

# Philosophy

## Welcome to Eden Cottage 'Aroha mai, aroha atu'

At Eden Cottage each child and their whānau/family can participate in a play-based, nurturing, educational environment that is founded on Christian principles such as:

- **Aroha** (compassion, faith-led, love)
- **Whanaungatanga** (authentic relationships, collaboration)
- **Manaakitanga** (holistic care)
- **Mana** (dignity, justice)

We encourage a sense of community within Eden Cottage by valuing our families and embracing all cultures, striving to ensure our programme is equitable and meaningful to all.

We believe that outcomes for children are best when centre management, educators and parents/guardians work in partnership. We provide opportunities for parent/guardian participation and contribution through voicing their aspiration for their children, cultural events, and the Whānau Forum.

We work alongside our families to support each child's emotional, physical spiritual, social intellectual development through the provision of age-appropriate learning experiences. We foster and encourage the development of social competency skills such as empathy, respect, collaboration, and kindness.

We respect *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* and work towards extending and providing children an understanding of Tikanga Māori and te reo Māori. In practice we implement this through: waiata (songs), karakia (prayer), kapu (phrases) and the celebration of Matariki. We acknowledge Māori as tangata whenua (people of the land) and welcome their participation and aspirations for our Māori tamariki.

Our programme is based on the New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum *Te Whariki*, which empowers children to be initiators of their own learning. As teachers we notice, recognise, and respond to children's individual interests and provide experiences that extend their learning and development.