

Connecting Steps

Ellerslie Village

163 Main Highway, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051

Ph: 09 579 7059

E: ellerslievillage@naturalsteps.co.nz

Kia Ora Parents, Whānau and Friends

Welcome to the end of term 2 for the year.

The weather has gotten a bit colder over the last few weeks, but there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing so we have been rugging up and getting outside to enjoy the fresh air and move our bodies.

I want to wish you all a Happy Matariki. Matariki is a time for remembrance, celebration and looking forward to the future. It's a time for family, togetherness and making memories. On my morning walks the last few days I have been looking out for the Matariki stars they say that the best time to see them is between 5.30am and 6.30am, I'm sure many of you are up at this time with your little one so take the time to have a look at the stars they are beautiful.

Over the next few months, we see many of our tamariki move onto "big" school, what an exciting time for these tamariki and their whānau. We would like to recognise these tamariki and all that they and their whānau have contributed to Natural Steps in their time here.

Happy School days to Simon, Cooper, Archer, Astrid and Rupert who will all leave us before the beginning of term 4.

***"He taonga te mokopuna, kia whāngaia,
kia tipu, kia rea."
A child is a treasure, to be nurtured, to grow,
to flourish.***

We welcome and value all queries, feedback or concerns that you may have. If you need to get in contact with myself or the team, or you would like to arrange a meeting, please email the centre at ellerslievillage@naturalsteps.co.nz otherwise phone on 09 579 7019

Ngā Mihi

Natasha Bankier
Centre Manager

Bachelor of Education (Teaching).
Full teacher Certification.



Keeping Up To Date



On **Storypark** you will find community posts from the centre as well as your child's assessments and photos. You can invite family members, comment on assessments, create your own stories, view and comment on classroom learning. We welcome parents input and feedback.

All tamariki **outines** are recorded on Storypark DAILY under the 'ROUTINES' section on your child's profile on Storypark. This includes food, nappy/toileting and sleep routines.

We make every effort to **talk** to every parent, every day. Parents and whānau are welcome to approach their child's teacher at any time. A **private one-on-one meeting** can be requested at any time should parents want to have a private discussion with the Head/Lead Teacher, Manager, or the Director. Please email the centre at ellerslievillage@naturalsteps.co.nz or call to arrange a time 095797019

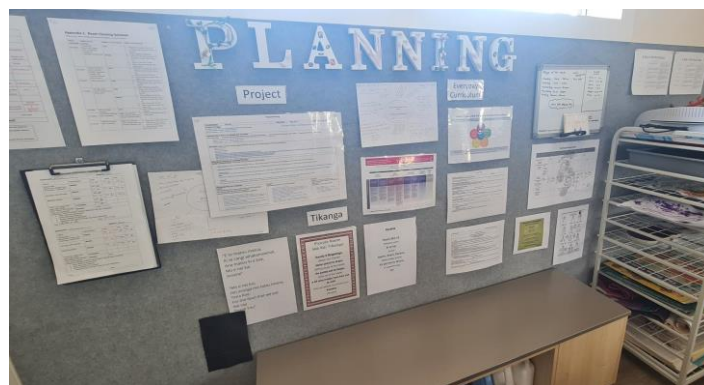
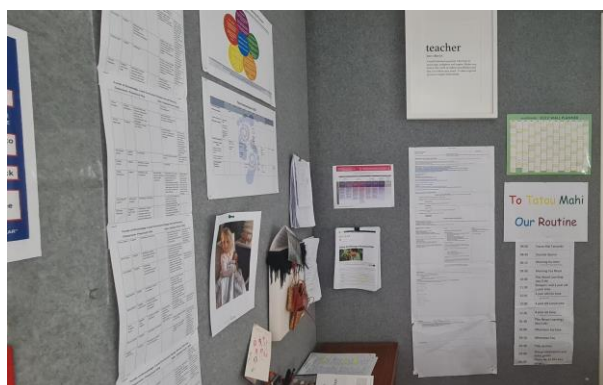


All **Centre Policies** are available on **Storypark** and are also available in our **Operation Manual** at Reception. Alternatively if you would like any policy emailed directly to you, please feel free to email the Centre at ellerslievillage@naturalsteps.co.nz

Thank you for all your feedback on our health and safety policies these have been updated and are now available on Storypark and in the operations manual in reception. At any time If you would like to share comments or feedback on any service policy, please email the centre or alternatively you can write your feedback in the comments section in our Operations Manual at reception.

This year we reviewed our centre philosophy. Thank you to all the whānau who shared feedback with us on our philosophy. A copy is in this newsletter if you have not had a chance to read over this yet. Next year we will be reviewing our curriculum policies. Please email the centre if you have any feedback you would like to share regarding these policies..

Room Planning: You can view the room planning in both the Piccolo and Preschool rooms. The room planning consists of both group and individual planning following current interests and projects within the rooms. The Kaiako in the Piccolo and Preschool rooms would love to hear your feedback on their group and individual planning and any funds of knowledge and whānau voice you would like to share with us.



