

The Preschool Programme

Christian Character underpins all aspects of the curriculum at Cornerstone Christian Preschool (see “Philosophy – Statement of Special Character). This is woven together with New Zealand’s Early Childhood Curriculum, Te Whāriki, and is the foundation for learning. Christian faith and principles are integrated fully within each area of the programme.

The programme is play based, with a small number of group times; the importance of play is understood, as this is where the most significant learning happens. The curriculum follows the children’s interests, and is developmentally appropriate for each child. Children are helped to develop dispositions for learning, such as perseverance, resilience, creativity, turn-taking, etc.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

The programme acknowledges Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and the individual heritage of all akonga (learners).

The Preschool partners with parents and whanau, and each child’s unique cultural identity and heritage is valued and treasured. The children and teachers enjoy singing waiata, and karakia is an integral part of each day.



Social Competence is Strongly Supported

Relationship with God and with one another is a key foundation of the Preschool. The development of solid friendships is encouraged, and strategies to build social competence and resilience are actively modelled and taught. Positive behaviour management strategies are used by all the teachers, with all children developing a “kete of tools” for managing their emotions, handling conflict, and responding in appropriate ways. This is based on the *Incredible Years* Programme (Ministry of Education).

Oral Communication and Language Learning

Learning to communicate and hold sustained conversations is an area critical to learning, both at the early childhood level and far beyond. This is an emphasis within the centre. Every child is encouraged and supported to develop communication skills, both verbal and non-



verbal (including some New Zealand Sign Language), extend their vocabulary, and to love language learning. This supports a child's journey to the school years. The teachers are trained to recognise each child's communication style and level of language development, in order to progress children in this area (based on the Hanen Programme).

Literacy, Numeracy and Science

Literacy, math and science are evident all around us, both in the natural world and in the preschool environment. A print-rich environment is provided: literacy and numeracy are highly valued areas of the curriculum, and are encouraged in all areas of the curriculum. An interest in science is fostered, children are encouraged to be curious, ask questions and investigate their world. This is science in a meaningful context, relevant to children's everyday living and learning.

The Creative Arts

The Preschool recognises that God has made all people creative; this is seen in many different forms. As part of this, active exploration of the creative arts is encouraged: the children are encouraged to enjoy different art and music activities, and are given time and space to explore and develop their creativity in many areas.

S.T.E.A.M.

S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) is an integral part of the curriculum, and spans all areas of learning. All children are encouraged to experiment with various mediums to explore and learn about the world that God has created for us to enjoy. Along the way children are provided with challenge, to encourage problem solving, creative thinking, and the ability to think at a higher level and to ask more complex questions. This supports and promotes deeper understanding. The level of challenge is constantly increased in order to develop these abilities.

A Culture of Inclusion is Fostered

The Preschool has a strong culture of inclusion: all children are highly valued, weaving in their ethnic and cultural identity, differing circumstances, need, or ability. Children with additional needs are welcomed, their contribution is highly valued. The development of empathy and compassion is encouraged in all children, and a very high level of inclusion is fostered.



Caring for the Planet

The world is regarded as a special place, needing to be cared for and looked after; we have a God-given responsibility to be good stewards. Children are strongly encouraged to foster positive attitudes towards sustainability, and are actively taught about recycling, reusing resources and materials, and reducing waste. Wherever possible, recycled resources are used.

Wellbeing

The Preschool recognises the need for physical, emotional, spiritual and mental wellbeing for all children. Children are therefore encouraged to be strong in body, mind, soul and spirit, to develop resilience and safe ways of coping. Healthy eating is valued; healthy food for morning tea and lunch is strongly encouraged, and water only is drunk. The Preschool is totally nut-free and lolly free. Children are encouraged to be active, and all opportunities are given for outdoor active play, and active movement is part of the programme. This impacts on mental health and wellbeing, and is fundamental to effective learning.