

Adventure Kindergarten



The team at Adventure Kindergarten

Head teacher – Jo Redmond

Teacher – Clare Murphy

Teacher – Angela Stobo

Teacher – Di Amos

Office administrator –
Debbie Webb

Tira Waka/Voyagers Group

Mā tou rourou, Mā tōku rourou, ka ora ia te iwi
With your basket my basket will nourish the people

Information for parents about Adventure Kindergarten

Welcome to Adventure Kindergarten. We've put some information together to provide a snapshot of our programme, day and opportunities for whānau involvement so that you know what to expect and how you can be involved in your child's learning.

1. What is unique about our programme?

Adventure Kindergarten has provision for three groups of children. While one group is designated for younger members, two are designed for the older children. You may have noticed a definite theme in the local area of Whitby, which is closely tied to explorers and nautical journeys. Therefore, we have tied the kaupapa for each group closely with this local theme.

- **Tira Waka/The Voyagers Group**

Waka, of course, is a Māori word that means 'vehicle' that you journey in ... like a boat or car. In this case it is Adventure Kindergarten! We see all learning as a voyage of discovery in this community of learners. We believe that families, qualified teachers and children are all teachers and learners. This affords children a huge range of opportunities to be teachers as well as learners due to the age range of the children they are able to work with. The whakatauki for this group refers to the cooperation and the combination of resources that enables us to all move forward and achieve to our full potential. We believe that the children in this group will be encouraged to develop their own journeys, not only by consolidating their ideas by teaching what they know, but by individual learning

and with a wide range of peers in their age range. The philosophy of this group is to provide the children in this group with a significant amount of opportunity to develop leadership skills and a tuakana teina/peer tutoring role, as the mixed age group on Tuesday and Thursday will afford the children opportunities to take responsibility for their own welfare, teach what they know to others, model skilled social approaches and thinking skills.

2. What is a 'portfolio'? (prepared for each child while at kindergarten)

Your child's portfolio is a collection of documentation about the significant and meaningful learning that they are experiencing. It reflects Wellington Region Free Kindergarten Association's (WRFKA's) Criteria for Curriculum Implementation document 'Te Manawa'. These criteria have been designed to support teachers to effectively research, collaborate, facilitate and document the complex processes of learning happening in our kindergarten. Your child's portfolio reflects the uniqueness of your child and is designed to be an in-depth and multiple-perspective look at your child's journey of learning. We value your thoughts on your child's learning and invite you to contribute to their portfolio. The information from you, your child and from us is used to plan how we can support children's learning.

3. What food do parents need to provide?

Please provide a named lunch box with sufficient food for your child's session. Water is available throughout the session. Please bring a named water bottle for your child, which they are able to fill from our water cooler. Our programme includes baking opportunities which introduce children to food derivation, ingredients and technology. If your child has any allergies or intolerances please let us know- we are a NUT FREE ZONE. Our kindergarten has a healthy food policy and the details of this are in the *Food and Drink Procedure*.

4. What is our routine around food?

During the morning the children are able to access their lunch boxes for morning tea whenever they choose throughout the session. We remind them to wash their hands and they then sit at the kai table near the kitchen.

5. How do we start the day at the kindergarten?

This is a time when we welcome the children, families and whānau. Upon arrival at 8.45am you are required to sign your child into the session. There is a cloakroom area and a 'Find your name' board and this is a great time to empower your child in developing their independence skills in identifying their name, hanging up their bag, and putting their lunchbox on the shelf. Your child is then able to freely explore the environment.

6. How are parents involved in our kindergarten?

Along with engaging with us about your child's learning we invite you to become involved in our kindergarten community. You are welcome to stay during our sessions and spend time with the children. There is always tea and coffee available so feel free to help yourself. We welcome your ideas and feedback.

7. What other tasks can parents do to help at kindergarten?

Throughout the year we invite parents and whānau to help with our end of term clean ups, maintaining the grounds/working bees, supporting fundraising events and accompanying the children on trips away from the kindergarten.

8. Does our kindergarten have a committee group?

Our Committee supports the kindergarten by fundraising, applying for grants, undertaking small maintenance tasks and supporting the teaching team. Parents and whānau find that being on the committee is a great way to meet people and to become more involved in our community. New members can join at any time. If you are interested please let us know.

