



Philosophy

COUNTRY KINDY's philosophy is based on the Māori metaphor of the flax bush (te pa harakeke) as a whānau unit.

The flax bush is made up of layers: the outer layers of long flax blades symbolise the 'outer' members of the whānau (extended whānau/families, teachers and wider community), which support the inner leaves representing the immediate whānau/family (parents/guardians). These layers protect the heart



of the flax where the new emerging shoot (te rito) is being nurtured into a child. The soil represents the knowledge and experiences of ancestors. The child is surrounded and protected by an extended whānau/family unit that shares in the role of supporting, nurturing and teaching the child.

COUNTRY KINDY is a family unit where teachers and parents/guardians work in partnership to support and form a strong foundation for children to grow into confident and competent learners. We believe that families are the child's first teacher and ensure open and honest communication with families at all times. We welcome the wider community to be a part of the centre through spontaneous and organised trips into the community or by inviting the community into our centre. We value the support and knowledge that outside agencies and organisations offer in supporting and caring for our children.

COUNTRY KINDY acknowledges and respects that each child comes from a unique, diverse background of different cultures, values and beliefs that contributes to who they are and what they bring to the centre. We believe that children learn through hands-on play that creates child-directed opportunities within a supervised learning environment. We value both spontaneous and structured learning in a stimulating environment where the child has ownership and a sense of belonging.

COUNTRY KINDY provides children with a country setting which offers children the opportunity to understand and care for their environment through regular interaction with animals and nature. This empowers children to have an appreciation and care of living things through hands-on experience.

COUNTRY KINDY values the teachers and adults working within the centre. We recognise that each person brings with them their own culture, values, beliefs, knowledge and skills and we value and acknowledge their contribution. It's important to us to offer Professional Learning and Development to extend on current interests and trends within the centre's learning and curriculum planning activities.