

TOWER ROAD CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Teaching Practices.

Tower Road Christian Preschool is a caring and safe place where preschool tamariki are given scope and encouragement to develop the attitudes and skills they need for lifelong learning.

Tamariki are unique individuals who are created in the image of God and we care for the spiritual, emotional, social, intellectual and physical health of each child. We respect that individuals may come from diverse cultural heritages. We acknowledge the special place of Māori as tangata whenua and recognise te reo Māori as an official language of New Zealand.

We believe faith in God enhances learning and seek to provide opportunities for tamariki to develop their own personal relationship with God through the natural environment, Bible stories and prayer.

We provide a stimulating environment that encourages the development of confident and competent learners according to the principles of Te Whāriki, the New Zealand early childhood education curriculum.

We recognise parents as a child's first teachers and encourage links between the home and preschool. We work with whānau to see their tamariki grow inquiring minds and develop social competencies so that they are equipped to continue their learning in the school environment.

We seek open and reciprocal communication in all interactions, be it between tamariki and teachers, parents, board members or the wider community. We model and encourage respect for God, self, and others in everything that we do.

Learning is an ongoing process for teachers and parents as well as tamariki, therefore we are committed to ensuring teachers grow in their own professional practice through individual and group self-review, and current educational research and best practice. We endeavour to provide parents with opportunities for learning about current educational ideas and practice to enhance their understanding and involvement in their tamariki's learning.

The Treaty of Waitangi.

Our tamariki will be encouraged to respect and appreciate the culture and values of Māori people, and their special place as Tangata Whenua through the principals of partnership in Te tiri o Waitangi – specifically in relation to our local communities cultural heritage and history.

Developmental Outcomes.

Emotional

Our tamariki will be creative and self-expressive with the confidence to take risks and problem solve, and be able to vocalise their needs. e.g. "I have a sore toe".

They will grow in resilience, perseverance and self discipline through the understanding of their identity in the arms of a faithful, loving and providing God

Social

Our tamariki will learn to respect others and be forgiving.

They will learn to play well alongside others, be accepting of them, be confident and competent speakers and listeners, and to take turns.

They will learn to follow instructions and work within acceptable limits, routines and boundaries.

Spiritual

Our tamariki will develop a sense that they are unique, special, made by God in His image and are loved by Him.

They will grow in the fruits of the spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

They will help others by being good kind and loving just like Jesus.

They will participate in praying to God and begin to become familiar with the Bible.

Physical

Our tamariki will be physically active, learn to take risks with safety and develop basic hand/eye coordination skills - e.g climbing or swinging, kicking and throwing a ball etc.

They will learn to take responsibility for their own gear, carrying and stowing their bag, putting away clothing/shoes etc and eating out of a lunch box etc.

They will be able to dress, put on shoes and toilet themselves.

Intellectual

Learning through play, our tamariki will develop early reading, writing and maths skills, learn to recognise some colours and shapes, learn basic counting and to write their name.

They will develop early problem solving skills, listen to and tell stories and focus on and complete tasks.

Basis.

As a Christ centred Bible based organisation which is part of the Peria Christian Education Inc (PCE) educational group, our fundamental beliefs, values, ideals, aims and objectives are those contained in the statement of faith, definitions of marriage and gender, and Core Values and Core purpose statements of the Association.

Core Values.

- A caring, praying community united in Jesus Christ
- Enthusiastic and actively involved families
- A heart obedient to the Lord
- A spirit of perseverance, resilience and self discipline
- Respect for self, others and those in authority
- Quality, Christ centred, Bible based education
- A well maintained physical environment and resources

Core Purpose.

In partnership with parents, within an educational environment, encourage lifelong discipleship of Jesus Christ by providing opportunities to:

- Gain knowledge and understanding of all things based on the truth of His Word. (Prov: 1-7)
- Gain faith that transforms into the likeness of God (Rom: 12-2)
- Gain hope in an eternal relationship with God through Jesus Christ that is firmly rooted in a deep reverence of Him (Eph 3: 17-20)
- Gain confidence to achieve all things through Christ who strengthens (Phil 4:13)

The Character of the Child.

We hold to the view that rather than being born blank slates or empty vessels (John Locke), or basically good (Jean-Jacques Rousseau), children's characters can be better understood through the following step by step unfolding Biblical view (Dr Richard Edlin), which indicates that while children require freedom to develop their individuality, they also benefit from guidance and discipline.

- a. The recognition that the child is a special creation, made in God's own image, and with the universal human desire to search for the transcendent (Acts 17:27). Boys and Girls, each with their own divinely ordained creativity and sexual identities, have tremendous talents, imagination and capabilities, and also possess a God given stewardly authority to shape culture in a truth-filled, God honouring way.
- b. To acknowledge that all human beings – including children – are inheritors of the sin of Adam and Eve, and thus are now naturally disposed to sinful, idolatrous choices and lifestyles that forlornly attempt to put themselves in God's place (Romans 1:25) and move away from God and hope-filled living.
- c. To understand that in Jesus Christ, God has offered an exclusive, redemptive path back to peace with Him, open to all who put their trust in Christ as Lord and Saviour.
- d. Christian schools nurture children to learn about the world and their places and tasks in it in the light of this Biblically-founded understanding of humanity, developing them spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially and intellectually.