

# Tui Play

*"Whāngaia ka tupu, ka puāwai."*

"That which is nurtured, grows and blossoms."

We view children as capable, competent, life-long learners. Our ECE learning philosophy encourages children to make their own learning choices, problem solve, observe and explore at their own pace, with support from teachers, parents, wider whānau and their peers. We value the importance of child initiated, play based experiences - [play is children's work!](#)

## OUR TUI VALUES:

**Inclusiveness** - Everyone join in. By embracing diversity, we learn from each other and about ourselves.

**Enjoyment** – Let the children play - We believe that children learn best through play. Hence, we allow our children the time to be children. As they will never pass this way of life again.

**Learning through senses-** We weave sensory experience almost through everything we do in the Tui (Toddler's) Room because we believe that learning through sensory exploration comes naturally to toddlers. This makes sense when we consider that the skills they'll come to rely on to build an understanding of objects, spaces, people and interactions are yet to be fully developed.



Here in Tui Room we also believe that sensory activities, in addition to being fun and interesting for toddlers, also encourage them to explore and investigate. Furthermore, these activities support children to use the 'scientific method' of observing, forming a hypothesis, experimenting and making conclusions.



**Children at our heart** - The richest forms of play are usually those which are child led, initiated by the little wonderers, either playing alone by exploring the real world or their imaginary world, or by role playing socially with friends.



**Educational development** - Can't and won't stand still - Early childhood education is multi-faceted and constantly evolving, and we're restless to discover new insights, and innovative ways of improving both teaching and learning. Currently, we are focussing on **Schemas** (*natural, uncontrollable* and totally *necessary* play-urges that **all** children have) in children's play to understand them so that we can facilitate them when we see them.



During our mat times, we teach Waiata (Maori songs) to children to lay the basic foundation of numbers, colours, shapes and sizes. We also focus on skills such as rhyming. Children are encouraged to participate in action songs and poi dancing as well. Children love to learn new Te Reo Maori songs.

**Community belonging** - Our place - They are all our children. They deserve a special place in their community that is safe, secure and joyful, and where families and teachers can come together to share in their early upbringing.



**Natural and authentic** - Our Tui Toddlers love to come out to play in the fresh air. We feel, a natural garden environment is essential for free-range fun and development. It's the way it has always been, and we'll never let that go. Our experienced teachers make sure that the outdoor experience is interesting and provocative enough for the toddlers to take the agency of their own learning.

## What our Outdoor Space offers?

When they are outside, children have the freedom to shout and make noise, run, jump, explore, the space which sparks their imaginations. Children can also be messier outdoors, which encourages them to be more creative and to try things out and experiment. Children get opportunities to develop their gross motor skills and social competence by playing together in the sandpit, messy play corner, easel paint area and water play area.

In the Toddlers' section, we focus on **theme based outdoor set ups** depending on children's interests and schemas on the daily basis, for instance, "Dinosaur park", "Construction Site," "Dairy", "shop" "Mud Kitchen" set ups in the sand pit, water play with varieties of provocations like, "loose parts," "floating toys", "water wheels and boats", "washing utensils", "bathing dolls" and so on.

