



## **Transition to School**

Transition to school is a critical part of the education journey. The Preschool supports children and their whanau in this process. This makes for a smooth transition for children and families, with the least possible disruption to children's learning. There are several primary schools that our children transition to, although many children move through to the school onsite, Cornerstone Christian School.

### **Connections with Cornerstone Christian School**

There are close connections between the Cornerstone Christian Preschool and Cornerstone Christian School. Each term there are visits to and from the school, and the children regularly take part in activities, such as the Junior School assembly, "Book Week" and "Cultures Day". Whenever appropriate, the school children are invited to share their interests with the preschool children, e.g. Kapa Haka Group, instrumental groups etc.

As the school is next door, the school environment is very familiar. The preschool teachers regularly take children for walks within the immediate vicinity. This is a great way to maintain friendships with children who have recently started school, and to introduce the children to the school learning environment.

### **Transition to School Profiles**

Before each child starts school, a Transition to School Profile is developed: this highlights areas of competence and skill, along with indicating areas of continuing development. Children are invited to contribute to these, by writing a letter to the school teacher outlining what they would like the school to know about them, and sharing their strengths and interests. Children's language level and communication styles are also identified (based on the Hanen Programme). The purpose of these transition profiles is that the school new entrant teachers are informed about children's strengths and competencies before they start, that each family's culture is recognised and respected, and children have a record of strengths and interests readily available to revisit whenever needed. Children and their families are invited to take these to their new school to share with their new teacher.

### **School Visits**

The teachers encourage parents/caregivers of children starting school to visit the school they plan to attend with their parents/caregivers/whānau. When needed, the Preschool supports families to make initial contact with schools, which can ease the process for some.