



Team Philosophy

Just Kids Bickerton is a community-based preschool where **family & whānau** are at the forefront of what we do and what we believe in.

We acknowledge the **diversity** of our community and aim to work in encouraging ways, which ensures every child feels accepted and included within our centre. We honour **Te Tiriti o Waitangi** and aspire to weave **te reo and tikanga practices** throughout our daily programme.

We believe in developing warm, caring and **reciprocal relationships** as the foundation of our work with young children, whānau and the community. We see the concept of **Ako** important in all that we do, as children of varied ages and strengths learn with and alongside each other.

We support **open communication** and aim to welcome, include and respond to the beliefs and aspirations of each child and their whānau. Children's home **language, culture** and **identity** is acknowledged, **respected** and **represented** within our environment.

We **believe** that parents and whānau are their child's first teachers and that each child brings with them individuality, **unique** learning characteristics and **culture** from their home. We believe that to work is to play, to play is to learn and to learn is to live. Through play, we aim to provide children with the **foundations** that they will need for **successful future learning**, therefore **free play** is a fundamental feature of our programme.

Our teachers work as a **professional team** who value one another, and ensure that all children have a **sense of belonging** and that they grow in **confidence**, knowing what they bring to this world.

Ako – Means to both teach & to learn.

Te Reo – Maori language.

Tikanga – Maori traditional rules & culture.