Staff Information

Bambino Team



Ida- Head Kaiako
Bachelor of Education
(Teaching)



MuYun- Kaiako
Graduate diploma in
teaching (ECE)
Provisional Teacher
Certification



Mia- Kaiako
Bachelor of Teaching
(ECE)
Full Teacher
Certification

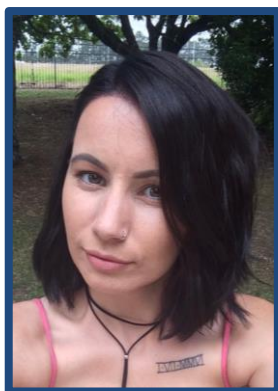


Aleisha-Part-time Kaiako
Bachelor of Education
(Teaching)
Provisional Teacher
Certification

Piccolo Team



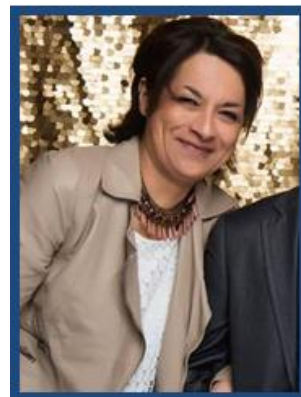
Abby-Rose- Kaiako
Bachelor of Education
(Teaching)
Full Teacher
Certification



Becca- Kaiako
Bachelor of Teaching
(ECE)
Provisional Teacher
Certification



Becca- Kaiako



**Tracee- Centre Cook
/Kaiako**
Food Safety Qualification

Preschool Team



**Stephen- Lead
Kaiako**
Bachelor of
Teaching (ECE)
Full Teacher
Certification



**Vicky- Lead
Kaiako**
Graduate diploma in
teaching (ECE)
Full Teacher
Certification



Dia-Kaiako
Bachelor of Education
(Teaching)
Provisional Teacher
Certification



Mazie- Kaiako
Graduate diploma in
teaching (ECE)
Provisional Teacher
Certification



Nova- Kaiako
Nova is in her final
year of study for a
Graduate diploma in
teaching (ECE)

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning in the Bambino room

Over June and July the Bambino Kaiako and tamariki have focused their group planning around loose parts in their environment. Through heuristic play and exploration of loose parts tamariki have a chance to explore and refine control and confidence over their bodies, particular their fine motor skills as they manipulate and move around objects in their hands.

Tamariki are given an environment where they can discover skills in being creative and expressive. For example, using loose parts such as chains or wooden rings as food whilst playing in the kitchen. This interest also encourages our young tamariki to develop skills in working alongside others as they learn to share and build relationships.

Teaching and learning in the Piccolo room

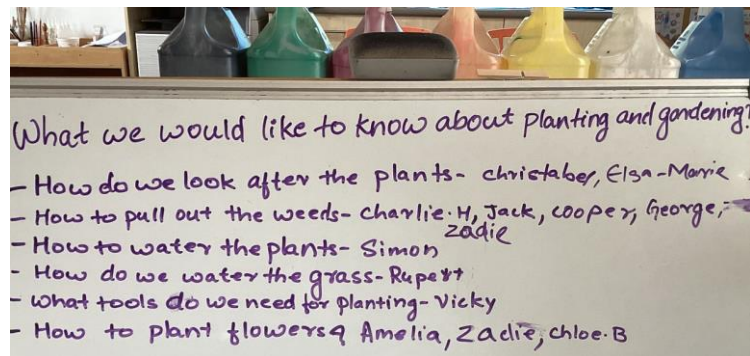
This term the Piccolo tamariki and Kaiako have been engaged in a project on communication and building their use of te reo. The project came from aspirations of whanau and tamariki interest in waiata and sign language. Through this project tamariki are to building their knowledge on being confident communicators through language and creative arts ,beginning to recognise print and mathematical symbols and concepts and using them meaningfully and purposefully.

With projects in the Piccolo room the Kaiako brainstorm at the beginning thinking about what the tamariki want to learn about during the project and what they are wondering. This helps Kaiako to make connections between people places and things in the worlds of our tamariki and plan mat times, table provocations and look at the language they use when communication with tamariki. Some of the questions the Kaiako came up with were: How can I further develop my language at transition time? Why do you speak differently from me? What can I learn from new stories?

Teaching and Learning in the Preschool room

The preschool team have been working through there 2nd project of the year "Exploring the Realm of Rongo." The idea for the project came from Rupert and Eloise when the bug project ended. Eloise wanted to learn how to plant a rose before she headed off to school and Rupert suggested planting as the next project idea. That alongside the ever-present enjoyment in being kitiaki and caring for our gardens started this project.

Planning for projects always starts off with talking to the tamariki about what they would like to learn, it is a great way to build their skills in reasoning and problem solving as well as learning alongside others.



Through this project the tamariki have been busy being confident communicators through language and creative art. Creating different flower art, learning what the worm we do for our garden, growing apple seeds and of course working with Stephen to come up with a plan on what they wanted to plant in the garden, it has been a great learning experience for them and it looks beautiful. Well done to Stephen for his creativity and working with the ideas of the Preschool tamariki.

