Education Review Office Report 2018

VER"Y WELL PLACED – 4 year review

Findings from report:

“The curriculum is highly responsive to the interests, strengths and abilities of all children. Whana"u aspirations for their children purposefully and regularly contribute to curriculum design.”

“Children benefit from a curriculum that fosters their sense of belonging. They are curious, confident and independent. They share and collaborate in their learning and show care and concern for one another.”

“Teachers promote inclusive practices. They have established a Kindergarten culture in which children are first and foremost valued, celebrated and affirmed for who they are and what they bring to their learning. They know children well and are highly responsive to their individual needs.”

“Children and families are well supported as they prepare for their move to school.”

Copies of the complete report are available to read at Kindergarten.
Daily Routines:
8.15am Kindergarten opens.
Name Cards: Children find their name card every morning when they arrive and put it in their name card pocket. They can use the card throughout the day to help them write their name. It is valuable for the children to become familiar with recognising their name themselves. Children put their bags in their locker and then go to the mat area to enjoy puzzles until Group Time starts. This is followed by learning and fun through play.
11.45am: Lunchtime
After lunch we apply sunblock to the children in Term 1 and 4. We provide Cancer Society sunblock. If your child is sensitive to this brand we ask you keep a supply in your child’s bag.
Afternoon: Children continue playing
2.15pm: Session ends

Morning tea & Lunch
Please pack your child a lunch that they can manage themselves.

- We encourage Healthy lunches and ask that sweets are not included. There is a lunch box food suggestion book in the parent library for ideas.
- Children may also have a sandwich for morning tea during the session. Please wrap this separately or put in a small container.
- We ask parents not to send yoghurt as this tends to spill and is not refrigerated during the day.

Children’s learning: Every child at Te Mata has an individual learning plan which recognises their interests and strengths, supports and extends their learning across all areas of the curriculum.

- All teachers are involved in the planning, intentional teaching and learning for every child. We encourage parents to be involved and contribute their aspirations as well as through Storypark.

SCHOOL

We recommend you contact the school your child will be attending to enrol and make an appointment to meet with the Principal. There is valuable information on each school’s website for families to help make the transition from Kindergarten successful.
LEARNING

Our large outdoor play space encourages children to create, explore, be imaginative and expressive. There’s plenty of room to move and explore. The indoor and outdoor areas of our kindergarten are outstanding and unique, providing a tranquil, established natural playground. The children love the challenge of mastering our monkey bars which we know helps them strengthen their fingers, and develop competence learning to hold a pen leading towards writing.

What will my child learn at Te Mata?
Children are supported, encouraged, inspired and nurtured to discover, experience and learn about the world around them.

During your child’s early childhood education at Te Mata, they will develop important life skills to assist with their transition to school.

We believe that children’s play is essential in developing meaningful learning experiences. Teacher’s work alongside the children to enhance teachable moments. The teacher’s at Te Mata model language and introduce the children to various mathematical concepts, science, literacy and sustainable practices.

Our Programme

The programme is based on our NZ Curriculum Te Whaariki which weaves together the strands of Well-Being, Belonging, Exploration, Communication and Contribution. Teacher’s plan, implement, engage, review and evaluate the programme using their knowledge and understanding of learning and development of children. Our programme and teaching reflects our knowledge that a moving body teaches the brain to think. Active play is essential to child development. Children learn through play and Te Mata is your place to play and learn. “A Moving Child is a Learning Child.” (Gill Connell and Cheryl McCarthy).
Clothing & Hats
We ask that every child has their own sunhat. We have a sunsmart policy during Term 1 and 4. Children wear hats outside during these terms. Please name clothing and bags, especially shoes and hats. Lost Property is placed in the basket by the front door.

Attendance
If your child is absent for more than a day or two, please telephone or email kindergarten. Please let staff know if your child develops a contagious illness.

Learning Board and Group Planning
Some of the events which happen during the session are on display on the fruit table and in clear files for each term. Remember to look at these to see what learning has been happening. Your child’s profile is kept next to the kitchen for children and parents to read whenever they wish. Boys are on the left bookshelf, girls on the right. These are filed alphabetically. The screen above the children’s folders shows children’s play and learning during the session.

