

3:1 PLANNING AND CURRICULUM POLICY

Updated: April 2017

RATIONALE

Let's Grow Early Learning Centre will provide a curriculum that builds on the child's strengths, interests and abilities and provides useful information about the child's learning and development.

GUIDELINES

Let's Grow's programs are designed to reflect the age appropriateness and general abilities of children at varying ages in their developmental cycle, and accordingly, the educational content alters as the children progress through the individual age groups. Culminating in the preschool years where the emphasis is focused more towards providing the children with the skills required to be school ready.

Te Whāriki - Our curriculum will be based on Te Whāriki, The Early Childhood Curriculum. *Te Whāriki* is a framework for providing tamariki/children's early learning and development within a sociocultural context. It emphasises the learning partnership between kaiako/teachers, parents, and whānau/families. Kaiako/teachers weave a holistic curriculum in response to tamariki/children's learning and development in the early childhood setting and the wider context of the child's world.

Te Reo Maori - Let's Grow embraces our country's rich and diverse Maori culture, Let's Grow will be committed to, and have opportunities for Māori contribution to the program. Giving children the opportunity to develop knowledge and an understanding of the cultural heritage of both parties to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Teachers reflect this in practice by ensuring programmes include tikanga me ona Te Reo Maori (Maori custom and language).

Early Environmental Education - At Let's Grow our goal of environmental education is to educate our tamariki to care for and respect our planet. The children will learn about and be actively involved in recycling. Natural elements will create a living landscape, with natural discovery spaces, an organic garden and spaces set aside for the development of natural habitats. Children plant the gardens and raise, harvest and eat the crops, learning about nutrition. Let's Grow aims to minimise their impact on the local and global environment; conserving water, reducing overall resource consumption, reusing as many resources as possible, and recycling or rotting the rest.

The daily programme

Children's play is valued and meaningful learning. We recognize the importance of spontaneous play, here children are free to explore their environment using active thinking and reasoning to make sense of the natural, physical, social and material worlds.

At Let's Grow Early Learning Centre, children will gain confidence in themselves as individuals, they are encouraged to work both alongside and with others. There will be no discrimination of age, gender, race, ability or background.

Children at Let's Grow are inspired to be creative and become competent decision makers, they care for the environment and its people. They learn to be kind and respectful, develop confidence and self-esteem and nurture a love for learning.

Children attending the centre will have profile books. These books will feature photos, artwork, observations, conversation and learning stories.

Staff will share and gather information about their given children at staff meetings, to enable other members of staff to contribute their knowledge about the child's learning and development.

Each staff member will be allocated two hours per week of non-contact to work on their profile books.

Parent/family/whanau and children are welcome to look at their own book anytime and contribute to

When necessary and with parental permission information and guidance will be sought from outside agencies/services to ensure that adults providing education and care work effectively with children and their parents.

Upon leaving the centre the child will be presented with his/her profile book to take home and keep.

INDIVIDUAL ROOM PROGRAMMES

TIAKI ROOM (Babies) 0 – 2 ½ years

The program in this room is very individual, each child has their own program that is developed around their individual routines. The children participate in a wide range of experiences both indoors and out. The program is very nurturing and supportive to the babies needs. The children take part in experiences to meet all developmental areas such as painting, push pull toys, manipulation materials, blocks, storytelling and puppets and much more. In these very early stages of a child's growth it is paramount to make sure they feel very secure and comfortable in their surroundings, and this is central to our program in this age group.

This program is developed looking at children within the group. Each day brings a daily task to the room based on a life skill: cooking, cleaning, gardening and nurturing. These experiences change seasonally and are adapted to meet the needs of the group. The program is a self directed play based program with the support of the staff. The children in this age group take part in a lot of creative movement and self expression experiences that meet the developmental needs of the group. Communication is a strong part of the program as this enhances the toddlers growing vocabulary and lays the foundation for the child so that they may take full advantage of the educational opportunities that will be available to them in their future years.

TANGAROA ROOM (Toddlers) 2 ½ years to 3 ½ years

In this age group we continue to build and consolidate on that which has been learnt in the previous years and begin the gradual transition to a slightly more structured and academically orientated program ready for the preschool room and eventually the progression to primary school. Play is the main focus of the group and whilst they are playing they are learning key concepts such as size, height, number, colour and language.

Teamwork and communication is a very important aspect of the program, appropriate language is always modeled to the children to enhance good communication skills and respect for each other. Story time is an exciting time of each day that the children look forward to listening to exciting new and old stories that are brought to life through props and staff expression. The program is continually reviewed to meet all children's needs.

KARIOI ROOM (Preschool) 3 ½ years to 5 years

The program that children are introduced to in this age cohort places more emphasis on providing challenging activities that provide the children with opportunities to expand their understanding and familiarity with concepts related to the traditional areas of reading, writing, maths and science. This is achieved through a mixture of focused activities that are subject specific and those that are play based and

as a result less structured; but the underlying aim is to achieve a balanced and well rounded school readiness curriculum that the children enjoy participating in.

The program is developed to enhance creativity and expand children's life skills. Morning circle is an important key aspect of the day; the children begin the day as a group and participate in a wide range of creative movement and language activities to prepare the day ahead. Nurturing is a large part of the care that is provided within the room, the children are supported through their play endeavours and are encouraged to work together as a team. The children take part in small and large group experiences and each day undertake tasks that represent meaning and process. These tasks are known as daily tasks. The program supports each child and builds on all developmental areas and promotes creativity, communication, concentration, motor skills and respect for the environment and life skills.