

HIKURANGI KINDERGARTEN TEAM PHILOSOPHY 2011

At Hikurangi Kindergarten our philosophy is based on the early childhood curriculum Te Whāriki and aspects of the Emmi Pikler philosophy.

- Respect and relationships form the basis of our teaching philosophy. We strongly believe that it is essential that children and their whanau experience an environment that upholds and values children's rights to freely explore in a safe and secure environment.
- We believe that children learn from actively playing, exploring and engaging with others in a respectful and inclusive learning environment.
- We promote and uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi by promoting a bi-cultural learning environment that recognises and celebrates te reo Māori as a living language of Aotearoa.
- We recognise and celebrate multi-culturalism within our Kindergarten environment.
- We promote a culture of respect and build trusting relationships with children, their whanau and within our teaching team. We believe that when children feel known, appreciated and secure in their relationships, they are ready to engage in quality play which results in quality learning.
- We strive to provide a safe and secure environment which enables children to freely explore, discover, learn and develop with confidence at their own pace.
- We believe that it is crucial to provide a programme that enables children to develop and nurture social relationships and friendships.
- We recognise individual strengths and interests of children and will work with and alongside children to extend these.
- We value children's independence, self-regulation and self-help skills and will provide a range of learning opportunities to achieve these through a child-centred, resource-based programme where children play, discover and learn.
- We are committed to professional development as a team. We will reflect and review our programme and teaching practice regularly to ensure we are providing children, whanau and our community with a high quality service.
- We value and welcome whanau contribution and acknowledge their aspirations for their child's learning and development. We strive to provide children and their whanau with a warm and inviting environment where they experience a strong sense of belonging and partnership.
- We are committed to offering children an environment where they can freely explore and unfold embraced in nature. Along with the children, we respect and care for the natural resources within our community and wider world.