9. Does our kindergarten provide a sunhat and sunscreen and what are our routines around sun safety?

We ask you to apply sunscreen before your child comes in the morning and for your child to bring a named sunhat. We do have some spare hats and on our longer sessions we will reapply sunscreen after lunchtime. Children wear sun hats outside during the summer, Term 4 and Term 1, and we actively remind children to keep their hats on.

10. What are our toilet routines?

If your child needs help to go to the toilet or is using nappies please let the teachers know. We will work together to support your child to become independent with their toileting. If your child is using nappies please keep a supply in their bag. When we change child a record is kept and a copy is placed in your child's information pocket or in their bag.

11. What community partnerships does our kindergarten have?

We support the Ministry of Health Vision and Hearing technicians who come in to kindergarten twice yearly. The coordinators for the B4 School Check health programme carry out their checks in the year prior to each child starting school and they also come twice a year. With our proximity to Adventure Primary School, we regularly meet their teaching team to support a smooth transition for the children into school. This is a 10 week programme, where the children attend a pre-entry session every Friday, culminating in longer stays at school in the last week before they turn 5. We also feed into Pauatahanui, Discovery and St Theresa's School and have brochures for these which are kept in our parent library.

Please bring the following named items to kindergarten each day:

- A back pack with a change of clothes and additional items like a jacket that are relevant to the season.
- Food in a named lunch box and drink bottle (water only), that your child is able to fill using our water cooler.

Please make sure your child is dressed in **appropriate play clothing**. Some of our activities encourage or involve messy play.

Helping your child settle in to kindergarten

There are several things you can do to help your child prepare for kindergarten. Usually there will be a period of several weeks from when you get notified of a place at kindergarten and when your child starts. During this time, we suggest you:

1. Visit kindergarten and spend time familiarising your child with the environment, teachers and children (ring ahead to make sure there are no special events planned for that day).
2. Point out the kindergarten when you drive past and talk to them about what activities they might do and which friends are there.
3. Talk about the teachers by name.

Prior to starting, or on your child's first day, talk to the teachers and work out a settling plan. Each child is different so they will need differing levels of support or time to settle independently into a new environment.

(Note - you will find more useful information on our Association website – www.wn-kindergarten.org.nz)

Attending kindergarten

It is really important that your child attends kindergarten for the hours agreed within your enrolment agreement. Not only do teachers plan their programmes around the children attending each session but ECE funding is provided on the basis of a child's regular and timely attendance at kindergarten. Parents, whānau or caregivers need to sign your child in and out each day. Kindergartens must provide this information as part of the ECE funding process. It also provides key safety information in the event of an emergency (as to who is in attendance at kindergarten). Please talk to your teaching team if you have unavoidable reasons for your child not regularly attending kindergarten.

Managing sickness

Please have a plan in place in case your child becomes ill and needs to be collected from kindergarten. If not yourselves, please nominate an alternative person who can collect your child as soon as possible after being notified. There are times we may ask for children to stay away from kindergarten for a period of time after their symptoms have cleared (for example gastro illnesses). For vomiting and diarrhoea this means a clear 48 hours after the last incident.

Fundraising

Our kindergartens thrive with the support of parents, whānau and committees. Initiatives or events organised by committees provide funds which go toward making each kindergarten a rich and engaging learning environment. Whether your involvement is at a committee level, actively assisting committee initiatives or attending events, your participation is central to making fundraising efforts a success for your kindergarten.

Policies and Procedures

To operate in New Zealand, every Early Childhood Education service must meet strict Ministry of Education regulations. Each of our kindergartens has a Policy and Procedure booklet which relates to the attendance and welfare of your child. You are welcome to view these at any time.

Excursions

From time to time the children will be taken on short walks near and around the kindergarten. Parents are asked for permission for short walks during enrolment. As part of the learning programme, children may be taken on longer excursions, and your permission will be sought on each occasion. Parents and caregivers are welcome to join us. Please read the kindergartens excursion policy for more information.

Enjoy your time at Kindergarten

We hope you will find your time at kindergarten a 'family affair' and feel welcome to spend time with your child, as an individual, with younger siblings or extended family members. A key aspect of our learning programme is the ongoing collaboration and connection with whānau so it's important to us to foster strong relationships with you.