

On walking through our doors, you will be welcomed as part of Country Kindy's Family. The Harakeke proverb, reflects the Māori reference to the Flax plant as a Whānau group.

The Flax plant is made up of layers: The mature leaves symbolise the extended Whānau, Teachers and wider Community. These support the inner leaves to stand tall as the Parents/ Guardians. These layers protect the heart of the flax, where the emerging



shoot is being nurtured into a Child. The soil represents the knowledge and experiences of Ancestors. The Child is surrounded and protected by the Whānau group that shares in the role of supporting, nurturing and teaching of the Child.

The Teaching Team acknowledge that Whānau are the Child's first Teacher. Valuing the partnership between Whānau and the Teaching Team, to support and form a strong foundation for Children to grow into confident and competent Learners. The Teaching Team ensure open communication with Whānau and 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 Home. The Teaching Team value the support and knowledge that outside Agencies and Organisations offer in caring for our Children.

The Teaching Team respect 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 Country Kindy. The Teaching Team will provide guidance and support towards a Child, at the Child's level, to provide a solid foundation for the Child's future learning. Through hands-on play, Child-directed opportunities are created within a supervised learning environment. The Teaching Team value both spontaneous and structured learning in a stimulating environment where the Child has ownership and a sense of belonging.

COUNTRY KINDY provides a rural setting offering Children the opportunity to understand and care for their environment through regular interaction with Animals and Nature. This empowers the Child to have an appreciation and care of living things through hands-on experience.

COUNTRY KINDY values the Teachers and Adults working within our environment. We recognise that each person brings with them their own culture, values, beliefs, knowledge and skills and we value and acknowledge their contribution. We believe in being up to date with current trends, curriculum knowledge and new developments in the changing world of a Child.