

5 STATEMENT: ROLE OF THE EDUCATOR

Aim

To ensure consistency in quality and provision of professional early childhood care that values and respects each individual child.

5.1 The Montessori Teacher

- 5.1.1 The Montessori Teacher acts as an observer, recorder and guide who helps the children perfect their natural skills for learning. The classroom atmosphere is friendly and encouraging. The teacher frequently demonstrates equipment to individual children that is appropriate to their level of development. The Montessori motto is "help me to help myself" and teachers continually guide children to do just that.
- 5.1.2 All teaching staff have individual job descriptions outlining their duties and responsibilities.
- 5.1.3 Educators use the following strategies to extend children's thinking, learning and understanding:

Role Modeling	Demonstrating	Facilitating
Peer tutoring	Observing & reflecting	Experimentation
Scaffolding	Empowering the child	Questioning
Challenging	Collaborating	Shared Planning
Guided Participation	Co-constructing	Communication verbal / non verbal

5.2 Expectations of Educators

- 5.2.1 Form relationships with the children based on mutual trust.
- 5.3.2 Empower children by guiding and supporting them in their individual learning process.
- 5.3.3 Recognise children are individuals with individual characteristics and value them all equally.
- 5.3.4 Role model and encourage an appreciation of Te Reo Maori as a living and relevant language.
- 5.3.5 Provide opportunities for children to work in groups and facilitate quality interactions between them.
- 5.3.6 Use specific individual constructive feedback and encouragement.
- 5.3.7 Allow children to be in control of their own learning.
- 5.3.8 Provide a stimulating and dynamic environment, appropriate to the children's needs.
- 5.3.9 Be responsive and flexible to children's choices when planning and implementing a programme.
- 5.3.10 Value children's play as meaningful, realising the value of spontaneous play.
- 5.3.11 Be supported by management to achieve their ongoing goals through professional development.