programme, encouraging Healthy Kai and Physical Literacy, building tamariki bodies and their brains for success in lifelong learning. We embrace the Enviroschools Kaupapa, respecting and caring for Papatūānuku (the earth) through sustainable practices, and empowering tamariki to make positive life choices.

We strongly believe that it is essential that tamariki and their whanau experience an environment that upholds and values tamariki rights to freely play and explore in a safe and secure environment where they

can learn and develop with confidence at their own pace. This is reflected in our knowledge of catering for two to five year olds and embracing the value of ako (where tamariki and kaiako learn with and from each other).

Respect for, and engagement with, our multi-cultural community is important to us. We value and recognise the individual cultures, values and strengths of each child and their whānau, enabling us to maintain a collaborative, inclusive and supportive learning environment. Kaiako promote and uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi), continuing to build our understandings of Te Reo me nga Tikanga Maori (Maori language and protocols), to ensure our practices remain sincere, positive and affirming. Our community is reflected in our place: who we are, where we come, and whom we belong to.

Kaiako are committed to professional development and as a team, we reflect and review our programme and teaching practices regularly. Our cohesive and dedicated teaching team provides a quality teaching and learning environment by developing and sustaining supportive staff relationships where we share and value individual and collective knowledge. We welcome and value whanau contribution and acknowledge their aspirations of their child's learning and development.

Reviewed August 2020

Review in August 2021

