

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Nettie Riley Kindergarten

#### **What age can a child start?**

This Kindergarten is licenced for children aged 2 to 5 years old.

#### **Can I enrol my child before they turn 2?**

Yes you can pre-enrol your child anytime and go on the waiting list. We will contact you when your child reaches the right age to start and there is a space available for them to attend.

#### **How much are the fees?**

We offer full day and sessional rates. To learn more about what these rates are, please contact us at [nettieriley@huttkindergartens.org.nz](mailto:nettieriley@huttkindergartens.org.nz) or call 04 567 0142.

#### **Why are the fees different from the other Kindergartens?**

Nettie Riley Kindergarten offers an all day, all year service which differs to our other 19 Kindergartens. This is reflected in the different fee structure.

#### **Are the children all in the same space together, regardless of age?**

Yes all children share the Kindergarten spaces and we do not separate areas by age groups. However there are learning areas and quiet spaces for children to utilise.

#### **Do you close during school holidays?**

No this Kindergarten is an all year service and we do not close for term breaks. We will be open 237 days a year, with a two week closure period over the Christmas/ New Year and on public holidays.

#### **What are the minimum number of hours?**

We require children to be enrolled for a minimum of three full days a week (8.30am – 2.30pm).

#### **Is there a set sleep time?**

If your child requires a sleep at Kindergarten we will work with you to have a plan that best suits your child. Some children will require a sleep at the same time each day while others will sleep as needed. We will be flexible to accommodate each child's individual needs.

#### **What is your teacher and children ratio?**

We employ 100% qualified and registered teachers, and adhere to the Ministry of Education ratio of 1:10.

### **Does my child need to be toilet trained before starting?**

We do not require children to be toilet trained before starting Kindergarten. If your child wears nappies you will need to provide enough in their bag each day or supply bulk to be stored at Kindergarten. When your child is ready to be toilet trained our teachers will work in partnership with you to best support your child during this stage. Please speak to the Senior Head Teacher if you would like to read our nappy and changing policy.

### **Do I need to pack a lunchbox or is food provided?**

You will need to provide a lunchbox daily to meet your child's nutritional needs. If your child starts at 7.30am and you would like them to have breakfast at Kindergarten you are welcome to provide us with the food to give your child when they arrive.

### **What does my child learn at kindergarten?**

Whether playing in the sandpit, dressing up, climbing and jumping, solving a puzzle or painting a picture, your child will experience a wide range of activities at kindergarten, all of which provide valuable learning opportunities.

The belief in a child's right to play is at the heart of all our programmes and although it might look like children are 'just playing' our teachers are constantly providing new and challenging experiences, based on children's interests, that will lead them into new areas of learning.

In play children construct their understanding of the world through direct experience with it. As they play at Kindergarten they will learn to work alongside others – to share and cooperate, make friends and ask for help. They will also develop independence and essential learning skills such as concentration, perseverance, creativity and curiosity.

### **Are the teachers qualified?**

Yes. All our teachers are fully qualified, with a minimum of a Diploma in Early Childhood Teaching (ECE). They are also certificated and registered with the New Zealand Education Council and hold current First Aid certificates.

Our teachers also engage in ongoing Professional Learning and Development to keep them up to date with current theories and teaching practices.

### **How do you support children with individual needs?**

If your child has special learning or developmental needs, we'll work closely with you to provide them with the very best learning opportunities. We also have strong connections with a number of agencies and specialists who can offer additional support for you and your child.

This Kindergarten has a sensory space, providing a quiet area equipped with calming lighting and resources. Please talk to the Senior Head Teacher if you have any queries or concerns in this regard.

**If you have any further questions about Nettie Riley Kindergarten, please contact us on 04 567 0142 or email [nettieriley@huttkindergartens.org.nz](mailto:nettieriley@huttkindergartens.org.nz)**

