

WELCOME TO MAGIC GARDEN INFANT AND TODDLER CARE AND EDUCATION CENTRE

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Browns Bay, NORTH SHORE
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The Philosophy of the three Magic Garden centres

Magic Garden is a place where relationships matter. We believe in developing reciprocal relationships embracing families and whānau. We value the wealth of knowledge that families and whānau bring and share, and we join them in partnership to enable children to grow and reach their full potential. We are committed to a bicultural approach and the unique place of Māori. We value the multiple cultures in our community and respect and celebrate their cultural heritage and identity.

We value the New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum, *Te Whāriki*, and it guides and inspires our work with children and adults. We foster sustainable practices as a significant part of our curriculum. We value ongoing learning, so we enrich our thinking and practice with the approaches of Reggio Emilia, RIE and current theory. We are committed and passionate about professional learning and shared team understandings to enhance our practices and uphold a high standard of teaching. We believe children's learning is fostered through a socio-cultural, emergent curriculum. Our *Priorities for Learning* statement shows we value self-initiated investigations, experimentation, social competence, creative expression, and foundation skills for literacy and numeracy.

We recognise the importance of a safe, secure, unhurried, peaceful environment that is respectful and empowering for each child. We believe children enjoy, and learn through, making decisions, working together, problem solving, and leading their own learning. We value making time to listen, supporting children to know themselves and become increasingly independent. We treasure each child's unique gifts, curiosities, passions and potential. We view children as life-long learners, capable of contributing knowledge and understandings as global citizens.

We value an aesthetically pleasing environment full of natural and cultural resources reflective of our wider community. We value links with our community and are inspired by regularly dialoguing with local and international visitors in our centres. We enjoy sharing innovative ideas and practices.

*He aha te mea nui o te ao?
He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!
What is the most important thing in the world?
It is people! It is people! It is people!*

Māori Proverb

Infant and Toddler Centre Sub Philosophy

We welcome each child and family, knowing that every child is unique and special. We provide every child with two key teachers so that there is always someone familiar to whom each family can go to. These key teachers meet the new family, find out about the new child and his or her

special interests, routines and ways of doing things, answer any questions, and is the family's support through the transition period from home and joining the Centre. Having key teachers is our way of creating a special bond of trust and understanding so that the new child and family become settled and feel secure. There are no fixed staffing routines. This enables teachers to be available to new children. This support continues throughout the whole time in the Infant and Toddler Centre.

The culture and language of each family is embraced and respected. Attention is given to each family's child rearing practices, and ways of connecting these with Centre practices and teacher ratios.

Children's portfolios are developed by the teachers to gather stories of the child's unique style of learning and growing. Parents are asked to participate in this special activity by responding to story writing when stories are emailed home to share some particular event or learning.

Teachers spend time with each child during care routines in a calm and interactive manner to build bonds of friendship and trust. Uninterrupted play allows children to initiate their own learning while teachers unobtrusively support them. Teachers encourage small groups of children to play together to develop co-operative skills. Children are encouraged to solve their own conflicts, to develop language to express and make sense of their own feelings and ideas and to begin to understand and develop communication with others be it verbal or non-verbal.

The environment is carefully set up to be homely; for children to discover, explore, experiment and problem solve, and is crafted around children's interests and skills, teachers' provocations and seasonal conditions.

Children's Learning

We believe children search for the meaning in life in their explorations and play. Our environment is set out so that children have access to a wide variety of open-ended natural materials and household objects inviting children to play and explore with purpose and concentration, individually or alongside others. We encourage play that is not interrupted by routines or teachers, knowing children will discover the world in their own unique way. We will not expect her or him to do what he cannot do. We respect their process of learning.



Early mark making

Parent Involvement and Participation

Parents and whanau, you understand and know your child better than anyone. We encourage you to share any information with our teachers so that we can support your child's learning. We value our relationships with parents and ask you to be involved in our programme in the following ways.

