

KINDERGARTEN PROFILE – NEWFIELD KINDERGARTEN

Roll: 30/20

Hours: 8.15 am to 4.15 pm. Session times 8.30am – 12.30pm, 12.30pm – 2.30pm

Community Statement

Our suburb of Invercargill is an older residential area. House prices make it attractive to first home buyers and there are also a large number of rental properties. We have a large pre-school community and because the kindergarten is situated close to Newfield Park School we have an average age of entry that is over 3 years.

Our kindergarten enjoys good community support and involvement. We have a core group of enthusiastic, hard working parents who support the kindergarten and teachers. We are an Enviroschools Kindergarten.

Current Kindergarten Philosophy

The current team promote a philosophy of nurturing and loving the families and children we work with. Our teaching has been influenced by the work of neuroscientists and research in field of attachment, working with children from chaotic homes, and the effects of trauma on the brain.

We have also adopted a teaching style that reflects all that neuroscience has shown in recent years about 'learning for life'.

The current team flavours the kindergarten with a passion for:

- Understanding children's behaviour and what lies behind it. We believe that it is important to know our children and their families well so we can best support their learning. We also strongly believe in the statement – "They won't care about what you know until they know you care about them" therefore safe, trusting relationships with everyone is our most important aim.
- We use Incredible Years strategies to support our strong programme of social and emotional competence for children.
- Art and creativity supporting literacy
- Habits of the mind
- Music and dance
- Challenging outdoor play environments
- A love of the natural environment
- Adopting sustainable living practices and environmental education
- Biculturalism

Key Features of the Kindergarten

We have a Parent/Family room as part of the building that has a kitchenette and baby/toddler toys. It is used for coffee mornings, workshops, meetings and social gatherings. We often have a busy kindergarten with lots of little ones around. Wider whanau and past families drop into the kindergarten to have a cuppa and catch-up.

We often have a number of support persons in the kindergarten either Teacher Aides, Early Intervention Workers, Specialist Service Workers.

We have a large, exciting, natural outdoor playground presenting lots of challenges for children in its nooks and crannies. The playground reflects our love of nature and the natural environment of Aotearoa.

We are well resourced and have an attractive, inviting environment.

We have strong links with local schools and agencies.