

## **Poppies Preschool Philosophy – Gardiners Road**

Poppies Preschool is a welcoming and nurturing ‘home away from home.’ Children, whānau, and kaiako experience a great sense of belonging. Whanaungatanga is highly valued, as we build strong relationships with whānau, listening to their aspirations, seeking their wealth of skills and knowledge, and working together to maximise the success of our akonga.

We embrace the Māori concept of kaitiakitanga, where we teach the tamarki to be guardians of the land, respecting it and learning about sustainability. We harness our spacious rural environment and natural resources and acknowledge that the land provides many rich learning opportunities.

We aim to provide mokopuna with a culturally responsive environment, upholding tikanga, drawing upon Māori values and concepts and celebrating our diverse and unique backgrounds and identities.

At the heart of our vision are the tamariki. They guide our programme through their great sense of curiosity and wonder. Influenced by Te Whāriki, kaiako extend children’s learning through a range of teaching strategies, supporting them to reach their immense potential and to share our love of learning.

We believe in nurturing the children’s well-being, building on their emotional competence. We aspire for our akonga to value their identity and culture, displaying positive self-esteem and demonstrating self-respect.

***“Ko te ahurei o te tamaiti arahia o totou mahi” – ‘Let the uniqueness of the child guide our work.’***

## POPPIES PRESCHOOL PHILOSOPHY- ST MARTINS

*At Poppies Preschool we aim to provide quality preschool education in a homely, safe, caring, happy and stimulating environment that meets the needs of each child and their family/whanau.*

*We offer an emergent curriculum based on children's individual interests and spontaneous happenings. Our programme is administered with guidance, support, understanding, consistency and care.\**

Poppies Preschool believes in using the Curriculum Standards and Criteria to guide and encompass all of the teaching and learning that occurs in our preschool environment. We believe children's play is their way to explore and discover learning. We use individual and centre planning to meet children's learning and development needs and also use centre focuses often incorporating an enquiry based approach, to follow children's interests and trends in play. Our programme allows children to take responsibility for their own learning with the teachers facilitating and supporting the children's skills and abilities while also allowing them to achieve challenges within their environment. We use a combination of structure, free play and carefully planned inside and outside environments (using people, places and things as well as planned play experiences) to inspire and nurture in children the love of and confidence in learning.

Our curriculum supports and interweaves a meaningful bi-cultural lens. This is through an in depth and shared understanding of Te Ao Māori perspectives, which in turn support and strengthens learning and values for children and priority learners.

We believe in nurturing and fostering each child's cultural identity and respect Te Tiriti O Waitangi including Te Reo and tikanga Maori within the bicultural context of Aotearoa New Zealand.

We believe in Te Whāriki, its strands, goals and the way they link to learning outcomes and dispositions. Our programme is strengthened by these. As a teaching team we value the input, knowledge and support of parents, whanau and community and recognise that we all take on a supportive and extending role with children's learning. Most of all we believe early childhood to be a time of great importance where learning and living are one and the same.

*\* This abbreviated part of the philosophy is included in the prospectus.*