- Before your child begins at Magic Garden we share our values and ways of beginning at our centre and settling your child while you share your values and practice with us.
- The Magda Gerber influences in our centre carry expectations about some patterns of caring that we value openly – we don't carry children to get them to sleep, we don't use high chairs or prop children who can't do this by themselves, we place children to explore on the floor, we don't sit children in places that they can't get out of and we encourage children to learn to feed themselves. If you have developed different patterns at home we will work together to find ways in common at Magic Garden that can be supported by our teacher to child ratio which is close to 1:3.
- We give parents information sheets about our Magda Gerber and Reggio Emilia practices to enable understanding of our approach of respectful care.

We encourage you to:

- Contribute entries about your family's celebrations, events, and holidays in your child's individual portfolio.
- Read weekly emails with centre news and programme happenings.
- Respond to centre surveys and questionnaires.
- Contribute 'beautiful' recycled materials for our centre programmes.
- Attend special functions or social occasions.
- We want you to spend time in the centre and become part of the family that cares for your child.

Centre Operation

Hours of Operation and Enrolment times

Magic Garden's hours of operation are 7.30am to 5.30pm.

Children can attend either:

an eight hour day: 8.30am – 4:30pm,
or
a full day: 7:30am – 5:30pm.

We accept enrolments for a minimum of 6 hours a day to match the Ministry of Education daily funding, for a minimum of three days per week.

What Magic Garden Provides

- Individual bed linen and bibs.
- Morning and afternoon tea, lunch and snacks including water to drink, but not infant milk formula.
- Quality individual portfolios.
- Sun block.
- Baby wipes but not nappies.

Enrolment Agreement and deposit

Parents will be asked to complete an enrolment agreement, provide background information about your child, confirm when your child will start, and pay a deposit of one week's fees to secure your child's place. You will need to keep the enrolment information current for your whole time at Magic Garden.

Starting your child

If you have booked a place for your child you will be notified when a space is available and when pre-visits can occur.

Transition from home

The supervisor will be preparing for your child's entry by organising your visiting programme and selecting a key teacher and a buddy teacher who will work with you to help your child settle. Your active involvement will be expected, making your child's transition as smooth as possible for you and your infant or toddler and ensuring a peaceful secure beginning.

An initial meeting will be arranged with the supervisor to share information about Magic Garden and information about your child and family. Now is the time to meet the teachers and the manager and to discuss enrolment arrangements and fees. Centre procedures will be explained: Immunisation and birth certificate records, sign in/out forms, medicine and accident forms, payment procedures, absence procedures, centre meetings and routines, lost property, meal and rest procedures, email and contact systems especially work and emergency phone numbers. There will be time to discuss any questions, queries or concerns you may have.

There are a number of things that we the teachers and you the parents can do to make this 'settling in' period easier and happier for you and your child.

Before the first day:

With your child

- Prepare your child beforehand. Talk to him or her about Magic Garden even if your child is not yet talking.
- You will be introduced to your child's key teacher who will support your child during the time in the Infant and Toddler Centre. She will have a buddy teacher for times when she is absent. She will introduce the new environment and it will be with her you share information about your child and get acquainted about Magic Garden. With your key teacher, go over your child's normal daily routine so we can keep their pattern as close to home as possible (e.g. sleep times). If your child sleeps and has a 'comfort' toy, bring it and show it to your key teacher. Talk with your key teacher about how to establish a new relationship between your child and the key teacher.
- Make many visits to the centre before the actual starting date. Feel free to make a hot drink and sit in the background while the key teacher begins to get to know your child.
- Buy a centre clothes container and include three complete changes of clothes, a plastic bag (for dirty/wet clothes) and a stack of nappies. Have a collection of named bottles for feeding.
- Ensure clothing is easy for nappy changing and non-trippable for crawlers.
- Name all clothing, shoes and sun hat. No tiny hair clips please for safety reasons.
- Include a family photo to begin your child's portfolio.
- You will need to have a back up system worked out for when your child gets sick and cannot attend Magic Garden.

