



KIWI KIDS PHILOSOPHY

Kiwi Kids Preschool promotes three main values: Freedom, Fun and Family.

Kiwi Kids is built on respect. Through Primary Caregiving and Key Carers, we are able to build strong and meaningful relationships through manākitanga which are vital in creating a safe and sure foundation from where children can learn, grow and explore. To ensure a sense of safety, well-being and familiarity for our children, each child is appointed their own Primary Caregiver or Key Carer who can meet each child's needs, along with those of their families and whānau. Kiwi Kids Kaiako and team work to empower children to have strong social and emotional identities, which in turn allows them to be confident, competent learners.

FREEDOM / Noho Herekore

Through the freedom of choice, the children explore the centres entire indoor and extensive outdoor environments each day at their own pace. Children are encouraged and guided to lead their own learning through trial and error, problem solving, risk assessment and social interactions supported by kaiako. Children are empowered through whakamana to be competent and confident, independent learners who can express their needs, work within a group or individually and have a strong sense of self. Kaiako foster self-determination and self-esteem while looking out for and looking after each other. Infants and toddlers are empowered by freedom of movement and support to unfold their own physical development. Our large indoor and outdoor environments give the children the freedom to move and express themselves, fostering a sense of wonder, curiosity and respect for the natural world and to be kaitiakitanga to our environment. Our daily programme allows for flexibility, as learning opportunities can appear at any stage of the day.

FUN / Tākarokaro

Our programme allows for children to learn while having fun! The programme is firmly centred around the emerging interests of the children and their curiosities. Kaiako allow for spontaneous experiences as well as planned, so that the interest is kept fun and focused on the children. Our programme and environment allow for children to be children and to have fun alongside their peers and kaiako.

FAMILY / Whānau

Building a strong partnership between families/whānau and the centre is paramount for whanaungatanga. We encourage open communication and active participation – including welcoming extended whānau and community input. We endeavour to involve our families in all parts of our programme, like inviting them be a part of birthday or family celebrations, cultural events and family evenings, showing a culture of kaitiakitanga by sharing in our prosperous garden and making sure whānau aspirations are valued. We recognise that each child's culture and beliefs are different and we support this by our inclusive, understanding environment. We have an open-door policy in which whānau are welcomed and encouraged to spend time with us in kotahitanga.

GLOSSARY

Kaiako - teachers

Whanaungatanga – building a community of support

Kotahitanga – unity/contributing strengths for the benefit of the whole

Whakamana – empowering all learners to reach potential

Manākitanga – welcoming, caring, treating with respect

Kaitiakitanga – guardianship, environmental stewardship

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