

Job Title: Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature Teacher

Position Type: Permanent

Based at: Myross Road

Reports To: General Manager

Kindergartens South:

The aim of Kindergartens South is to promote and provide Early Childhood Education and to establish and operate Early Childhood Education Services. There are 23 Kindergartens throughout Southland communities - Invercargill, Gore, Te Anau, Riverton, Winton, Longbush, Drummond and Bluff. Our philosophy is "Where kids can be kids."

Purpose of the Role:

The purpose of the Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature Teacher role is: *to provide experiences in Nature so that children grow an ecological identity and develop an understanding of kaitiakitanga.*

Principal foci of the role are:

1. *Learning and teaching:* Deliver a curriculum that reflects current understanding of sound and effective practice and ensure that day-to-day practice is aligned to the policies and procedures of Kindergartens South
2. *Team Responsibilities:* Participate in relevant administration and operational planning to support effective practice and foster collaboration with other staff involved in Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature
3. *Relationships:* Foster positive relationships with children, teachers, parents/whanau and organisations.

The Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature Teacher role is pivotal to the success and experience children have at the Myross Road site.

Responsibilities:

The Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature Teacher is engaged in the day to day operation of the Myross Rd site working with the children, teachers and their parents/whanau where possible. The Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature Teacher's responsibilities are as follows:

Learning and teaching

- Ensure the programme at Myross Rd reflects current approaches to effective teaching and learning and is aligned to the intent of Te Whariki - the Ministry of Education's early childhood curriculum document
- Adhere to educational standards and criteria as outlined in:
 - EDUCANZ Code of Professional Responsibility and Standards for the Teaching Profession
 - Kindergartens South Operational Policies and Procedures
 - Early Childhood Education Services Regulations 2008 and the Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education 2008
- Model responsibility for and commitment to Te Ao Maori concepts especially in relation to Paptuanuku
- Participate in research projects and presentations as required
- Have an indepth knowledge of plants, trees, insects and birds
- Assessment, planning and documentation of teaching and learning in the Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature programme

Team responsibilities

- Participate in relevant administration and operational planning to support effective practice
- Collaborate with other staff, teachers and organisations to ensure rich and rewarding learning experiences for children at Myross Rd
- Actively participate in Professional Learning opportunities within and outside of Kindergartens South

Relationships

- Maintain a partnership with Business Development Manager, Senior Teacher, relevant community organisations, teachers from kindergartens using Myross Rd, parents/whanau and discuss how they might provide the best outcomes for children at Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature
- Ensure information remains confidential and reflects professional conduct and related policy and procedure documents

The Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature Teacher may need to complete tasks other than those listed above, as delegated by the General Manager.

Functional relationships:

Functional relationships refer to the key people and organisations that the Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature Teacher will work with. The Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature Teacher reports to the Senior Teacher overseeing Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature. This role requires sound collaboration with other teaching staff.

External relationships must also be maintained with:

- Parents, family and whanau
- Kindergartens South leadership, management and teachers
- Relevant organisations

Person Specification:

The Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature Teacher plays a vital role within Kindergartens South as the kaitiaki of the Myross Rd property and the nature based learning and teaching that takes place there. This role requires the demonstration of sound interpersonal and relationship building capability and the ability to work independently. The Taiao Tuhura/Discovering Nature Teacher needs to have:

- Teacher Qualifications, preferably Early Childhood, including registration with EDUCANZ
- Proven ability to manage work-flow through being well organised and flexible in approaching day to day activities
- Willingness to maintain sector knowledge and identify own professional learning needs
- Commitment to sharing knowledge and learning with children and other teachers
- Approachable and able to relate well to teachers, children, parents/whanau and other organisations demonstrating sound interpersonal and relationship building skills
- Capacity to build and maintain effective working relationships with other staff
- Willingness to address challenges in a positive and proactive manner
- Flexibility, enthusiastic and responsive to change
- Current Drivers Licence and Defensive Driving Course (or willingness to undertake same)
- Current First Aid certificate
- Ability to meet the requirements to be physically and mentally fit to carry out their duties safely and satisfactorily as identified in the Fit for Work Guidelines.

Health and Safety

Kindergartens South is committed to taking all practical steps to provide a healthy and safe working environment.

All employees have a responsibility to work toward ensuring that our Health & Safety Policy is effective in practice, which includes practising safe work methods, utilising and making proper use of safety equipment and eliminating workplace hazards.

Annual Appraisal

Appraisal will be undertaken annually according to the current Kindergartens South appraisal system. Performance development will be agreed with Senior Teacher and reported to the General Manager. Appraisal will form the basis for identifying professional learning needs.

Financial Authority Limit

Budget for supplies – see Business Development Manager.

Signed Job Holder: _____ Date: _____

General Manager: _____ Date: _____