

The Preschool Programme

The Programme Structure

New Zealand's Early Childhood Curriculum, *Te Whāriki* is used as the foundation for learning: this curriculum dovetails very effectively with the Preschool's Special Character. The programme consists of a mixture of free play and a small degree of structure. The importance of play is understood, as this is where the most significant learning happens. Christian faith and principals are integrated fully within each area of the programme.

The morning programme caters for mixed ages, from 3 – 5 years. This is play based, follows the children's interests, and is developmentally appropriate for each child. Children are helped to develop dispositions for learning, such as perseverance, resilience, creativity, turn-taking, etc.



The afternoon programme is similar in that it is play based, and follows the children's interests, but as most children are four years old, a higher developmental level is catered for, and social competency is practised to a higher level.

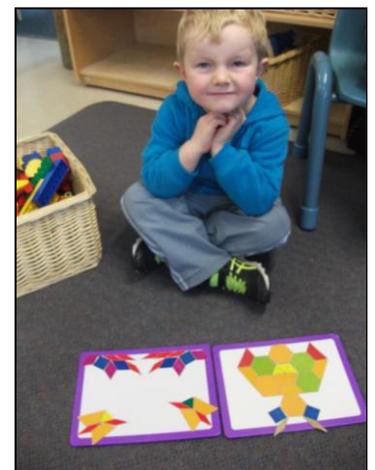
Social Competence is Strongly Supported

The development of solid friendships is encouraged, and strategies to build social competence and resilience are actively modelled and taught. Positive behaviour management strategies are used by all the teachers, with all children developing a "kete of tools" for managing their emotions,

handling conflict, and responding in appropriate ways.

Oral Communication and Language Learning

Learning to communicate and hold sustained conversations is an area critical to learning, both at the early childhood level and far beyond. Every child is encouraged and supported to develop communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal (including some New Zealand Sign Language), extend their vocabulary, and to love language learning. This is an emphasis within the centre, and supports a child's journey to the school years. The teachers are trained to recognise each child's communication style and level of language development, in order to progress them in this area.



We value Literacy and Numeracy

A print-rich environment is provided: literacy and numeracy are highly valued areas of the curriculum, and are encouraged in all areas of the curriculum. This is in a meaningful context, relevant to children's everyday living and learning.

We love the Creative Arts

Active exploration of the creative arts is encouraged: the children are encouraged to have a go at different art and music activities, and are given time and space to explore and develop in the area of creativity.



We Foster a Culture of Inclusion

The Preschool has a strong culture of inclusion: all children are highly valued, regardless of circumstances, need, or ability. Children with special needs are welcomed, their contribution is highly valued. Strong empathy and compassion is developed in all children, and a very high level of inclusion is fostered.

Children are encouraged to care for the Planet

The world is regarded as a special place, needing to be cared for and looked after. Children are strongly encouraged to foster positive attitudes towards sustainability, and are actively taught about recycling, reusing resources and materials, and reducing waste. As part of this, children learn to make their own resources and materials, for example: paints, washing powder and natural dyes, etc, as a measure to help reduce harmful chemicals in our environment. Children take a lead role in this.



Healthy eating is valued here. Only healthy snacks and water are served to the children. Healthy lunches are encouraged.

We are a total nut-free and lolly free centre.

S.T.E.A.M.

There is a focus on S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art and maths) for all children. We experiment with various mediums to explore and learn about the world that God has created for us to enjoy. All along the way we provide challenges, to encourage problem solving, creative thinking, and the ability to think at a higher level and ask more complex questions to promote deeper understanding. We are constantly broadening the level of challenge in order to develop these abilities.

