

BICULTURAL POLICY

Rationale: To ensure the curriculum offered to children "...reflects the unique place of Māori as tangata whenua."*

Purpose: "Children, staff & whānau are given the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the cultural heritages of both parties to Te Tiriti o Waitangi."*

PROCEDURES

- Equipment and resources will reflect the values and practices of Māori culture.
- Teachers will incorporate te reo, waiata and tikanga Māori practices and resources into programme planning and learning experiences.
- Teachers will use inclusive communication strategies to engage Māori families in contributing to their children's learning.
- Teachers will address the educational aspirations of Māori families to encourage children to reach their full potential.
- Teachers and management will attend professional development to strengthen their understanding and knowledge of te reo and tikanga Māori and the ways that this can be incorporated in the learning programme.
- Parents and whānau will be made to feel welcome in the Centre and their views and perspectives valued at all times.
- The Centre will seek to provide an environment and resources that reflect the natural world and embraces the Māori heritage of New Zealand.
- The Centre will engage with local iwi to ensure that wherever possible, the teaching and learning programmes provided, reflects the tikanga of the tangata whenua of their local area.
- Policies and procedures will endeavour to reflect a bicultural approach to teaching and learning.

* Ministry of Education (2008, amended August 2009) *Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres 2008 And Early Childhood Education Curriculum Framework*, Wellington. C5, P.9