

Areas of Play
information for
Course 1 Buddies

Information to support the playcentre buddies

Encouraging or children to become effective learners involves us allowing them to decide what they want to learn and providing the time, space and support for them to explore, experiment and try things out. Providing an environment that offers interesting play materials and opportunities to try new things is a good starting point.

The cultural heritages of both partners in Te Tiriti o Waitangi should be reflected in the programmes of learning we offer our children. Te Whariki our curriculum, reflects this and our programmes being based on the principles and strands of Te Whariki should reflect this also. It is important for all children to experience general aspects of the traditions that make up Maori culture. Everyone has a role in providing this learning for children.¹

At playcentre the principles/Nga Kaupapa Whakahaere and strands/Nga Taumata Whakahirahira of Te Whariki are evident in everything that happens. The play materials and experiences that are available are the tools through which the ideas in the principles and strands of the curriculum framework can and do occur.

At playcentre we provide equipment and opportunities that best reflect the values, beliefs and interests of our children, families and whanau.

Children learn when they:

- Find things that capture their interest.
- Get involved and spend time playing around with and exploring things.
- Persevere with things they find difficult or unfamiliar.
- Test their ideas, share and talk about their ideas, make up new ideas by themselves and with others.
- Initiate or take responsibility for their own learning.

Adults must:

- Supervise all children on sessions
- Ensure a safe environment. This includes checking fences, poisonous plant removal, Safe equipment.

¹ From the ministry of education LEAD website

Family and Dramatic Play

Includes: Dramatic Play and Puppets

<p><u>Equipment for Dramatic Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress ups - including cultural clothes • Male and female dolls - representing different cultures. • Dolls clothing, bedding, beds etc. • Clothes line and pegs • Table, chairs, kitchen utensils etc • Boxes and material. • Mirror • Props - shops, medical equipment etc 	<p><u>Values of Family and Dramatic Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop social skills • Develops empathy with others • Develops creative thinking • Develops problem solving skills • Provides a safe way to express emotions • Provides an opportunity to make sense of their lives, making links with their family and the wider world • Enhances language development • Encourages sharing and cooperation
<p><u>How to set up Family and Dramatic Play - your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clean tidy equipment. • Read stories to encourage ideas. • Support children's ideas - but don't take over. • Support the children to solve their own problems. • Join in with the play. However other times watch on letting the children play on their own. <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with the children using the language that goes with the play. • Provide writing materials. • Talk about mathematical elements in their play eg: money, shapes, numbers etc. 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i>

<p><u>Equipment for Puppets</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items to make puppets with. • A selection of brought or homemade puppets - must be washable. • Finger puppets - can just be paint on your finger. 	<p><u>Values of Puppets</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop listening skills and concentration. • Provides ways to work through situations eg: going to school • Develops creativity and story telling skills • Provides a safe way to express emotions • Gain fine motor skills • Enhances language development • Gain confidence in moving in space, moving to rhythm.
<p><u>How to set up Puppets - your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a range of puppets at the child's height. • Provide equipment to make puppets and support children to make their own puppets. • Be confident when using puppets. <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use familiar and learn new stories, chants and songs • Make up stories and encourage children to make up stories, chants and songs. • Use with books and music. 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i>

Creative Play

Includes: Clay, Collage, Painting, Playdough, Messy Play, Natural Resources

<p><u>Equipment for Clay</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good quality, soft clay • Water • Hessian or vinyl cut offs • Table • Clay cutter 	<p><u>Values of Clay</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops hand eye coordination • Explore texture • Create 3D shapes • Release tension • Express feelings creatively • Manipulation - fine and gross motor skills • Concept of the earth - another avenue for children to experience our natural surroundings.
<p><u>How to set up Clay - your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover a table with hessian or use other appropriate material for the children to work on to stop the clay from sticking. Eg: Corrugated cardboard, vinyl, metal. • Provide items for children to explore the clay with. Eg; sticks, leaves, brushes, old credit cards, clay tools and plenty of water. • Sit down and poke and prod the clay. Just be there and be involved. <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about size, shape, weight • Provide descriptive words. Eg:slippery, guggy, heavy, slimy etc • Talk about the children's creations 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clay is a natural resource and therefore should be treated with respect like other natural resources. When gathering clay only take what you need and return unwanted clay to the earth. • <i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i>

