

Philosophy

Love in Action

Love is patient, love is kind.

God's unconditional love forms the basis of our Christian values and practice. We aim to be a home away from home, where children feel safe through our compassionate, empathetic, kind teaching.

We build loving, trusting, respectful relationships with our children and their whanau.

We strive to sprinkle our children and their whanau with love, as we nurture them along in their development.

We spread this love further into our community, by opening our arms and hearts with love and compassion to all those around us.

Aotearoa Aroha

Our land, Aotearoa, holds a unique place in the world geographically, environmentally and culturally. To celebrate this we aim to teach our children about our native flora, fauna, culture and customs in realistic, authentic contexts.

We incorporate te reo and tikanga Maori throughout our practice. We welcome visitors in our special powhiri, alongside centre wide use of our pepeha.

Our children represent a diverse range of nationalities who have chosen to settle in New Zealand and call Aotearoa "home".

The freedom our nation enjoys is a privilege for us to embrace and share, by celebrating our uniqueness as a country, a city, and a community that stems from our centre.

Love for Earth

The legacy we leave for the children we are teaching today, is of great importance to us.

Our environmentally sustainable approach sees us recycling, using reusable nappies, collecting rain water for play, offering a vegetarian menu, composting, growing our own vegetables, planting native trees, reducing waste and aiming to be plastic free.

Earth's treasures abound throughout our centre. Our outdoor environment includes gardens, farm paddocks, bike tracks, farm animals, vegetable gardens and a plethora of natural play based learning areas.

We offer children open ended natural resources to stimulate their creativity, imagination and social skill development.

Rituals are entwined through out our day. Candles, flowers, table cloths, doilies, ornaments and homely touches are used widely as we endeavour to create a quiet, calm, intentional, thoughtful rhythm to our home.

Nature's Freedom

Our centre is blessed with two acres of rural land. We embrace all weather and the various play opportunities that arise.

Freedom to use our space for their play purposes is paramount to our children's growth, learning, socialising and overall development.

We are a mixed age setting, just like a big family, with all our children learning and playing together. All areas are accessible to all our children regardless of their age or stage. We acknowledge and embrace the importance of tuakana teina practices, where all children learn from one another.

Children are free to explore, climb trees, grow vegetables, dig in the dirt, make huts in our gardens, play with water, care for animals, ride bikes, get muddy, create things using a variety of loose parts and explore, while being supervised safely. At The Orchard, we're Growing Great Kids.