

# Small Miracles Philosophy Statement

Small Miracles endeavours to create a nurturing, safe and inclusive learning environment where tamariki/children are treated with dignity and respect. Tamariki will be given opportunities to empower themselves to develop physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually.

Our teaching philosophy follows the New Zealand Early Childhood Education Curriculum, Te Whariki. We believe that tamariki learn through play. We see play as empowering, it builds resilience and provides tamariki with opportunities to discover, question, theorise and co-operate. Play also builds social and emotional development, which are necessary for growth and their own view of self-worth.

Kaiako/teachers will build and maintain warm and respectful relationships with tamariki and their whanau/family and continually provide opportunities for them to contribute to the life of the centre. Parents and whanau are recognised as key stakeholders in the early education of their tamariki and their aspirations for their tamariki will be valued and evident within the curriculum.

As Kaiako our approach to planning and assessment will be a balanced mix of free play, structure and routines, incorporating both teacher and child led learning experiences. We believe learning is a reciprocal process as we all learn from each other in both spontaneous and planned experiences. Kaiako will act as facilitators, to provide tamariki with opportunities and experiences to encourage and empower them to make decisions and challenge themselves and to problem solve. This will set the crucial foundations for lifelong learning.

We are committed to the bicultural heritage of Aotearoa and endeavour to incorporate Te Tiriti o Waitangi through te reo and tikanga Māori practices. We celebrate cultural diversity at Small Miracles through music, language and cultural events. We believe that to know the culture of tamariki and their whanau is to fully understand the whanau aspirations, needs and beliefs for their child.

Our Christian Philosophy is woven through our daily routines of the centre and our integral relationship with St Heliers Presbyterian Church. It is also evident when we interact with our families and whanau. We endeavour to foster and apply Christian values and qualities of peace, love, sharing and tolerance.

Teaching Team: Ingrid, Dee, Claire, Megan, Martha & Julie

February, 2017