

Lil Seeds

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE



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welcome

Lil seeds is the perfect place for our little people to start extending their world into early childhood education and care.

We are very aware of what this age group requires at this foundation level, such as small learning groups, primary/key caregiving, a calm environment, which flows at the same pace as our little people and most importantly 'love'.

Our ideas are backed by the scientific neuroscience and by theorists such as Pikler and the RIE philosophy.

POIPOIA TE KAKANO KIA PUAWAI
NURTURE THE SEED AND IT WILL BLOSSOM

Philosophy

We Believe in the Teina/Tuakana Approach...

"The Tuakana-Teina relationship, is an integral part of traditional Māori society, provides (brother, sister or cousin) helps and guides a younger or less expert teina (originally a younger sibling or cousin of the same gender) in a learning environment that recognises the value of ako, the Tuakana-teina roles may be reversed at any time" (MoE, 2017)

We value this by naming our infants 'Teina' and our toddlers 'Tuakana'. Our Teina room is located in the front house, we have a maximum of 12 babies (0-18 months) with 3 teachers. The back classroom also shares the same numbers for or older tamariki (18 months to 3 years)

Each day we support transition by ensuring the older Teina children spend time in the Tuakana area. We also help transition children to either Wilde Meadows or Kidd Inn once they are ready; around the age of 3 years.

Here are some key concepts of the RIE Philosophy which sums up our key values:

We communicate authentically. We speak in our authentic voices, use real words and talk about real things, especially things that directly pertain to our babies that are happening now. We encourage babies to build communication skills by asking them questions, affording them plenty of time to respond, always acknowledging their communication.

We invite babies to actively participate in caregiving activities like nappy changing, meals and bedtime rituals and give them our full attention during these activities. This inclusion and focused attention nurtures our parent-child relationship, providing children the sense of security they need to be able to separate and engage in self-directed play.

We encourage uninterrupted, self-directed play by offering even the youngest infants free play opportunities, sensitively observing so as not to needlessly interrupt, and trusting that our child's play choices are enough. Perfect actually.

We allow children to develop motor and cognitive skills naturally according to their innate timetables by offering them free play and movement opportunities in an enriching environment, rather than teaching, restricting or otherwise interfering with these organic processes. Our role in development is primarily trust.

We value intrinsic motivation and inner-directness, so we acknowledge effort and take care not to over-praise. We trust our children to know themselves better than we know them, so we allow children to lead when they play and choose enrichment activities, rather than projecting our own interests. We encourage our children's passions and support them to fulfil their dreams.

We encourage children to express their emotions by openly accepting and acknowledging them.

We recognise that children need confident, empathising leaders, and clear boundaries, but no shaming, distractions, punishments or time out.

We allow children to problem solve, experience, and learn from age appropriate conflicts with our support.

We understand the power of our modelling and recognise that our children are learning from us through our every word and action about love, relationships, empathy, generosity, gratitude, patience, tolerance, kindness, honesty and respect. Most profoundly, they're learning about themselves, their abilities and their worth, their place in our hearts and in the world.

HOURS & FEES

Monday to Friday 7:30am - 5:00pm

(Shorter days 8:30-3:30)

Current fees are posted on Educa under polices.

Fees are to be paid on the week for the week, by automatic payment and you will receive a weekly invoice via email.

Funding providing by the Ministry of Education is audited annually, this audit is available to parents upon request.

Please make sure you use your child's full name as the reference.

Our bank account details are: Lil Seeds: 12-3209-0450022-00

WINZ

If you are entitled to a subsidy through Work and Income, the application form must be received by WINZ before your child's first day, if you are requiring a subsidy to start immediately.

Please note that application and renewals are the responsibility of the parents/caregivers.

Withdrawal

If you are withdrawing your child, two weeks notice is required inwriting, alternatively 2 weeks fees in lieu.