Over the next few weeks there will be more learning focused on caring for the garden's and what that entails and of course how to keep ourselves safe from the thorns on the rose bush. Kaiako and tamariki have also been developing there knowledge around Māori atua and the different roles the atua play in caring for our garden's.

Teaching and Learning



Key Information

Graduation Ceremony

This is a special time and an important milestone in your child's life. We value the importance of celebrating & empowering tamariki in their journey to school. During our graduation ceremony tamariki sit up the front of the mat, choosing stories and are presented with a special graduation certificate and a photo with them wearing our kahu huruhuru Māori cloak. The cloak is only worn by our graduates. Such cloaks are held in the highest regard and worn with the highest form of respect. We ask parents do not provide food for the ceremony.

Birthday Celebrations

At Natural Steps birthdays are a very exciting time for children and it is important that children can celebrate these special occasions with their peers to acknowledge and appreciate this day with them. Children will enjoy a special birthday tray, with beautiful china plates and a special glass to drink out of for morning tea and afternoon tea. They will pick flowers or leaves from the garden to place in the vase that goes on the tray. There is a special candle that is lit for them when the children sing them Happy Birthday.

Lunch Box Day

Our 4 ½ year olds have lunch box day on Thursdays. We ask that you pack morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea for your child. This practice assists with preparing our tamariki for school, where we encourage discussion with them as to what they can eat for morning tea and what they can save for lunch and afternoon tea. We would also like to encourage that your child's lunchbox be as waste free as possible. We ask that when you are preparing your child's lunch box that this document is considered. Please follow the link below.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/reducing-food-related-choking-babies-young-children-early-learning-services-dec20.pdf>

Food & Drink Policy

A reminder that we do not allow food to be shared from home to the tamariki. This includes breakfasts, birthday & graduation cakes and ice blocks. We are a no nut environment. We have tamariki at the centre who have severe nut allergies. This includes muesli bars, spreads and bliss balls containing nuts. Please be mindful of others and ensure there is no food in your child's bag daily.

Changes of Clothes

Tamariki do get dirty, messy and wet at Centre. Toilet accidents can also happen so please provide your child with three changes of clothes. If your child is learning to use the toilet, we ask that you please pack additional clothes. All children are provided a Natural Steps wet bag upon enrolment. Wet bags can be purchased for \$5.00 from reception.

Gun boots and Jackets

With the change in the weather we do recommend making sure your child comes in each day with their gumboots and jackets as we do get outside in winter.

Carpark

Our carpark can be very busy at times. We ask you to be patient, take your time coming in and out, park at the front of the rows and to watch your tamariki when they are in the carpark.

Toys from Home

We are a well-resourced centre and kaiako provide for tamariki learning interests. Please refrain from bringing toys into the centre as they can cause disagreements and get lost and thus resulting in very upset tamariki. Please see your child's kaiako about sharing news.



Ehara taku toa I te toa takitahi Engari, he toa takitini



My successes are not mine alone, they are ours- the greatest successes we will have are from working together

Matariki Celebrations



Our Philosophy

Our Vision

A learning culture where everybody succeeds

Our Mission

To provide a quality learning environment that supports tamariki as competent and confident learners and communicators, healthy in, mind, body and spirit and to empower our community where parents, whanau, tamariki and kaiako work together to create a learning culture.

Our Philosophy

Tamariki have equitable opportunities to learn through a responsive curriculum that is consistent with Te Whāriki, the New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum.

Along with the use of Te Whāriki, the Emmi Pikler Approach, Reggio Emilia philosophy and pedagogy of growth mindset inspire and guide our practice.

Learning and development are supported through caring, learning-focused partnerships, we value whanaungatanga and connections.

Parents, whānau and tamariki contribute to our curriculum that recognises their culture, identity, language and aspirations.

Our teaching and learning practices enhance mana tamati and identity as successful learners.

Learning and development are supported through culturally responsive and intentional pedagogy.

We honour and acknowledge the unique place of Māori as tangata whenua of Aotearoa. Te reo Māori and tikanga Māori are valued and are an integral part of our teaching and learning, fostering success for Māori and all learners.

Our learning environment is viewed as the 'third teacher', it is stimulating, inviting and gives tamariki opportunities to explore and learn independently through a wide range of experiences

Kaitiakitanga is woven through our daily curriculum as tamariki learn to connect with nature, love the earth their role in caring for our natural environment.

Our Local Curriculum

Natural Steps Local Curriculum and Learning Priorities

Our local Curriculum is designed through deliberate decision making about **what matters here, priorities for learning, aspirations** and **values** that have been identified by kaiako, parents, whānau and tamariki.



The Statement of National Education and Learning Priorities (the NELP) is a set of priorities designed to guide all licensed early learning Centres, to focus their day-to-day work on things that will have a significant positive impact for children and young people. The NELP priorities are used alongside our centre local priorities.

<https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/NELP-TES-documents/FULL-NELP-2020.pdf>