



Horizons Montessori Preschool

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HORIZONS MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL

We welcome you and your family to Horizons Montessori Preschool, a special place full of fun, joy, friendships, learning and discovery. We look forward to helping your child explore their learning opportunities supported by knowledgeable, caring teachers who will work in partnership with you. The Montessori equipment, additional games and supplementary equipment are instrumental in supporting children's learning through incremental developmental steps.



Our Philosophy

We view children as competent and confident learners. Our centre philosophy strives to enhance learning opportunities through the philosophy and equipment of Maria Montessori and Te Whāriki the national early childhood curriculum. We are a distinctive service as we offer a balance of both structured and freeplay periods throughout the day, where learning is a fun and exciting journey of discovery. Children and teachers co-construct knowledge alongside the active partnership we develop with parents.

We capture and document children's learning through in-depth assessment documentation. Teachers use a checklist to track children's academic knowledge (colours, numbers, shapes, letters, sight words, and scissor skills). This helps us to understand the child's current knowledge and to tailor a programme that supports their progress. Learning stories are used to notice, recognize and respond to children's emergent interests and supports our planning process. The children's e-portfolios are produced through Educa. Educa is an ideal way for parents, children and teachers to share and be involved in their child's learning experiences. Educa allows parents to invite other family members or friends to engage in their child's portfolio, to add stories and comments and be involved. Our teacher/child ratio of 1:5 is integral to offering the children scaffolded learning through sustained interest areas such as research and inquiry. It also provides us the time and opportunity to actively play and participate as we establish strong relationships based on mutual respect and trust. Children freely choose their own activities with teachers encouragement and support to try new challenges, learn new skills and develop their individual interests.

It is important that teachers, families and children feel a strong sense of cultural connection within the preschool where all cultures are respected and celebrated. Biculturalism is supported through understanding Maori culture, language and identity through developing our partnership with whānau and iwi.

Our Curriculum

The Montessori equipment, additional games and supplementary equipment are instrumental in supporting children's learning through incremental developmental steps. Children take turns at choosing games for the small group to play. Our teachers use these opportunities to foster learning and with five teachers there is a lot of teacher child engagement with games that are FUN. When children are inside and engaged in 'work-time' games there are also areas of free play available such as free art, play dough, and puzzles. Children at Horizons are free to choose their own activities, to try new challenges, learn new skills and develop new interests. Older children participate in formal activities such as writing, maths, language development, scissor skills and transition to school activities at a separate table known as the extension table. Younger children who wish to participate are also encouraged to join in. Learning is so much fun at Horizons that children are eager to be part of activities.

The monthly programme focus is based around children's interests and is a mixture of planned and emergent activities based on our observations of children. Visitors are invited to attend the preschool to further develop the children's interests. The programme is evaluated each month, with input from the children about their highlights and new knowledge. This discussion with the children usually shows the direction for the next months programme, or may be determined by exciting coming events, or areas children show an interest in investigating further. Each programme is inter-related, evaluated and has strong links to Te Whāriki, and the Montessori curriculum.

Transition to school programme

Our transition to school programme is highly valued within our learning community. Each day at our centre, the children are encouraged to participate in numeracy and literacy skills and to work collectively to grow their knowledge and skills at what we call 'the extension table'. Our teachers design activities that include research and inquiry, scissor skills, group skills, negotiation, leadership and technology. The interactive whiteboard and ipad can be used to explore new knowledge and inspire topics of interest. Children especially love to illustrate and write their own stories developing their independence and confidence in writing. Children who are four years old or children who can already naming their letters participate in early reading books. They have their own book-bag where they take a reading book home each day. These are skills that mirror those in the new entrant classroom and the children who transition to school already feel confident in these skills. The learning activities and the extension activities which are integral to the curriculum help each child to feel empowered by their abilities to problem solve, act responsibly in group contributions and contribute to their learning environment. Most children transition to school with a sound knowledge of numeracy, literacy, scissor skills, how to write their name, beginning reading skills, some sight word recognition, and are beginning to sound out words that they want to write independently using their phonetic knowledge.

PORTFOLIOS

At horizons preschool we use Educa to provide a web-based portfolio of your child's development and learning journey. Educa provides a secure, password protected site where teachers and parents, extended family can add learning stories, photos and videos. You will be automatically notified that a new story has been added for your child and you can easily access these through your Android, iPhone, tablet or computer.

