

# CULTURE & IDENTITY POLICY

At this centre we acknowledge and reflect the unique place of Maori as tangata whenua and ensure that all children have the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the dual cultural heritage of New Zealand.

We understand that parents and children who are Maori (or claim Maori ancestry) are entitled to the same benefit and privilege as others along with respect for cultural differences and aspirations.

*This Centre recognizes that those staff, parents and children who are Maori or claim Maori ancestry are unique in that they may be ancestors of those who were signatories to the Treaty of Waitangi and/or those people who first settled in New Zealand.*

In accordance with the Treaty text and New Zealand law, they are entitled to equal benefit and privilege and equal respect for their individual differences and needs, including any cultural aspirations they may have.

The 'principle of partnership' is interpreted to mean that each of the signatory parties and their ancestors and subsequent immigrants to New Zealand are subject to the same responsibility and entitled to the same benefit under law as each other and that each citizen is entitled to be respected as an equal partner in this society.

This statement will be made available to parents, staff or official visitors on request.

This policy will be taken into account, by management, when implementing policies, objectives and practices at the Centre.

## **Reference and key text. Licensing Criteria 2008:**

- **C5:** The service curriculum acknowledges and reflects the unique place of Maori as tangata whenua. Children are given the opportunity to develop knowledge and an understanding of the cultural heritages of both parties to Te Tiriti o Waitangi;

- **C6:** The service curriculum respects and supports the right of each child to be confident in their own culture and encourages children to understand and respect other cultures.
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**Responsibility for Policy review: Manager**

**Who will be consulted: Committee, Parents/Whanau, Staff**

**Scheduled review: once every 2 year**

Reviewed May 2009

Reviewed August 2011.

Next Review March 2013