As a Parent

- Be realistic on your child's first day – all children miss and love their parents. It may take time before they feel secure and fully comfortable. They are building new relationships. Maybe as a parent the prospect of leaving your child is difficult, this is quite common and understandable.
- Be positive. Children will sense when parents are upset or worried and this reinforces their concerns. The key teacher will phone you to update how your child is managing and you can phone the centre yourself if you have any issues. Talk to us regarding your child.
- If English is not your home language there are cultural differences you can discuss these differences in approach that Magic Garden has with your key teacher or supervisor. Please remember that Magic Garden has group care and shares its teachers between children and may not be able to change its practices.

What Parents need to bring

- Your child's nappies, milk formula and named bottles.
- Three or more sets of change of clothes and plastic bags for wet clothing.
- Named sun or winter hats.
- Information about your child's previous days or nights, especially if there have been changes to routines or sickness. This information can be given to your child's key or buddy teacher or written in your baby's notebook or the Parent Communication Book.

First Day

- Connect with your child's key teacher to support your child's settling.
- Tell your key teacher about your child's sleep the previous night and what she has eaten or drunk before arriving. Give any extra useful clues about your child's behaviour and patterns.
- Put your child's named bottle and measured formula in the fridge.

Saying Goodbye

Say goodbye when you are leaving. Rest assured the key teacher is very understanding to a new child's distress and will respond in the most appropriate way, such as:

- Cuddles and love.
- Let them sit on her lap and watch for a while.
- Give them their special toy/blanket to cuddle.

Should a child become really distressed during the day, the teacher will always phone you and keep you informed. Feel free to phone the centre during the day to find out how your child is and the staff will tell you honestly how he/she is coping. They will also tell you if they think your child has 'had enough' for the day and should be collected.



Centre Organisation

Please Phone and Advise Us

- As early as possible in the morning if your child will be absent. This assists us with our lunch preparation and staffing.
- If your child has an infectious disease and will be absent.
- Of any changes of information to update your enrolment agreement.
- If anyone different is collecting your child.

Information About Your Child's Day

When you come to pick up your child, you can also ask your key teacher or the teachers about the child's day and they will be happy to talk with you. We do ask however, that you keep in mind that the teachers are usually quite busy – particularly in the mornings and evenings, when children and parents are arriving and leaving. If you wish to spend any length of time discussing your child, we ask that you make an appointment to suit everyone. In this way you and your child will be given the attention that the situation deserves.

While your child is an infant the teachers will record in small notebooks how your child's day has been. They will hope you read these notes each night and add comments of your own. As your child gets older portfolio books will be used to record your child's experiences and learning's.

Sleep Time/Rest Time

Children will have individual sleep patterns at home and this will depend of what age they are when they start at Magic Garden. They will start sleeping in cots, and then they will have their own stretcher bed to use. They will have their own linen, which is supplied and washed by the centre. They will have a regular sleeping place.

All children who are sleeping are supervised and will be checked every four minutes with the use of a timer. The children's length of sleep is recorded for parents to see each day.

Meals

Infant formula bottles are brought from home and stored in the fridge. Once your child is ready to begin solids you can discuss this with your key teacher.

At about a year of age your child will be ready to participate in the full menu. All meals are prepared daily with careful attention to providing balanced nutrition with minimal salt, in a diet your child will enjoy. The menu follows a three weekly rotation. A variety of fruit is provided throughout the day. Drinking water is available and is served at meal times and throughout the day if and when needed. The menu is displayed in the entrance. Children will be encouraged to feed themselves.

If your child has any special dietary needs, please discuss these with your key teacher or supervisor.

Lost Property

Please ensure that your child's clothes are clearly named. Unlabelled clothing can be found in a "Lost Property Box". We periodically sort unclaimed items and donate anything suitable to charity. We will advise parents by a notice when we are about to clear unnamed items.

