

# Flanshaw Infant and Toddler Centre's Philosophy Statement



As professional teachers we believe that our role within early childhood education is about creating a desire within children to learn, supporting children to develop and build upon lifelong learning dispositions. We believe that children should be viewed as individuals, able to make their own choices and decisions. Our image of the child is that of a confident and competent being, capable of making decisions, researching ideas and interests, and acquiring knowledge. We believe that children learn through their interactions with people, places and things and that the relationships children build create partnerships for learning. We as a team also highly regard the environment as the third teacher in early childhood education, believing that children learn best when their surrounding environment encapsulates their interests, and provokes their thinking and inquiry.

As both professional teachers, and some of our teachers being parents themselves, we honour the trust parents and whānau put into our practice, ensuring all children are kept safe from harm and can feel a sense of wellbeing and belonging within the centre. Our team recognise that we are living in a multi-cultural country and embrace and welcome different cultures within our practice. We believe in supporting and encouraging children's cultural differences and identities, as it is these values and qualities that underpin who a child is. We acknowledge our obligations to the Treaty of Waitangi and strive to support Māori me ona Tikanga into the centre practice. We as a team believe children have the right to be in a fun, safe, happy and warm environment where they feel respected and nurtured so they can confidently achieve to their full potential.

We take our role as professional teachers seriously; striving to work in an ethical manner, keeping an open mind, and continuously working towards developing upon our professional practice, ensuring we are honouring our commitment to lifelong learning.

We believe that is a professional teacher's role to not show a child where to go but to walk alongside the child through their journey of discovery. As you walk alongside a child you are able to work together, offering a hand and word of encouragement if they may stumble or fall.