**BICULTURAL POLICY**

**Rationale:** To ensure the curriculum offered to children “…reflects the unique place of Māori as tangata whenua.”\*

**Purpose:**  “Children are given the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the cultural heritages of both parties to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.”\*

**PROCEDURES**

* Equipment and resources will reflect the values and practices of Māori culture.
* Teachers will incorporate te reo, waiata and tikanga Māori practices into programme planning and learning experiences.
* Teachers will use inclusive communication strategies to engage Māori families in contributing to their children’s learning.
* Teachers will address the educational aspirations of Māori families to encourage children to reach their full potential.
* Teachers and management will attend professional development to strengthen their understanding and knowledge of te reo and tikanga Māori, Tātaiako and the ways that this can be incorporated in the learning programme.
* Parents and whānau will be made to feel welcome in the Centre and their views and perspectives valued at all times.
* The Centre will seek to provide an environment and resources that reflect the natural world.
* Teachers will be encouraged to liaise with local iwi to ensure that the programme provided reflects the tikanga of the tangata whenua of their local area.
* Policies and procedures will endeavour to reflect a bicultural approach to teaching and learning.

***Licensing Criteria C5, C6***

\* Ministry of Education (2008, amended August 2009) *Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres 2008*

*And Early Childhood Education Curriculum Framework*, Wellington. C5, P.9