



Little Feet Childcare Centre Limited

"we care for your child"

Bi Cultural / Maori Policy

Rationale: Little Feet Childcare Centre is committed to the Treaty of Waitangi and the use of Te Reo Māori as a living language. The Service encourages an awareness and appreciation of the bi cultural heritage of our country.

1. The Service will abide by the Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education & Care Services 2008 and acknowledge "the unique place of Māori as tangata whenua. Children are given the opportunity to develop knowledge and an understanding of the cultural heritage of the both parties to *Te Tiriti o Waitangi*" (pg.10).
2. The Service will provide an environment where the staff, children, families and whanau of the Centre are exposed to and are enriched by Māori language and culture.
3. Kaiako will support and encourage the children to understand, respect and show sensitivity for tikanga Māori – values, attitudes, behavior and Te Reo Māori (Māori language).
4. Kaiako will make bicultural visible through a range of activities, planning, wall display and opportunities.
5. The Service will show respect and demonstrate our obligation to *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* - Partnership, Protection and Participation.
6. The management and staff need to develop partnership and positive relationships with the Māori community, parents/whanau and involve them in order to provide high quality Te Reo and tikanga Māori practices.
7. Staff will provide opportunities to expose children to learning Te Reo as positive contributions to identity.
8. The Centre will endeavor to provide exposure to cultural experiences to all children, families and whanau.
9. The Centre will provide a welcoming environment for all parents and children by reflecting both cultures
10. The Centre will strive to deliver the principles of the Treaty in everyday care and education implementation.
11. The educators will support young children's language learning and cultural awareness through proactive exposure to a range of media in Te Reo.
12. All Staff will expand their knowledge on tikanga and Te Reo Māori responsibly and work effectively within the Bi cultural context of Aotearoa.
13. All staff are encouraged to use Te Reo Māori appropriately in daily practice and demonstrate respect for tikanga.
14. Visual aid and language prompts are displayed in and around the Centre to encourage Kaiako to extend their knowledge of Te Reo Māori.
15. Kaiako and all staff to greet children, parents, colleagues and phone enquiries in both English and Māori.

16. Kaiako to use Māori framework such as Te Whare Tapa whā (Durie,1998), Te Wheke (Pere,1991), appropriately within documentation.
17. All Kaiako are open to “listening culture”, by allowing time and space to Maori families and whanau to share their stories, culture, Myths and legends.
18. Kaiako practices reflect the Cultural Competencies for Teachers of Māori Learners – Tātaiako. (Ministry of Education, 2011).
19. Educators to attend professional Learning and Development to extend knowledge on Te Reo Māori and tikanga Māori.