<p><u>Equipment for Collage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large and small boxes, tubes, containers, lids • Paper and cardboard - all colours, greeting cards, envelopes, magazines, cellophane, crepe paper • String, cord, wool, tape, twine • Fabric - velvet, lace, cotton, wool, hessian • Natural materials - feathers, stones, shells, driftwood, wood, leaves, petals, dried and fresh flowers, moss, flax, pine cones 	<p><u>Values of Collage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops hand eye coordination • Learning skills such as gluing, sticking, taping, stapling, cutting and tearing • Developing social skills and cooperation • Learn about design, pattern making, dimensions and composition. • Increasing concentration skills • Develop problem solving skills
<p><u>How to set up Collage - your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure materials are at the children's height so they can help themselves. • Provide glue and scissors • Support those that need assistance to cut, glue or collect materials. • Keep the area tidy <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use descriptive language • Encourage children to plan as they construct their work. • Encourage problem solving skills • Use mathematical words eg: large, small, octagon, colours etc 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u></p> <p><i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

<p><u>How to set up paint - your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint easels • Primary colours - blue, red, yellow and black and white. • Paper attached to fence • Use dye • Powder paint • Marble or golf ball painting • Water painting • Blow painting with straws • Face paint • Puff paint • Rollers, feathers, sponges, cotton balls - any different items children can explore different patterns etc. • Provide one piece of paper at a time, write the child's name on the artwork and date. Use capital letter followed by lowercase letters for names. Write on the left hand side of the paper either on the back or front of the painting with the child's permission. • Keep the area clean and tidy and put artwork in a safe place to dry. <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about colours • Shapes being formed - lines, circles etc 	<p><u>Equipment for Painting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foam, cotton balls, paint brushes • Good quality paper, cardboard • Other materials - shells, wood, stones, fabric, clay. • Face paint and all necessary face paint equipment <p>Squirting bottles for dye</p> <hr/> <p><u>Values of Painting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops hand eye, arm and body coordination • Develops finger and hand muscles • Experimentation with colour and texture • Encourages creativity • Provides a way of expressing moods and feelings. <hr/> <p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u></p> <p><i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>
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<p><u>Equipment for Playdough</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipes for play • Family play equipment - stove, tea set, pots and pans • Scales, measuring cups, measuring spoons • Rolling pins • Shape cutters • Garlic presses etc. 	<p><u>Values of Playdough</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop hand, eye, arm and body coordination • Develop finger and hand muscles • Role play food preparation identifying the role of the family cook. • Develops creativity • Enhances socialization
<p><u>How to set up playdough - your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide equipment • Make playdough with the children on session • Involve the children in choosing the colour • Talk about what the children are doing • Keep the area tidy <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weighing, measuring • Shapes • Provide recipe cards and books • Use descriptive words for what they are doing. Eg: poking, prodding, squeezing, rolling etc. 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u></p> <p><i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

<p><u>Equipment for Messy Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipes for play 	<p><u>Values of Messy Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relaxing • Experimentation with different mediums • Learn about colour mixing, patterns, design, texture and rhythm • Develop hand eye coordination • Practice new skills - pouring, measuring, mixing, scooping and beating.
<p><u>How to set up Messy Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find a safe place for messy play to ensure safety. • Get involved in the play to encourage children to get involved too. • Encourage discussion, singing and experimentation. <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use descriptive words. Eg: slimy, runny, soft, warm, cold, lumpy, wet etc • Introduce songs, rhymes, music etc 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u></p> <p><i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

<p><u>Equipment for Natural Resources</u></p> <p><u>Gifts from Papatuanuku (mother earth)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural materials. Eg: shells, bark, sponges, bulrush, flowers, pinecones, feathers, flax, driftwood etc. • Aquarium, pot plants, wormery, magnifying glasses • Posters, books. 	<p><u>Values of Natural Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides opportunities for children to develop theories about how things work in the living, physical and material worlds. • Provides early science experiences. • Enhances curiosity • Provides an opportunity to appreciate the natural world - sound, texture, taste and smell.
<p><u>How to set up Natural Resources - your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include natural resource with other areas of play. Collage, carpentry, clay, painting etc. • Set up a table of resources for children to explore. • Seriation - place shells or stones in a row from smallest to largest • Threading - holey shells, leaves • Pressings - leaves, shells to make patterns in clay or playdough • Paint driftwood, leaves etc. • Weaving - flax or palm leaves. Add feathers, string, wool etc • Leaf rubbings <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage discussions about the resources • Share knowledge of the natural world 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u></p> <p><i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

Books, Language and Music Play

Includes: Books, Literacy, Maths, Music.

