

Our Philosophy

At Lollipops Educare Petone children experience quality early childhood care and education through relationships, learning environments, and through teaching and learning. All contribute to the child's construction of knowledge and understanding, to their well being and ability to achieve their full potential.

Relationships, Partnership and Collaboration

We celebrate the uniqueness of every culture within our Centre, working collaboratively with parents and whānau to support aspirations and values. The unique place of Māori as Tangata Whenua and an understanding of the cultural heritage of both parties to Te Tiriti o Waitangi are valued, with Te Reo Māori and Tikanga woven into our practice.

We believe strongly in fostering our relationships between family, whānau and children to support a sense of belonging and children's well being within the centre. We believe children need to feel emotionally safe and secure in order to be ready to engage in play, resulting in higher order learning. Our philosophy is inspired by the work of Emmi Pikler which ensures our approach towards children is one of utmost respect. This approach is supported by our Primary Caregiving where we provide consistent 'Educare' through key teacher relationships. Our Primary Caregiving not only makes for great communication with families on a daily basis but provides a secure and consistent base for the children. Transitions into and within the centre are well considered and successful, giving time and flexibility to each child and their family and whānau.

Environments

We believe that children's needs are best met through learning environments that reflect their age and development. Our spaces reflect children as being confident and capable by providing them with purpose designed environments that are safe but that also challenge and inspire. We believe that beauty and purpose within the environment promotes curiosity and exploration. There is an emphasis on care when displaying children's contributions, thoughts and art work and children freely access authentic materials and tools. Rituals are incorporated into care moments to provide meaningful and personal care and learning. We believe that the outdoor environment is pivotal to children's learning, play, health and well being and children have access to outdoor play in all weathers.

Teaching and Learning

At Lollipops Educare Petone we teach from the heart. Our teachers are passionate, heart-felt, inspired, focused and driven and there is a commitment to developing professionally.

Children are treated with respect through care moments and play with a view of having the same rights as adults to consideration and acknowledgement. We value, expect and encourage independence and view children as capable, fostering self help skills and social competence. We believe that learning the skills to interact and work cooperatively with others are some of the most important skills children can develop and learn at Lollipops Educare Petone. There is a strong focus on social collaboration, working in groups, where each child is an equal participant and one who guides their own and others learning. Teachers are not the giver of knowledge. We encourage children to explore and investigate, to take risks and try new experiences, to be curious, to have fun and experiment through safe, responsive and reciprocal relationships with people, places and things. Our programmes recognise and celebrate children's interests and skills and learning is child led. It is based on reflective teachers who listen to and observe children, involving parents and whānau as we work as a team to assess and evaluate teaching and learning.



Whangaia kia tupu ka puawai

That which is nurtured blossoms and grows