Children's Birthdays

Children's birthdays will be acknowledged unless you request otherwise. Parents may provide a birthday cake for their child to celebrate with the other children. We suggest a light sponge cake or

cup cakes with minimal icing as suitable for children. The cake will be shared at morning tea time. If you are providing a cake please specify its ingredients so we can plan for children with allergies.

Pick Up Time

Please ensure that you are on time to pick up your child, as he/she will have had a very busy day and be looking forward to seeing you. If you are going to be late, please ring the centre and notify them, as soon as possible, so they can prepare your child accordingly.

Magic Garden Policies

Magic Garden policies can be sighted on request from the supervisor. Copies of individual policies can be made. These policies are reviewed regularly.

Illness, Absence, Medication and Social Competence

We have very clear policies on child illness, accidents, administering medicines, and immunisations, and these are outlined below. Please take the time to read through these carefully and if you have any queries please discuss these with the centre supervisor.

Illness Policy

Any child who is present at the centre and is considered to be unwell by the supervisor and teachers will be sent home. The child's parents will be telephoned, the condition discussed with the parents, and the child will be put into a quiet area under supervision or with a teacher to await their parent's arrival. You will be expected to collect your child **as soon as possible**, as some children deteriorate quickly, to minimise the spread of illness and to protect other children and teachers. Illness that warrants a child being sent home includes the following:

- high temperature;
- coloured discharge from the child's nose – which is related to a high temperature or other unwell symptoms (which is not linked to allergies);
- an unidentifiable rash or spots;
- constant cough – which is not linked to asthma or a breathing disorder;
- diarrhoea;
- vomiting;
- severe colds;
- head lice (nits).

With any of the above, especially vomiting and diarrhoea, we ask parents to keep their child at home until these symptoms have ceased for at least 24 hours before returning to the centre.

If the illness is 'contagious' a notice is displayed for all parents, to inform them that an illness has been in the centre. (Your child will not be identified in this notice).

No child is to return to the centre unless they have been confirmed by the doctor that they are no longer infectious, or have been away for the recommended days, as listed on our chart of contagious diseases. They may have become unsettled and out of sorts and may need an extra day at home. The contagious diseases chart is displayed in the centre entrance for both teacher and parent referral. Parents are to ensure that they list an emergency contact number on their enrolment form, so the centre has someone to contact if they are unavailable. **These contacts need to be kept up-to-date at all times.**

Our teachers are very vigilant about centre and toy cleanliness to minimise cross infection. We need your cooperation about keeping your infected child at home as well.

The centre does not hold paracetamol at the centre for children's use as advised by the Ministry of Health.

Medication Policy

Any child who is on any form of medication while attending the centre must have this written up clearly, by the parent, in the centre medicine register. We need to know what the medication is for. If the medication is paracetamol, and for a fever, the child should not be at the centre.

The parent must list the following details:

- Date
- Name of child
- Time and amount of medication to be given
- Type of medication
- Time of last dose
- Parent's signature of consent
- Parent's signature on collection of medication at end of day.

This form is kept on the fridge while medicine is stored in the fridge. The medication needs to have a label on from the pharmacy for the child in question. Teachers are to be told about this, by the parent, and the form filled in. Once the medication has been administered, the teacher who has done this will sign the medication form. Parents sign the form upon collection of the medication.

Accident Policy

Minor accident

A teacher will treat anything that involves a minor injury, such as a scratch, grazed knee, cut or bruise at the centre. The injured child will be approached calmly and reassured. Teachers will wear gloves to treat injuries with broken skin and bleeding.

The accident register will be completed by the teacher who witnessed the accident, and/or was involved with the treatment of the injury and let the parents know when they come to the centre. All accidents will be recorded at the teacher's discretion.

Major accident

Any accident that requires a teacher to get a second opinion, or to consult with a doctor, will be dealt with accordingly.

