



**MY PRESCHOOL
RANGIORA**
Information Pack



KIA ORA

My Preschool, a boutique centre where every day is a new opportunity to develop and nurture each child's sense of **Belonging**, **Wellbeing** and **Empowerment**, Mana whenua, Mana atua and Whakamana.

Relationships are at the heart of the success for My Preschool, with leaders and Kaiako who will care for and nurture your child and support them on their journey to a highly successful transition to primary school.

The environment is the third teacher at My Preschool with dedicated spaces to support developmental stages, an expansive and natural outdoor area with grass, trees, gardens, chickens, bikes and more to support your child's developing and inquisitive mind, body and spirit.

Come and see us and join other families who are proud to say that their child grows, learns and plays at My Preschool!

OUR PHILOSOPHY



Learning is a social experience where relationships are paramount. Relationships with teachers/kaiako, each other, the environment and nature are essential to see your child succeed.

When children are loved, nurtured, and empowered they will thrive. A sense of belonging/mana whenua is central to children's wellbeing, hence "My Preschool!" We believe that like "My Home, My Mum, My Koru, My brother, My Dad, My Grannie..." children feel safe, valued and respected when they have and can claim personal ownership. At My Preschool we partner with parents and whānau to nurture children. We support their growth, development and learning through love, joy, play, nature, the outdoors and inquiry.

We also believe children can achieve so much more if we understand how to harness their innate inquiring nature and support them to try new and challenging experiences. At My Preschool, in partnership with parents and whānau, we empower children to thrive enabling a positive transition to primary school with high levels of interest, passion, knowledge, respect and care for the natural environment, numeracy, literacy and joy in the arts. The values that underpin our philosophy of Belonging/Mana Whenua, Wellbeing/ Mana atua and Empowerment/ Whakamana are explained in more detail in the following pages.

BELONGING WELLBEING EMPOWERMENT



One of the areas of childhood development Te Whāriki highlights is belonging/mana whenua. A sense of belonging is the cornerstone to a child's holistic development, ongoing achievement, and sense of identity. That is why at My Preschool our very name, when spoken by a child, affirms their right and responsibility to belong. The sense of place, and children's importance within it, is reflected from the attention paid to caregiving routines and nurturing of the pēpē in our care, to the boisterous explorations, tree climbing, running, puddle jumping, laughter, adventure seeking, reading, stories, to quiet times of reflection and the freedom of expression found in children moving through all My Preschool spaces. Whānau and caregivers are warmly encouraged to participate at My Preschool where diversity is welcomed by a team of experienced kaiako.

Belonging begins with familiar and safe people, routines and places. Familiar places to play, eat, sleep and store belongings are all important. Along with familiar spaces inside, the outside world plays a vital role in children's health and sense of belonging at My Preschool. Outside, children explore their connections to Papatūānuku, the Earth Mother in a variety of ways, enabling the natural world to be transformative for our tamariki. In an increasingly on-line and technology driven world My Preschool stands out in the extensive focus on being outdoors interacting in biodiverse gardens; worm farms, composting, plants, vegetables, flowers, insects and chickens. These experiences support early development of creativity, cognitive skills, communication and connection, building a lifelong sense of kaitiakitanga (managing and caring for the natural environment) for our tamariki.

BELONGING WELLBEING EMPOWERMENT



Wellbeing or Mana atua, is the first strand in New Zealand's Early Childhood Curriculum, and vitally important at My Preschool. Opportunities are abundant for all aspects of physical activity at My Preschool; a large outdoor space with gardens, animals, long periods of inquiry and uninterrupted play, music, movement, the arts, engaging resources and the freedom for tamariki to express themselves, learn, grow and thrive.

Safe environments, where respect, empathy, care for ourselves, others and the environment, are role modelled, discussed and constantly promoted enabling self-worth. An environment where emotional regulation and self management are valued outcomes; My Preschool promotes resilience and children's holistic development.

Children participate in the process of planting, growing, harvesting and preparing food at My Preschool. This process supports early development of self help and self care skills. An early understanding of the importance of nutrition supports their growing bodies and promotes healthy eating preferences. Interacting with the natural environment at My Preschool through our EnviroSchools philosophy also supports the cultural identity of our tamariki.

Relationships / ngā hononga developed over time with a loving, experienced and highly qualified team of teachers ensures the wellbeing of children is paramount. As children progress through the centre this sense of wellbeing enables children the freedom to make choices about their preferences and interests, and progressively to be involved in setting and reflecting on their own learning goals.

BELONGING WELLBEING EMPOWERMENT



Empowerment / Whakamana, for children is a principle in Te Whāriki. At My Preschool, this principle is the hallmark of all our aspirations for the children. Empowerment starts the moment our tamariki arrive at My Preschool, be they our precious pēpē / babies, toddlers or preschoolers by having all their needs understood; social, emotional, physical and spiritual.

Progressively children are given the freedom to experiment, whether that be physically appropriate challenges, independence with tasks, contribution to the choices available and decision making, or the ability to communicate their thoughts in many different ways to the people around them. Skills involved in reading, writing and math are discovered and taught alongside the ability to inquire, interpret, make meaning and problem solve. At My Preschool children's contributions are sought and valued, creating a culture of reciprocity and respect.

