

CHARTER & KAUPAPA (PHILOSOPHY)

KO TE AROHA CHILDREN'S CENTRE

33-35 JOHNSTONE STREET, MASTERTON

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Incorporating Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres 2008;
Early Childhood Curriculum Framework; and
Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008.



Description of Service

Ko Te Aroha Children's Centre provides an early childhood education and care service to children and their families from 6 months to 6 years of age. It is a community trust and is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of four appointed and four elected members. The centre is licensed for 30 children that includes up to 8 under 2 year olds. It is based in Masterton east and is committed to being a centre of learning in the community that includes children and their families. The centre operates a parent educator programme to support parents and their learning, as well as hosting other relevant services from its venue to support learning.

Ko Te Aroha is open to children between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00pm, Monday to Friday. It is closed on public holidays and for three weeks over the Christmas/New Year period.

Nutritious cooked lunches are provided on a daily basis and morning and afternoon tea. We hold the Heart Foundation Healthy Heart Gold Award. A van service is available for those who require transport to and from the centre.

The majority of staff are qualified and registered early childhood teachers with a diverse range of age and experience. Our office administrator, cook and cleaner make up the team.

Centre kaupapa (philosophy)

He wāhi pai tenei

He wāhi mana aki tangata tenei. I te mea, he mana ano to te tangata.

E hora ana te marino, tau ana te rangimarie hoki. Ko te aroha te kaupapa matua o tenei wāhi. Ahakoa ko wai, no wai hoki, ko te aroha te reo tuatahi o tenei wāhi hei manaaki tangata, hei oranga whānau, hei huarahi mo tatau katoa ki te kotahitanga.

This is a place where the mana of any person is recognised, acknowledged and cared for.

This is a safe place, where calm and peacefulness reside. Love and care are the first language of this place.

No matter who you are or where you are from love and care will be the first thing you receive.

Love builds people, builds whānau and is the pathway for us all to acceptance, understanding and unity.

Ko Te Aroha is a loving, caring, happy and safe environment for you and your child. It is a place where positive learning and development takes place and we welcome active participation from parents/caregivers engaging in activities with the children.

- Ko Te Aroha Children’s Centre shall support a culture of ‘freedom to choose’ amongst the community while ensuring the rights and responsibilities of community members is upheld.
- Ko Te Aroha Children’s Centre shall be a space free from judgement and/or political or religious persuasion.
- Education in its widest sense is a core function of the Centre and its activities. Education will not only include content matter but will also include role modelling, support and empowerment of its members.
- Ko Te Aroha Children’s Centre believes that our attitudes and beliefs about children and their families should be positive and affirming. It uses a strengths-based approach to learning and promotes the strategies of “The Virtues Project”, employing positive language strategies for learning and problem solving.
- Ko Te Aroha Children’s Centre supports and encourages partnership with parents/whānau and endeavours to develop relationships that build healthy communities.
- Ko Te Aroha promotes a bicultural environment that values children and their families through the use of Māori pedagogies, te reo Māori and tikanga Māori.
- Ko Te Aroha Children’s Centre is committed to the careful planning and management of both financial and curriculum structures.
- Ko Te Aroha Children’s Centre believes in providing a quality and aesthetically pleasing environment for children and their families/whānau to enjoy the benefits of education in a safe and respectful environment.
- Ko Te Aroha Children’s Centre seeks a relationship with the community founded on respect, consideration and mutual exchange.
- Ko Te Aroha Children’s Centre will have well trained staff who have regular professional learning opportunities.

Guiding Principles

Management and educators of chartered early childhood services, in partnership with parents/caregivers and whānau, will promote and extend the learning and development of each child attending or receiving the service, through the provision of quality early childhood education and care.

Educators can adopt a whānau structure and dynamics to develop close relationships with children in their service. This requires them to understand how whānau values affect behavior and influence the ability of children and adults to engage in meaningful, purposeful relationships.

LICENSING CRITERIA FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE CENTRES 2008
EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK
EDUCATION (EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES) REGULATIONS 2008

The Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres, 2008 and the Early Childhood Education Curriculum Framework documents form part of the regulatory framework for Early Childhood Education (ECE).

The licensing criteria are deemed regulations prescribed by the Minister of Education. The criteria are used by the Secretary for Education to assess compliance with regulated standards of education and care.

There are no criteria associated with the qualifications, ratios and service size standard, as compliance with this standard is linked to schedules contained in the Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008.

Ko Te Aroha Children's Centre will meet the licensing criteria as well as other regulatory requirements contained in the regulations in order to gain and maintain a license to operate.

The curriculum framework is prescribed by the Ministry of Education. It formalizes Government's expectations and guides all curricula and programmes across the early childhood education sector. Ko Te Aroha Children's Centre will follow the curriculum framework made up of the English and te reo Māori versions of the Principles and Strands from the early childhood curriculum *Te Whāriki: He Whāriki Mātauranga mō ngā Mokopuna o Aotearoa*.

The Charter should be read in conjunction with these documents as it guides the operation of the service.

Information

- ❖ We provide morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea for the children. We have a Healthy Heart Gold Award.
- ❖ Please provide formula, bottles and nappies for your child/children
- ❖ Please make sure your child has a set of spare clothes in his or her bag
- ❖ We will provide a sunhat and sunscreen for your child/children
- ❖ In consultation with you, staff will take care of you your child's meals, toileting and sleeping requirements while at the Centre
- ❖ Our centre and grounds are SMOKE FREE (please also refrain from smoking at the gate).
- ❖ We have a policy of positive language, learning and development strategies.

Illness

If your child is unwell, for example, vomiting and or diarrhoea or a high temperature, please keep him/her home until s/he is completely well again. This is so that illnesses do not spread to other children and adults. Rest also promotes a quicker recovery.

If you find that your child has head lice or conjunctivitis please treat this before bringing him/her back to the centre.

Parent Educator Service

We have a programme available for parent/cargivers who would like to be involved with their children's learning and development at the centre and at home. This is an opportunity to learn more about your child, how to notice, recognise and respond to their learning and to learn about strategies for providing positive guidance. Parent support is a key aspect of the programme. Please talk to the staff if you are interested in learning more about the programme.

Parent / Whānau Help

Please let us know if you have any talents or abilities you could share with our children - i.e. fluency in language other than English, making cultural tools/art (e.g. poi, printmaking, and knitting), storytelling, dancing, singing, juggling etc. Talk to one of our staff about this - we would love to hear from you.