



PHILOSOPHY

At Happy Kids we believe providing a loving, fun, safe and stimulating environment that values and respects each child's culture encourages our children to be competent and confident learners; healthy in mind, body and spirit.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is encompassed in our philosophy. Teachers, children and their families/whānau come from a variety of cultural backgrounds with a variety of languages spoken at home. As teachers, we respect and value our children's unique family culture and language through the spoken word and our daily routines (karakia, waiata and music); our environment (materials for displays, dress-ups, instruments and natural resources); and our curriculum planning. We are constantly working and reflecting on this through our training.

With our mixed age group of 2-5 year olds we believe it is important to encourage positive tuakana teina relationships between the older and younger children where they learn from each other. This also allows for siblings and cousins to attend together which provides a sense of Belonging for them.

Our curriculum is based on Te Whāriki. We focus on fostering children's learning dispositions, skills and knowledge that form a strong foundation for their life-long learning.

Our centre aims to have many learning opportunities to link with local community resources. We have visits from experts such as local police officers and librarians and through field trips to our local parks, shops, library, museums and the local school.

We believe it is important to empower everyone in our learning community. We empower each other as teachers by working collaboratively as a team to run the centre. We empower the children here by involving them in our planning processes, allowing them to make decisions about what they want to do by making resources easily accessible and involving them in setting up and cleaning up their activities. We form a strong partnership with parents/whānau by gathering their aspirations and expectations for their children and work together to help children reach their full potential.