HOLIDAYS/ABSENCE/SICK DAYS

Fees are payable for every day your child is enrolled, including statutory days, and when children are absent from the centre including when they are sick. Please refer to our fees policy for further information.

20 HOURS SUBSIDISED LEARNING

Eligible for 3 and 4 year old children. The subsidy is available for up to 6 hours per day a maximum of 20 hours per week. Fees will be charged for the days and hours when 20 hours are not available. Children on the 20 hour subsidised learning do not qualify for holiday entitlement - see 20hour policy for further details.

POLICIES

Our policies are posted on our Educa site. All policies are renewed in a 1 yearly cycle, any modification will be posted for parents consultation - the policy review cycle can be found under the policy section on Educa.

ERO

You are able to view our latest ERO report either through <https://ero.govt.nz/audience/early-learning> or we have a hard copy for their perusal.

EDUCA

We are registered with Educa, which is a secure web-based e-portfolio system, allowing you to track your child's progress on the net, every time there is a new learning story you are notified by email. You can contribute to this portfolio at anytime, and invite other family members to share your child's journey.

MEDICINES

If your child is prescribed medication (such as antibiotics), to be used for a specific time frame only, you must provide written authority daily on our medicine charts. This medicine must be handed directly to a teacher.

For long-term conditions (such as asthma), written authority along with an authorised action/health plan from the doctor can be given upon enrolment, any changes to be notified as soon possible.

SICKNESS

If your child is unwell, has diarrhoea, vomiting or any other contagious illness, parents are asked to ensure that their child does not return to the centre for at least 48 hours after symptoms have ceased, depending on the illness. this is at the discretion of the 'person responsible'. Please refer to our policy on sickness and infectious disease for more detailed information.

What to Bring



At least one full change of named clothing -
We enjoy messy activities often!



Appropriate clothing - raincoat and gumboots and
a woolly hat for winter. Sunhat, togs and a towel
for summer etc



A clearly named lunchbox for your child's lunch
(we provide morning and afternoon tea). Please
refer to our healthy eating and food reducing,
chocking risk policies for guidelines.



A clearly named drink bottle (water only)



Bottles and formula (if required)



Nappies (if required)

Signing in/out

Upon arrival and departure you are required to complete the attendance register on our tablet in the front reception for Teina, and where provided in the outside room for Tuakana, using your appointed code. This is an extremely important procedure as:



It is a requirement of the Ministry of Education and is crucial to our funding



This information acts as our attendance register in case of an emergency

Children will be released to parents and guardians who are on the initial enrolment form or with any written authorised amendment.



Sustainability

At Lil Seeds we are passionate about Papatuanuku and protecting our Mother Earth. We have a strong commitment to sustainability and work along side our tamariki to strengthen our understanding of the importance of reducing, reusing & recycling.

We are committed to implementing the three ethical principles of permaculture, (People care Earth care/Fair share). For more information please refer to the following website <https://permies.com> We ensure this by implementing the following strategies:

Litter free lunches- All children are to have litter free lunches, with reusable lunch boxes or containers. No glad wrap or pre-packaged items, we recommend the bento style lunch boxes.

Wet bags- All children are to have a wet bag in their backpack so we don't need to use plastic bags for wet or dirty clothes. We recommend kmart as they have wet bags from \$2. We have a back-up supply of bio-degradable bags for emergencies.

Recycle- All rooms are to have used a recycle and soft plastic binfor all recyclables.

Food scraps- will be utilised for compost (we have a worm farm for compost) at Lil Seeds. The worm 'Juice' will be used to fertilise our garden.

Checklist

- Complete Enrolment Form, Child Health confirmation, Fees confirmation & Emergency Pamol Form & return to centre.
- Provide a copy if child/ren's birth certificate/passport
- Provide a copy of your child/ren's immunisation record
- Read through all out policies on Educa
- Organise payment method
- Have WINZ form filled out, if required
- 20 hours ECE if applicable





86 Kaurilands Road, Titirangi
kiddinn@xtra.co.nz

09 818-5062