



## Inspiring Minds Parent Information

Phone: 407 1133

[admin@inspiringminds.net.nz](mailto:admin@inspiringminds.net.nz)

[www.inspiringminds.net.nz](http://www.inspiringminds.net.nz)

Kia Ora. Welcome to Inspiring Minds.

Thank you for choosing Inspiring Minds as your child's early education and care centre. The teachers, staff and management welcome your family. Over the course of your time with us we will build strong relationships that inspire friendship, partnership and develop a sense of community. We endeavour to develop a 'home away from home' feeling for your family in our small and intimate environment.

### Philosophy

**Children learn through play, their play is their work, and they work all their waking hours.**

Relationships are the foundation of our philosophy and teaching practices at Inspiring Minds. Children are seen as capable and competent learners, researchers, artists and inventors. No child is the same therefore each child is valued and respected as an individual, within the context of their family/whanau and culture.

The environment we wish to create is one that feels like a home away from home. A positive place where children feel they belong, and where parents know their child is valued and respected as an individual and that their wellbeing is at the forefront of teaching practices.

We believe that children deserve the kind of respect that adults expect from one another. This means the child is at the centre of all interactions, routines, and teaching practices. Every child is treated with respect, they are active participants in care routines, and they know they have a place here. We strive to make learning visible so children, parents, whanau and visitors can see that their child's contribution is valued and that children really are the centre of our philosophy.

We endeavour to provide an environment that provokes creativity, encourages children to think and wonder, challenges capabilities, and expands a child's knowledge and understanding across a wide range of experiences. We believe education is about the process not necessarily the final product. We aim to create an aesthetically pleasing environment which creates a relaxed and reflective atmosphere for learning. The teachers role is one of observation; where children are given time to explore free from direct adult involvement but in the knowledge that they and their efforts are supported.

The child's voice is valued where children are active participants in decision making and have the freedom of choice. There are not so much rules as expectations which are developed in collaboration with the children; the most important of which being respect for self, others, and our environment.

We acknowledge Te Whàriki, the New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum, as the framework for everything we do as teachers. "A Whariki woven by loving hands that can cross cultures with respect and can weave cultures together". Something which we believe is very relevant for the bi-cultural heritage of Aotearoa and the multicultural world we live in today.

***"Knowledge is experience. Everything else is information" Albert Einstein***

## Hours

We are open from 7.30am until 5.30pm from Monday-Friday.

## Fees

	<b>Full Day (7.30am-5.30pm)</b>	<b>Short day (9am-3pm)</b>
<b>Infant Room</b>	\$47	\$44
<b>Toddler Room</b>	\$45	\$42

Families who are eligible for the 20 free hours will pay \$6.50 per hour after their 20 hours per week have been used (6 hours max per day). Children, 3, 4, or 5 years who do not use the 20 free hours per week will pay \$6.50 per hour per day.

There is a minimum of 6 enrolled hours per day and a minimum of 2 enrolled days per week.

Fees are paid 50 weeks per year regardless of sickness or holidays, including statutory holidays.

## Childcare Subsidy

Work and Income New Zealand operates a subsidy for parents to assist with the payment of fees. This subsidy is income tested. Please contact Work and Income for eligibility and forms.

## Clothing

Children will require two or three changes of named clothing throughout the day and because their play is their work their clothing will get dirty.

During the summer months your child will require named sunblock and a hat that can stay at the centre. It will be helpful if you sunblock your child before arriving in the morning. Teachers will reapply sunblock throughout the day. In winter children will still be able to go outside as long as they are dressed appropriately. i.e. gumboots and jackets, raincoats. Children require a wet bag for their wet clothes because we no longer have plastic bags.

## Settling In

Parents will be welcome any time throughout the day as there is an open door policy in place. We want you to develop a sense of belonging. We welcome ideas and wish to work together to foster positive outcomes for all.

It is going to take time for your child to settle into a new environment and we want to make this as easy as possible for you both. Parents are welcome to stay until they feel comfortable about leaving. Your child may have a special cuddly or toy that will make this transition time easier. There are no rules for settling. Every child and their family/whanau are different but teachers are very experienced in assisting with separation. All children will have a teacher nearby for comfort.

## Meals

Inspiring minds will provide nutritious morning and afternoon tea. Children will need to bring their own lunch boxes Please ensure children have healthy food in their lunch boxes. Fruit platters for morning tea are preferred and children are encouraged to donate a piece of fruit so that we have a varied supply.

## Programme

Te Whariki is the national early childhood curriculum that guides the practice at Inspiring Minds. Our philosophy is influenced by the practices of Reggio Emilia in Italy whereby the social-emotional environment is intricately related to what the Italians call “the image” of the child, teacher, parents, and the teaching and learning process. We acknowledge that the child comes to us with a vast amount of prior knowledge and it is our job to foster and extend on that knowledge through encounters, communication and relationships. The children of Inspiring Minds will be empowered to learn by passionate, dedicated, caring teachers.

## Teachers Qualifications

**Kaye Dawson:** Certificate of Equivalence to the Diploma of Teaching (ECE)

**Justine Dawson:** Diploma of Teaching (ECE)

**Meisha Carere-Semb:** Diploma of Teaching (ECE)

**Antonia Ward:** Bachelor of Teaching (ECE)

**Amy Gardner-Richardson:** Teacher

**Devon Stone:** Teacher

**Toni Dawson:** Diploma of Teaching (ECE)

**Hallie Osborne:** Teacher

**Jaclyn Dawson:** Manager

*Thank you for choosing Inspiring Minds. We look forward to working with you and your family.*