



Enrolment Information



**Kaitiaki
Kindergartens**

Ka ako, ka tipu, ka puāwai ngātahi
Learning, growing, thriving together

Welcome - Nau mai, haere mai

Kia ora and warm greetings. We're delighted you're considering enrolling your tamaiti (child) with Kaitiaki Kindergartens. This enrolment information is designed to help you understand who we are, what we value, and how we partner with you to support a happy, confident start to your child's kindergarten journey.

Visits - Te Toro Mai

We encourage families to visit the kindergarten with your tamaiti prior to enrolling. This is an opportunity to meet the kaiako (teachers), experience the learning environment and feel the kindergarten difference. You are welcome to visit a kindergarten at any time, we recommend between 9.30 am – 1.00 pm.

After your visit, you can complete enrolment forms and discuss start dates, routines, and settling-in plans. Our team will support you every step of the way to ensure a smooth, positive transition into kindergarten life.



Kindergarten Hours – Ngā Hāora

Each kindergarten has individual hours and structures based on community needs and kaimahi availability. Hours vary between kindergartens, so families are encouraged to check with their chosen kindergarten to understand session times, attendance options, and what will work best for their tamiti and whānau.



Fees and 20 Hours ECE – Utu me te 20 Hāora ECE

Tamariki aged three and over are eligible for up to 20 Hours Free Early Childhood Education (ECE), which helps reduce the cost of attending kindergarten. These hours are government-funded and automatically applied. There may still be fees if your child attends beyond the 20 funded hours or if your kindergarten has whānau contributions for additional services or activities.

Our kaimahi can guide you through how the funding works, help you plan your child's schedule, and provide a clear outline of any costs. We can also assist with information about WINZ subsidies to help cover childcare fees. Feel free to talk to us about your eligibility, we're happy to help.



Wait Lists – Rārangi Tatari

Due to the popularity of our kindergartens, some may operate a wait list. We encourage whānau to enrol their child as early as possible to help us plan for future places.

Being on a wait list does not guarantee an immediate place; however, it allows us to stay in contact with whānau as spaces become available. We believe that every tamiti should have the opportunity to attend a kindergarten prior to starting school so places are offered based on availability, age eligibility and start date preferences.

Our Approach – He Ara Ako

We believe tamariki are naturally curious, competent, and full of potential. Our role as kaiako is to nurture this by creating an environment where tamariki feel safe, valued, and empowered to take the lead in their learning.

- We balance children’s interests with whānau aspirations and our professional insights
- Our daily programme is flexible and responsive shaped by the needs, ideas, and discoveries of tamariki
- Whether indoors or outdoors, tamariki have access to rich, well-resourced experiences that invite them to communicate, explore, problem solve, create, and contribute

Our Curriculum – Te Whāriki

Our curriculum is grounded in Te Whāriki, Aotearoa New Zealand’s early childhood curriculum. Te Whāriki provides a holistic, inclusive framework that supports every child to grow as a confident, capable learner.

It weaves together the aspirations of whānau, kaiako, and the tamaiti themselves, recognising that learning happens through relationships, exploration, and meaningful experiences.

Ako and whanaungatanga sit at the heart of this approach: we listen, learn, and design learning together.



What Learning Looks Like – Te Āhua o te Ako

Tamariki at Kaitiaki Kindergartens learn through:

- Open-ended play that supports imagination, language, and thinking skills
- Group experiences like music, stories, and shared discussions
- Kai times that foster independence, self-help skills, and social connections
- Outdoor exploration that builds confidence, resilience, and physical development
- Project work and extended learning sparked by their interests and questions



Our qualified and experienced kaiako work alongside children, observing, listening, extending ideas, and gently guiding learning. Through this, tamariki build essential skills such as confidence, problem solving, kindness, cooperation, and a love of learning.



Transition to School – Te Huringa ki te Kura

The move to primary school is an exciting and natural next step. Throughout their time with us, tamariki develop the confidence, independence, and foundational skills that help them feel prepared for school. Our daily programme weaves in early literacy, numeracy, problem solving, communication, and social skills, aligning with the New Zealand Curriculum.

We maintain strong relationships with local primary schools; many kindergartens take part in visits or shared activities so children can become familiar with school environments in a safe, supported way. Our team partners with whānau, offering guidance, organising school visits, and sharing information so tamariki leave kindergarten confident, capable, and ready for their next adventure.





Enviroschools - Kaitiakitanga in Action

Our kaitiakitanga Enviroschool approach fosters sustainability by encouraging tamariki to care for people and the planet. Tamariki learn through hands-on exploration, shared decision-making, and meaningful action in their local environment. The Enviroschools kaupapa guides us with principles that empower children, honour Te Ao Māori, celebrate diversity, and strengthen sustainable, connected communities.

Every Enviroschool looks different, shaped by its people, place, and culture. Our journey is created alongside tamariki, kaiako, whānau, and our community as we work toward a healthy, sustainable future. This mahi has been recognised internationally through HundrED, a global organisation that highlights innovative and impactful approaches to education that are shaping a better future for learners and the planet.

Partnership with Whānau – He Hononga

We value your knowledge of your child and see you as an essential part of our learning community. Your aspirations, ideas, and goals help shape our programme.

We welcome ongoing conversations and encourage you to share what matters most to your whānau. By working together, we can support your child to thrive socially, emotionally, physically, and academically, preparing them to be confident and connected lifelong learners.



We hope this information has given you a helpful overview of our kindergarten and the learning experiences we offer. We know that choosing the right place for your tamaiti is an important decision, and there is no better way to get a feel for our kaupapa than spending time with us. We warmly welcome you to visit, meet our kaiako, and see our kindergarten in action. Please get in touch to arrange a time – we look forward to getting to know you and your whānau.