Stories from Home.
It is very valuable to hear what the children have been involved in with their families. The easiest method for parents is to upload a story onto their child’s Storypark profile. These may also be e-mailed to us: temata@hfka.co.nz

What portfolios are kept of my child’s learning?
We maintain both paper and electronic portfolios to provide a record of your child’s learning whilst at kindergarten. The stories and photos will reflect your child’s strengths and interests. The portfolio book is stored at Kindergarten. You and your child are welcome to access this whenever you wish and also to take the portfolio book home to share with your family.

Storypark
StoryPark is a cloud-based private learning community that allows teachers to privately and securely share updates, photos and videos with families, and communicate and involve parents with what is occurring during your child’s time at kindergarten. You will be provided with a unique login and can access StoryPark with an internet connected smartphone, tablet or computer. Parents are the administrators of their child’s account and own all photos, videos and content. You can invite important friends and family anywhere in the world to see, comment and engage in your child’s learning.

What Matters Here
Our learning Priorities at Te Mata have been developed through consultation with children, families, whanau, and the teachers.

- Sense of Identity - We celebrate our families diverse cultural heritage
- Our Kaupapa - Te Mata Contract
- Physical Development - We promote learning through physical exploration

A tona wā is a Maori phrase which means In their own time.
A Genuine Kindergarten

Te Mata Kindergarten is where all teachers’ are qualified and registered. Our evidence-based quality learning programme is underpinned by the New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum, Te Whāriki.

Kindergarten means “The children’s garden.” At Te Mata Kindergarten, children are encouraged, inspired and nurtured to actively discover, experience and come to understand the world around them. It’s here where they will lay the foundations for the essential skills of life and where young minds are ignited and equipped to realise their full potential.

Te Mata Kindergarten is for children and families. For many of us, kindergarten was where we began our life of learning; it was where we started learning life skills like sharing, tolerance, patience, respect and self-confidence.

Who will teach and care for my child?

All teachers’ are fully qualified with many years experience in early childhood education. We are passionate about children’s learning and Te Mata Kindergarten families.

Te Mata Kindergarten is a special place where teachers’, children and parents come together often becoming life-long friends. The strength of the teaching team is acknowledged and highly respected in the community. Teachers are very reflective and strive to continually improve learning outcomes for all children and families.

Parent Involvement

We welcome your involvement at Kindergarten. All children enjoy you coming and it is very valuable for your child. The assistance parents give to the Kindergarten is very much appreciated. Parents and families are very welcome to stay at Kindergarten or visit at any time.

Fruit - We have a platter of fruit for the children to eat during the session. We appreciate parents helping to cut up the fruit during group time which is another way to help. We also have a parent Committee who meet regularly and socially to support the teachers and Kindergarten.

Te Mata Kindergarten Contract

The “Contract” is very special to our children and Te Mata Kindergarten. The contract reflects the guidelines which the children suggested and use to empower themselves in their play. The children enjoy having a copy at home too and there are spare copies in the family corner. The virtues of the contract are: Sharing and Caring. Taking Turns. Be Patient. Good Words. Listening, Safe hands and Feet, and put up your hand if you have something to say at group time.

Family Corner

Parents are invited to enjoy the family corner. Have a seat on the couch, watch the slide show on the TV screen and enjoy reading your child’s folder.

Fees

Families are able to claim the Government subsidy of 20 Free hours Early Childhood Education. If you do not wish to access this free subsidy then the fee is $2.50 per hour. There are no additional fees. Please let us know if your hours change so that we can adjust our records.
Pepeha – introducing ourselves

Each child at Te Mata has their own Pepeha book which tells the story of where they come from and who they are. Parents share information and photographs of their child’s - Maunga (mountain), Awa (river), Waka (how they came to New Zealand), and their Iwi (family). Teachers use this information and images to create the Pepeha book. We have designed our own Pepeha form which is made especially for that child. These books are highly valued as we celebrate every child and their individuality. The Pepeha are kept in a basket at Kindergarten for the children to read whenever they wish and are given to them to take on the next stage of their learning journey when they leave Te Mata Kindergarten.

Pepeha is one way we teach children about Culture, Language and Identity. It is wonderful to see the children’s confidence develop as they learn and share their pepeha.