- The child will not be moved, but kept warm.
- The child will be reassured in a positive way that everything is all right.
- The child will be supervised at all times.
- The parents will be phoned.
- An ambulance will be phoned, if necessary or a visit to the local emergency centre organised.
- Approval from the parents is necessary before any treatment can be given, unless it is life threatening.
- The accident, treatment, time and place will be written up in the accident register and signed by the staff member concerned.
- All centre staff hold first aid certificates to ensure they all have up-to-date knowledge and understanding in this area.

Immunisation Policy

Parents can choose whether to immunize their child or not, but the Health Regulations state, that all parents must provide documented evidence of their child's immunisation status on their enrolment agreement of the centre.

In the event of a breakout of a vaccine preventable disease, in the centre, children who are not immunised will be required to remain at home for the duration of the outbreak.

Positive Behaviour for Learning: Fostering Social Competence Policy

We promote social and emotional competence as it is essential for children's everyday well being as well as for management and learning in the centre. We identify strategies for providing considered and consistent responses to challenging behaviour to enable children to feel safe, well cared for and confident.

We strongly recommend the centre policy as it has many ideas that are beneficial for parents to use at home. It is available on the Magic Garden website.

Other Organisational Practices

Parking

Please drive slowly when entering or leaving Magic Garden car park, as there may be other parents and children walking to the door. The front park of the double length car parks are for short term parking only. There is limited parking on Deverell Place.

Holiday Absence

It is necessary to notify the supervisor if your child is going to be on holiday other than when the centre closes for the Christmas and New Year break. Please note that full fees are payable right through the year except during the Christmas closure.

Children's Development and Portfolios

We welcome discussions about your child's development and progress.

Individual portfolios using learning stories, capture your child's developing schemas, working theories, learning experiences, growth of gross and fine motor skills, interests, strengths, relationships and friendships while at Magic Garden. These learning stories are linked and combined with stories and photos of home events; what you've seen your child learning or in response to our stories. All the voices of the parents, the child and the teacher are important. We encourage parents to take your child's portfolio home, while advising the teachers when you want to borrow it.

The teachers use portfolios, together with colleagues, to analyse the reasons and factors behind events and behaviours and interpret the events. Teachers meet regularly to consider how the steps, the discoveries, the relationships, the resources and the environment can be extended and deepened.

Documentation

Our documentation acknowledges children's on-going learning, values children's work, and encourages parent participation. Children's creative thinking and problem solving opens avenues for exploration and investigation.

We urge parents to be aware of documentation on the walls, to read it and talk to the teachers about it. Each child has a portfolio that moves with the child into the next centre, and later can be taken home for permanent keeping.

Professional Development

Each fortnight the teachers meet together to reflect on and plan the centre programme. They may also study an issue that is a challenge to their team. The discussions will be based on observations gathered throughout the fortnight of the children's learning processes. They also plan for parent events or other programme related issues.

Teachers attend regular in-house whole team training on the further development of the Reggio Emilia and Magda Gerber approaches. During non contact professional development time is given

to strengthen various aspects of centre practice. Magic Garden supports teachers' on-going training through updating First Aid Certificates, expecting completion of early childhood training certificates and teacher registration, and attending outside courses and conferences.

Fees and Payments

Bookings will be accepted for a minimum of three days in the Infant and Toddler and Over Two Centres, and two days in the Over Three Centre.

Enrolment

One week of fees as a deposit is payable upon confirmation and acceptance of a position to secure your child's place at Magic Garden. Your week's deposit will be deducted from your final account if the correct notification procedure has been followed. If you subsequently choose not to accept your child's position your enrolment deposit is non-refundable.