“Observe and listen to children because when they ask why, they are not simply looking for the answer from you. They are requesting the courage to find a collection of possible answers.” Loris Malaguzzi.

A DAY AT MY PRESCHOOL

My Preschool hours are 8:00am-5:00pm Monday to Friday, contact us to discuss a bespoke timetable for your child.

Toddlers and young children are welcomed at My Preschool through their own pint-sized door where they enter to fresh and exciting ideas each day. Children are given the opportunity throughout the day for self directed learning where they can choose from a wide range of experiences that interest them or more structured learning supported by our experienced Kaiako. All areas of the curriculum are brought to life; math, science, art, music, dance, sensory play, singing, baking, gardening, construction, and early literacy. Developmentally appropriate learning occurs in large group situations, small groups and individually with teachers over the course of the day.

Transition to school begins as soon as developmentally appropriate where children are prepared for, "Big School," commencing with the milestones of taking responsibility for belongings, understanding routines, communication skills, empathy, self management, then to a more bespoke learning tailor made for each child as they approach school age.

To support rich learning experiences , teachers will take students on a excursions, to local destinations within easy walking distance of the preschool. Permission for these excursions is given on the enrolment form. Staff ratios for local walks are as per normal ratios, though a higher adult to child ratio may be needed depending on the destination.

ENVIRONMENT

My Preschool is situated in a beautiful environment; a purpose built indoor space; sensitively refurbished, and a large outside environment . We have swings, slides, mud, large sandpits, playgrounds, a sailing boat, relax areas, real grass, large trees, vegetable gardens, and even chickens free ranging! Children interact with nature year round; ice and snow and rain are great fun! The extensive environment at My Preschool provokes the possibility of limitless potential in our children. Smell, touch and taste and taking the time to savour and enjoy the many wonders at My Preschool contribute to the sense of Belonging or Turangawaewae for our children.

We have a warm and reciprocal relationship with Enviroschools; harnessing their amazing support to achieve their aspirations of, *"Connecting with nature, exploring indigenous wisdoms, forming relationships with tangata whenua, collaborating with people in their diverse communities,... Learning and action in Enviroschools does not just have environmental outcomes but social, cultural and economic benefits too."*

(Enviroschools. <https://enviroschools.org.nz/creating-change/>)

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Every child has an ePortfolio record of their journey containing a personal, visual and written record of their time with us at My Preschool within the secure online environment called Storypark. We welcome your comments and contributions as you too can upload content to share with us from home.

We look forward to seeing you each day at drop off and pick up times where we can share a quick chat about your child's day. If you would like to discuss any particular concerns or aspirations that may take longer we are happy to meet at an alternate time when time is more available outside our daily session times.

We are always available via phone or email for your queries, we value deeply the relationships we have with parents and whānau, understanding that the learning and care of your children is achieved in partnership with you, so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We have Facebook and Instagram pages that you can like and follow.

THINGS TO BRING

Healthy eating

Please pack lunch and two snacks for your children, together with water, contained in a clearly labelled drink bottle and lunch box.

We encourage healthy and nutritious food, including fruit, protein, vegetables, cheese, yoghurt and sandwiches. Children will be encouraged to eat their sandwiches or main food before other foods. Please do not include sweets, lollies or chocolate in lunchboxes.

Heart Foundation lunchbox ideas can be found on our notice board, and in line with our sustainability journey and to meet the Enviroschool aspirations, minimum packaging and plastic please.

SETTLING IN

My Preschool staff aim to make the transition process as smooth, enjoyable and positive as possible and for children to feel safe, stimulated, happy, secure and comfortable with staff. The centre and staff will partner with parents to enhance the transition process. Some children feel comfortable and settle straight away, while others take longer become familiar with their new environment and gain that all important sense of belonging/mana whenua.

Before a child formally starts at My Preschool, we recommend between two and three visits are undertaken where the child can stay for a while to get to know the staff, the other children, the centre layout and routines. For the first visit we recommend the child stays for approximately one hour, to familiarize with teachers, routines and the environment. The second visit extends to several hours. These visits will be a time when your child will begin to settle and form trusting relationships with staff, building a sense of familiarity for when they start. Children will be shown where the toilets are, where to put their belongings and will be encouraged to join in with the activities. Teachers will spend time with parents during these visits to learn about your child; their needs, interests and passions.

Younger children will sometimes take longer to settle in, as will children who have not previously spent time away from home. Some children may need more than two visits and if this is the case more can be arranged. My Preschool staff will partner with parents and whānau to determine what is best for each child and personalise the plan to meet needs.





FEES

Please contact the Centre for a fee schedule at office@mypreschool.co.nz or call Neill or Denise on Ph 03 313 9270.

Fees are designed to support families depending on their need and the needs of their children with WINZ support available and discounts for families with multiple children attending. Fees are payable in advance. The Centre is closed on public holidays and no fees are payable for children who would normally attend on those days. Children receive two weeks of their usual enrolment each year at half fees for holidays. For example, a child enrolled for two days a week will have four days 'holiday' available at half fees, likewise a child enrolled for four days a week will have eight days at half fees. We are open every week throughout the year only closing for statutory holidays and short period over the Christmas / New Year break.

Full charges are made when a child is absent due to illness to allow a place to be kept open and operating costs met.



CONTACT US

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Find us on  

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