Teachers ensure that your child receives regular learning stories which follow and support your child's interest and needs. Checklists are also used to identify what numbers, colours, shapes and letters your child recognizes and is used for planning their next steps in numeracy and literacy development. Children love to use the iPad and interactive white board at horizons Preschool view and share their portfolios.



LUNCH BOXES

At Horizons Preschool we are committed to developing competent, confident learners. Children bring their own lunch boxes and drink bottles so children can make their own meal selections based on the food you know they enjoy. Teachers utilise this opportunity to help children develop skills in opening packets and deciding what to eat at different times of the day. This has proven to greatly benefit children as they transition to school, with routines that they are comfortable and familiar with. Scaffolding and support is provided by teachers and we are happy to warm up their food in the microwave if you would like them to have a cooked lunch.



SLEEPING CHILDREN

For those parents who would like their child to have a sleep during the day, an area is cordoned off to provide children with an undisturbed rest after lunch. The centre provides children with their own mattress and bedding.



CLOTHING

We recommend that you bring your child in clothes that you don't mind getting messy as early childhood is all about exploring. Children often take off clothing such as jackets and we recommend that you name all clothes and shoes to keep the lost property low. Please keep a change of clothes in your child's bag so we can change them quickly if they become wet.

NAPPIES

If your child is in nappies or pull-ups please bring some in your child's bag.



HOLIDAYS

The centre closes for 4 weeks during Christmas and during this time parents do not pay fees. Holidays taken at other times during the year require the payment of fees to secure your child's place. Parents are responsible for the payment of an enrolled day even if unable to attend including sick days and statutory holidays.

OPENING HOURS AND FEES

We are open from 8:00 to 4:00 each day and we offer 4 hour sessions from 8:00 to 12:00 and 12:00 to 4:00. We also have full days and full-time positions available. Fees are due weekly and are paid directly into the centres bank account with your child's name as a reference.

The account number is: 02 0152 0080660 00

Children aged between 2-3 years are charged:

\$34.50 per session
\$69.00 per day
\$290.00 full-time

A quality charge applies to children aged over 3 years accessing the 20 Hours ECE subsidy. This quality charge supports the added qualified teachers above the regulatory requirement.

The quality charge is:

\$21.25 per session
\$42.50 per day
\$265.50 full-time including the 20 Hours ECE subsidy



DAILY PROGRAMME



8:00am – 9:45am

Preschool opens – Educators prepare the environment and activities for the day. Children arrive, hang up bags, put lunch boxes and drink bottles on the shelf.

Children are free to choose work inside from:

Practical life exercises: Spooning, scooping, pouring, plant care, threading, personal care and independence.

Sensorial exercises: Colours, shapes, sound, puzzles, dimensions, blocks, discrimination.

Mathematical exercises: Introduction of recognition of quantities developing into the decimal system, addition and subtraction.

Language: Development of hand/eye co-ordination, pencil skills, phonics and letter recognition.

Environment Studies: Biology, geography, history and science.

Cultural Subjects: Art, craft, literature, music and movement.

9:45 – 10:00am Tidy up and Mat-time

10:00 – 10:25am Morning Tea

10:25- 11:45am Outdoor activities and games.

11:45- 11:55am Mat-time

Half day children prepare to go home Full-day children prepare for lunch.

11:55am – 12:20pm Lunch

12:20-1:15pm Outdoor activities and games

1:15-1:30pm Mat-time

1:30 – 2:45pm Children are free to choose work inside as above

2:45pm Mat-time

3:00-3:15pm Afternoon Tea

3:15-3:40pm Outside Activities and Games

3:40pm Mat-time

Children prepare to go home

4:00pm PRESCHOOL CLOSES



HORIZONS MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL

PRESCHOOL WAITING LIST APPLICATION

(Parents will need to complete the full enrolment form prior to starting as details often change while waiting for a space to become available.)

Child Name Surname (for accounts)
Ethnic Origin Iwi
Date of Birth Male / Female
Preferred Start Date

Days of Attendance: Please write **8:00 to 12:00** or **12:00 to 4:00** or **8:00 to 4:00** in the appropriate box.

| Day | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri |
|------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|
| Time | | | | | |

Parent/guardian Name Parent/guardian Name
Address Address
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Phones Phones
Home Home
Business Business
Mobile Mobile
Email Email
Date Date
Signed Signed