

Lollipops Educare Mairangi Bay philosophy

The philosophy of Lollipops Educare Mairangi Bay is a living document, based on the collective reflective thoughts and aspirations of the teachers and management who work together to ensure the statements made are practiced and implemented. It is not a static document but one which is reflected upon and reviewed regularly.

The Treaty of Waitangi and our bi cultural identity is knowing, understanding and valuing our New Zealand heritage. We believe this is important for all our children and for ourselves in order to have a sense and feeling of identity and belonging.

Quality Adult/ child interactions and relationships are very important to staff and management at Lollipops Educare Mairangi Bay we believe that these interactions should be responsive, caring, loving and nurturing. Teachers will have an awareness of each child's individual strengths, dispositions and stages of development. We will provide a comfortable environment where teachers will offer assistance and support when necessary through confident communication and interactions. Diversity is valued and respected, we believe and acknowledge inclusiveness in all its dimensions and believe this enriches all of our lives.

We believe that family involvement is essential for the development of our children and the culture we want to foster at Lollipops Educare Mairangi Bay, ways in which we will implement this is transitioning both children and parents positively into the centre, having open relationships with parents where communication is positive strong and open, using different tools of communication to reach all our families including day to day discussion, portfolios, email, parent evenings and newsletters.

We consider that planning is an important aspect of our teaching and learning, it provides opportunities for Family and Whanau to have input into the ongoing learning and development of their child, and provides teachers with a flexible direction to develop children's thinking. Children's portfolios will contain meaningful 'snapshots' of the children's day, planning will be available for parents to view and teachers will discuss planning and learning with Parents both formally and informally. We encourage input from both children and families into their individual portfolios.

Children's behaviour will be guided according to our positive child guidance policy and procedure, staff will communicate and be consistent with techniques, and we believe a busy challenging environment eliminates the need for strict controls.

Our daily environment will be organised around children's strengths and interests we will offer a challenging exciting atmosphere which produce creative thinkers. To implement this staff are not

afraid to learn alongside children, providing space and opportunities for investigation. Staff will also offer children opportunities for sleep, rest time or quiet times.

We believe that children learn and interact in a more optimal manner in smaller groups, therefore there will be opportunities for children to gather together to aid transition and some learning experiences.

We want learning experiences for children to be a balance of self initiated and teacher directed encounters, which develop relationships. We want to be able to make the most of 'teachable moments' and opportunities.

During 2009, staff, management and children have enhanced our environment by providing more natural resources, these are aesthetically pleasing, open ended and support our belief in cultural diversity, both bi culturally and multicultural. Our aim is to continue to use natural materials and resources where possible.

We believe that the centre's daily routines need to be flexible, comfortable and familiar, staff will focus on forward planning, being organised and having resources ready for the day.

Our staff and management are reflective, professional practitioners who believe in building and appreciating a team culture, we share collective views and beliefs where individual's strengths are recognised and valued. Our individual roles are clearly defined and expectations known. We participate in regular meetings, professional and personal development. Appraisals are a regular part of our annual plan

We believe that regular ongoing review and reflection of our practice, policies and procedures is fundamental in ensuring that there are quality results for children, family, Whanau and staff at Lollipops Educare Mairangi Bay.