- Fees are paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly in advance. We email statements of account weekly.
- Payments by cheque or cash are to be made in the morning unless an alternative arrangement has been made with the supervisor. Cash payments must be countersigned by a teacher.
- Fees are charged for statutory holidays, sick days, and other absences. When the centre is closed for the Christmas/New Year holiday break there is no payment of fees. You will be notified annually about the Christmas break.
- Absences longer than three weeks may result in Magic Garden being unable to hold your child's place.
- A late payment of fees may incur a 10% penalty if fees are overdue and this late payment will be added to the overdue amount. If no agreement can be reached regarding repayment, termination of care will follow. Magic Garden reserves the right to follow usual methods of debt recovery. All debt collection charges will be passed on.
- Fee options are direct credit, internet banking, cash or cheque. Payment can be made by automatic payment to ASB Acc No 12-3059-0424717-00. Please do ensure you use your child's name and centre code i.e. U2, O2, O3 so that it is clear who the payment is for.
- Childcare subsidies from WINZ can be arranged through the Centre. These depend upon the level of your family income. You can talk to your supervisor about this. Full fees will be charged until the centre receives the WINZ subsidy.
- **Changes of hours/days** need to be negotiated with your supervisor and appropriate forms are to be filled in. All requests will be actioned upon availability.
- If you are planning to withdraw your child from Magic Garden you must give **one month's** written notification to your supervisor.
- Fees are subject to change at the discretion of the centre.
- **Late fees:** Children who are collected after the end of your booked times will incur a late fee penalty. This is \$2.00 for every minute to cover the costs of staffing. Please phone, as a courtesy, if you know you will be late. If it appears you are beginning to have difficulty keeping to your contracted times, it is suggested you discuss this matter with the supervisor to amend your child's hours.

Problems and Queries

We have an open door approach and value our relationships with parents. If you want to discuss any matter, big or small, we are happy to talk with you. You may wish to speak with your supervisor, your key teachers, a centre teacher or an assistant supervisor. In addition you may wish to approach Jenni the Manager. A Complaints Procedure is in your centre entrance for further support.

If, for any reason, there is a review of care, we follow a process of consultation involving all parties. Then time is given for remedial action. If the situation remains unresolved, care may need to be discontinued. This decision will not be treated lightly but with respect and dignity for all concerned.

We want the time your child and family is with us to be a happy experience.

Centre Management

Owner / Manager / Licensee

JENNI JONES

Diploma of Teaching Early Childhood
First Aid Certificate
B A (Soc Sc)
Trained and qualified primary teacher
Full Teacher Registration
RIE I Fundamentals: Theory and Observation Course
NZ National Playcentre Supervisors Certificate

Teaching Team

NICKY WORDSWORTH (SUPERVISOR)

B Ed (Teaching ECE)
Nursery Nurse (2 Year English EC Qualification)
Full Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate

BARBARA JENNER (ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR)

B Ed (Teaching ECE)
Full Teacher Registration
Karitane Nursing Certificate
NZ Certificate in Family Day Care: Caregiver
First Aid Certificate

TAMMY YEE MENG LAI (ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR)

Diploma of Teaching (ECE)
Full Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate
Speaks Cantonese, Malaysian & Mandarin

MARY JUNG

Graduate Diploma of Teaching (ECE)
Full Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate
Speaks Korean

DIANA NEUPERT

B Ed
Provisional Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate

JIWON SEO

Graduate Diploma in Teaching (ECE)
Provisional Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate
Speaks Korean

SHARON HEWETT

Diploma in Early Childhood Education
Full Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate

TONI ATKINSON

B Ed (Teaching ECE)
Provisional Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate

TRISHA MARTINEZ

Graduate Diploma of Teaching (ECE)
Full Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate
Speaks Filipino

KATJA BOETTCHER

Bachelor of Teaching (ECE)
First Aid Certificate
Speaks German

Relievers**HYANG PARK**

B Ed (Teaching ECE)

JAY LEE (Ji Ae)

2nd Year in Training B Ed (Teaching ECE)
Speaks Korean

SUZY NEIL

Diploma of Teaching Early Childhood

Other positions of responsibility

Co-owner	ALLAN JONES
Assistant Manager	SUZIE GAILER
Office Manager	LEEANN DAVIES
Cook	CHRIS BASSETT
Cook's Assistant	ROWENA WATERWORTH
Assistant Caretaker	CHRIS HEALEY
Cleaner	JESSA DIANO