



## Environmental / Kaitiakitanga Policy

Enquiries to:	Centre Manager, Chairperson
Date Developed:	July 2021
Review Date:	July 2021
Date Approved:	September 2021
Next Review date:	September 2024
Applies to:	Kaiako/Teachers and management at Lower Hutt City Childcare

### Rationale:

We recognise the importance of caring for the environment. If children are immersed and involved from a very young age they will develop a respectful disposition towards the world, helping to make it a better place to live.

### Te Whāriki

**Exploration / Mana aoturoa - Goal 4-** Children experience an environment where they develop working theories for making sense of the natural, social, physical and material worlds.

**Belonging / Mana atua - Goal 2** –Tamariki and their Whānau experience an environment where they know they have a place.

### Procedures

- Children will be involved as much as possible in the procedures and practices of caring for the environment.
- We will ensure our outdoor environment includes the 'wonder' that nature has to offer. For example flowers, vegetables, and native flora and fauna.
- There will be dedicated recycling bins to ensure teachers and children can recycle where appropriate.
- The centre will have a worm farm and/or compost bin to recycle food waste.
- We will support any parent who wishes to use cloth nappies at the centre.
- To reduce power usage we will employ strategies such as turning off lights when not in use, installing eco light bulbs and turning off computers at night.  
To reduce water, through monitoring the children use of the water at hand basins, be mindful of water in the sandpit and how often the water trough is filled each day.
- To reduce paper waste, we will employ strategies such as reusing non-confidential office paper for art purposes, composting and for play (then composting) and accept donations of paper/cardboard to reuse.
- The centre is working towards become an Enviroschool and work towards each next step in the Enviroschool programme
- The centre is a member of paper for trees.
- When purchasing new resources, we will look for those which support our environmental and sustainable practices. Such as wooden over plastic, Purchase quality items that will last.
- Tamariki and kaiako will be involved in gardening to help keep our gardens and outdoor environment looking beautiful.
- Use Atua to develop children knowledge such as Papatuanuku and looking after him through putting food and plant waste back into the earth to nourish, Ranginui providing us with rain to grow our crops, looking after Tanemahuta through recycle paper and using paper wisely to protect his forests...

- Use Tikanga principle in our work with the tamariki such as using Harakeke/Flax ie which is to cut and to only take what we need, how important it is to return used portions in the bundle at the case of the harakeke
- Information about our environmental practices will be shared with parents and family through noticeboards, Educa, learning stories, and newsletters, as well as through our daily conversations.

Board of Trustees consulted	Yes/No	Kaiako consulted	Yes/No
Parents consulted	Yes/No		
Approved by: _____ Designation: _____ Date: _____			