<p><u>Equipment for Books</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quiet area where close contact can be made forming wonderful positive relationships between children and adults. • Somewhere to sit - Carpet, chairs, beanbags etc • A variety of books - both fiction and non-fiction. 	<p><u>Values of</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable children to experience stories and symbols of their own and other cultures. • Develop pre-reading skills - How to hold the book, read from left to right top to bottom. • Relaxation - showing how books can be fun. • Gain information about many different things. • Understand that print carries the meaning of the story.
<p><u>How to set up Books - your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure children can see the covers of the books. • Make the area comfortable and inviting • Make books with the children • Support children to turn pages, pick out letter they know, • Make up their own stories - Use pictures from old books, magazines or photos. <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be available to read books • Point to the words when reading (if appropriate) • Talk about the pictures in the book • Count how many words in a sentence. 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u></p> <p><i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

<p><u>Literacy - What is it?</u> Literacy is language in use. It is where Listening, speaking, reading and writing are used in an environment where children experience a rich background in language together with a wide range of experiences.</p> <p>Before we can learn to read and write we need to learn to communicate. To learn to communicate we need to be provided with real life experiences and someone to communicate with.</p>	<p><u>How do you encourage literacy?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read regularly to children - books, portfolios etc • Sing songs, chants and rhymes • Point out letters and words • Provide drawing opportunities • Encourage children to tell their own stories • Practice active listening • Trips to new places • Encouragement to try new things.
<p><u>Ways to encourage Speaking skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music • Puppetry • Family and fantasy play • Conversation 	<p><u>Ways to encourage Reading skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipes • Signs • Lists • Name tags
<p><u>Ways to encourage Writing skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting • Drawing with pens, pencils, crayons etc 	<p><u>Ways to encourage Listening skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories • Listening games • Conversation • Music
<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u> ???</p>	

<p><u>Maths - What is it?</u> Maths is counting, using ideas about colour, shape, texture, size, weight, lengths and groups. Children learn concepts about colours, shapes, size, weight and volume. They also learn concepts of counting, numbers, sorting, matching, pattern making, sequencing - small to large and large to small.</p>	<p><u>How do you encourage maths?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide equipment - puzzles, sand, cooking, clay, singing, throwing etc • Make up play kits - post office kit, bakery kit, supermarket kit etc. • Provide ruler, measuring tapes, scales, blocks etc • Talk about shapes • Count using your fingers • Play fun games
<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u> <i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>	

<p><u>Equipment for Music</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A selection of instruments including homemade instruments. • CD's and player • Wind instruments are not allowed. 	<p><u>Values of Music</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expresses feeling through voice and body • Develops harmony, melody, rhythm etc • Extends creativity and imagination • Release for emotional and physical energy • Builds relationships with others as well as develop independent play • Recognition of sounds, instruments and different types of music. • Develops and extends language, listening skills, memory etc
<p><u>How to set up Music - your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up and include in any area • Join in with dance and singing • Make up songs and support children to make up songs • Encourage children to look after musical equipment <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn new and sing old songs • Sing waiata • Choose songs etc that include numbers or counting • Choose songs etc that have new words. 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u> <i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

Physically Active Play

<p><u>Equipment for Physically Active Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing equipment • Slides • Balancing equipment • Swings • Balls • Planks and ladder • Pushing and pulling equipment 	<p><u>Values of Physically Active Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases both gross and fine motor skills. Which are vital writing. • Develops hand eye coordination • Develop agility, coordination and balance • Develops spatial, visual, logical and mathematical domains • Develops self confidence as their abilities grow and they learn what they can and cannot do yet. • Learn to cooperate and share with others
<p><u>How to set up Physically Active Play - Your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage children to guide the set up of activities • Join in and support children to try new things and old. • Encourage turn taking and problem solving • Provide physically active play regardless of the weather <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many pre mathematical concepts are available with physically active play. Eg: over/under, in front of/behind, on top of/beneath, inside/outside, beside/through. • Mathematical concepts eg: long/short, big/small, wide/narrow. • Talking about what children are doing eg: sliding, swinging, climbing etc. 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u> <i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

Constructive Play

Includes: Adventure/Junk Play, Block Play, Carpentry, Sand

<p><u>Equipment for Adventure/Junk Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consists of recycled and natural items found in the world around us. • Be aware of the watch out list • Show respect to the environment when collecting natural resources. 	<p><u>Values of Adventure/Junk Play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances problem solving skills • Understanding of limits of themselves • Encouraging creativity • Encourages discussion, planning and promotes memory. • Encourages improvisation
<p><u>How to set up Adventure/Junk Play - Your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a variety of resources. Include items that are not junk. • Ensure enough room is available and children are safe. • Allow children to explore at their own pace and ability. • Remove any item that is no longer safe or useable. <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen actively and talk to children about what they are doing. • Use descriptive words eg: stack, lean, slope, doorway etc. 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u> <i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

