

2 STATEMENT: RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Aim

To ensure that Montessori Children's House Wanaka is up to date with the latest information available in the field of early childhood and that staff involve or seek advice from relevant organisations/specialists as necessary.

2.1 Guidelines

Montessori Children's House Wanaka maintains relationships with the following organisations:

2.1.1 The Montessori Association of New Zealand (MANZ)

MANZ represents the Montessori community at a national level and provides support and training opportunities to individual centres. Due to the wide-ranging benefits, MANZ membership provides Montessori Children's House Wanaka pay the membership fees on behalf of the families enrolled. MANZ produces an informative magazine bi-monthly, for all enrolled families.

2.1.2. Public Health Otago

Public Health Otago provide information on health related issues. The Vision and Hearing specialist visits the centre to carry out eye and ear tests. Parents are required to sign a consent form prior to the test.

2.1.3 Group Special Education (GSE)

Montessori Children's House Wanaka will consult with parents and encourage early referral to GSE for children with special needs. Depending of the severity of the needs and the funding available within Otago support received may be in the form of a teacher aid or a speech therapist etc.

2.1.4 The Ministry of Education (MOE)/Early Childhood Development Unit (ECDU)

The MOE provide funding and are responsible for licensing the centre and advising on changes to regulations. EDCU (now a part of the MOE) provide centre assistance including an excellent web site www.minedu.govt.nz with a wide range of resources.

2.1.5 Professional Development Providers

To provide professional development opportunities and associated centre support we liaises with organisations such as MANZ (see above), Maria Montessori Educational Foundation (MMEF), Dunedin College Education and the Early Childhood Council.

2.1.6 Department of Work and Income (WINZ)

WINZ provides childcare subsidies for those on low incomes. Families must apply and deal with WINZ direct but Montessori Children's House Wanaka liaises with WINZ to obtain reference information and application forms for parents. All subsidies are paid directly to Montessori Children's House Wanaka.

2.1.7 Ministry of Health (MOH)

Montessori Children's House Wanaka receives mailings and updates from the MOH on Early Childhood related health issues.

2.1.8 Local Organisations/Schools

Montessori Children's House Wanaka liaises with local organisations such as: Plunket, local Primary Schools and early childhood centre's, Mount Aspiring College and Enviroschools in order to keep informed of local early childhood issues.

2.1.9 Rural Education Activities Programme (REAP)

Montessori Children's House Wanaka liaises with REAP.