

Our philosophy

Te kura kohungahunga o Marawaatea

At Fairfield Kindy we practice:

Love – As our role is to support, awhi and care for each other. We are present in each moment and make it a priority to ensure each of our tamariki see, hear and feel loved, cared for and valued. We use positive words, praise and affirmations and remind them of their importance using hugs, eye contact and gestures to make them feel valued.

Respect – We do things with children not to children. We acknowledge the individual strengths, cultures and knowledge that each ākonga brings with them. We provide children options, choices and autonomy in their day and decisions. We actively seek whānau participation and value the uniqueness that each family bring with them, celebrating and implementing different ways to explore their culture further. We see children as capable and confident.

Relationships – We know the importance of trust and feeling valued, heard, appreciated and understood, for tamariki, whānau, kaiako and community members. We practice active listening, consideration, reflection and begin building relationships from the first interaction. We use a variety of means to communicate with whānau, he kanohi ki te kanohi being the most valued. We make decisions in partnerships and value the knowledge whānau contribute.

Ako – We recognise our tamariki, whānau and kaiako come with different cultures and strengths and see these as opportunities to learn collectively as we actively seek knowledge to enhance our curriculum. We are reflective in our practice and open to growth. We see children as capable and confident.

Learning & teaching – Our curriculum is child focused and encompasses whānau aspirations. Teaching is purposeful, intentional, culturally responsive and reflective of the individual needs of our tamariki. We use Te Whāriki to guide our practice and make decisions with outcomes for children in mind.

Life skills & individual capabilities – We value children's capabilities and support ways that encourage and promote their independence. Each child is on an individual journey and so we adjust our support to meet their needs, wanting the same outcomes for all our tamariki. We value holistic and dispositional learning and emphasise social emotional development including empathy. We encourage hands on learning and our curriculum includes foundation skills like food preparation, dressing, gardening, construction, refreshing the environment and construction.

Teaching from the heart – We believe in being fully present and genuine with children by caring and loving them while they are with us; supporting them to feel valued and appreciated. Decisions are made with outcomes for children in mind and we encourage the strengths of our tamariki, kaiako and whānau to be used to enhance our curriculum.

Empathy & affirmation – For children to develop as confident and competent learners their efforts need to be complimented, acknowledged and supported to affirm them as individuals. We use positive praise and language with tamariki and celebrate individual progress and achievements of tamariki, whānau and kaiako. Our learning journeys follow the individual growth of children and we include whānau and kaiako knowledge to enhance their development and appreciate each journey is unique.