<p><u>Equipment for Blocks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit blocks • Cardboard boxes • Vehicles, people, road signs, animals etc 	<p><u>Values of Blocks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blocks provide a way to promote mathematical skills for all children. • Science • Maths • Physical skills • Language • Art • Social and emotional well being.
<p><u>How to set up Blocks - Your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have blocks in an area where there is plenty of room and limited foot traffic. • Support the children by encouraging playcentre rule of not damaging anothers work. • Ensure safety <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss gravity • Ask questions and use descriptive words • Count and discuss length, shapes etc 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u></p> <p><i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

<p><u>Equipment for Carpentry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good quality equipment is vital, sharp saws, battery powered drills • Hammers • Vices, nails, screws, pliers • Sandpaper and block • Ruler, measuring tape, builders pencil 	<p><u>Values of Carpentry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop hand eye coordination • Gross and fine motor skills • Mathematical and scientific skills • Develop 3D creativity • Play cooperatively
<p><u>How to set up Carpentry - Your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional equipment eg: pva glue, hot glue gun, bottle tops, paint etc • Supervision to ensure safety of the child using the equipment along with other children in and around the area. • Assist children with their creations • Support with problem solving <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counting and measuring. • Talk about weight etc • Use descriptive words 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u> <i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

<p><u>Equipment for Sand</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diggers, spades, rakes • Different sized containers • Sieves and tubing • Vehicles • Shade and sandpit cover 	<p><u>Values of Sand</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socialization • Language development • Develop creativity • Learn about science and maths
<p><u>How to set up Sand - Your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be available to join in • Provide equipment when asked • Add other areas of play into the sandpit • Take sand indoors on wet days <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage children to use words to resolve conflict, ask for items etc • Use descriptive words eg: empty, wide, deep, bridge, share, ask etc. 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u> <i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

Exploratory Play

Includes: Science and Nature, Water play

<p><u>Equipment for Science and Nature</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocks, shells, plants • Bird nests, bones • Magnifying glass • Metal objects • Leaves, flowers • Insect box • Magnets • Baking 	<p><u>Values of Science and Nature</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about the environment • Promotes literacy by asking questions and solving problems • Encourages children to learn about food • Provides new taste experiences, cultures
<p><u>How to set up Science and Nature - your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do baking on session • Grow plants or keep/care for animals • Use water and ice • Encourage recycling • Pull apart old equipment eg: clock • Go on nature walks <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask open ended questions • Ask children to describe what they see • Provide books on all science and nature things. • Encourage sorting 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u> <i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

<p><u>Equipment for water play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jugs, sieves, colanders, funnels • Hose • Water wheels, bottles, beaters • Shells, stones, driftwood, seaweed 	<p><u>Values of water play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop hand eye coordination and manipulative skills • Develop social skills • Explore mathematical concepts eg: heavy/light, float/sink
<p><u>How to set up water play - Your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any container can be used for water play. However raised off the ground is preferable • Use hoses in the sandpit. • Family play area - washing dolls etc • Use warm water on cold days. • Add colour, soap flakes or dish washing liquid • Supervision, sun protection and safety <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use descriptive words eg: full, empty, floating, sinking etc. • Encourage children to predict what will happen. 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u></p> <p><i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

Manipulative Play

Includes: Manipulative play, Puzzles

<p><u>Equipment for Manipulative play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any items or activity that provides an experience for children where they move, order, turn or screw items to make them fit. • Threading materials • Screwing materials • Items for sorting - colour, shape, etc • Nesting and stacking toys • Posting boxes 	<p><u>Values of Manipulative play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages hand eye, arm and finger control • Problem solving skills • Encourages children to take responsibility of their own learning. • Develops pre mathematical skills
<p><u>How to set up manipulative play - Your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a range of equipment for all ages <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss what you see using descriptive words eg: longer, longest, fat, narrow etc 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u></p> <p><i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>

<p><u>Equipment for Puzzles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of puzzles from simple 1 or 2 piece puzzles to complex puzzles. • Floor puzzles 	<p><u>Values of Puzzles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages problem solving • Encourages solitary and cooperative play • Gaining recognition of shapes, colours and size • Promotes hand eye coordination
<p><u>How to set up Puzzles - your role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a quite area with limited foot traffic • Support children to solve the puzzle - don't do it for them. <p>Supporting Literacy and Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing puzzles supports all areas of literacy and numeracy with pre reading and pre maths skills 	<p><u>Te Reo and Tikanga Maori</u> <i>A selection of Te Reo and phonetics</i></p>