

**WELCOME TO
MAGIC GARDEN OVER TWO'S
CARE AND EDUCATION CENTRE**

170 –174 Carlisle Road, Northcross,
Browns Bay, NORTH SHORE
Phone: 479-1240, Ext 4

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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

Over Two Centre Sub Philosophy

In this centre...

- We promote a sense of discovery, respect and serenity. We provide positive role models for building relationships and partnerships which reflect the diversity and cultural background of our community.

- There is an underlying sense of organisation which acknowledges children as competent to play and learn around beautiful things. Teachers work from the children's interests, leading them through challenges and towards success.
- We recognise that opportunities to make mistakes and experience conflict provide the basis for growth and learning. We support the blossoming of the child's individual personality within the boundaries of acceptable social behaviour.

Children's Learning

We believe children search for meaning in life in their explorations and play. Meaningful, purposeful learning experiences are planned and implemented, responding to children's interests, teacher's passions and interests, current events and seasonal influences. We have orchestrated an environment where a wide variety of open-ended natural materials and household objects are set out aesthetically and orderly, inviting the children to play with purpose, calmness and deep concentration, individually or in small groups. Repeated patterns of behaviour identified as 'schema' are seen in children's exploratory play. These powerful avenues of cognitive development are supported by teacher observation and programme planning of resources, space and experiences. The process of learning is valued as much as the finished product.

Fostering foundation literacy skills is a special character of the centre through a culture of storytelling, opportunities for children to represent and create their own stories, active movement through dance and physical exercise and fine motor activities to build strength and dexterity.

Developing social competence is one of the key outcomes for the programme. Teachers use catchphrases and consistent consequences to help children regulate and channel their emotions appropriately. Increased opportunities to communicate, exchange information, share intentions and preferences leads to making friends. Being flexible, cooperative, responsible; taking turns, negotiating, problem solving, and having empathy for others, helps children sustain relationships, builds character and citizenship; and dispositions for life long learning.

Parent Involvement and Participation

Parents and whānau, you understand and know your child better than anyone. We encourage you to share this 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 getting to know our centre and being involved in settling your child while you share your values and practices with us.
- We use documentation on walls and in programme books to capture your child's learning and ask you to read about what is happening. The teachers welcome discussion.
- We want you to talk with us, spend time in the centre and become part of the family that cares for your child. If English is not your home language, additional support and arrangements may be required.
- 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.

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

- Morning and afternoon tea, lunch and a late snack.
- Water and a water fountain.
- Individual bed linen.
- Sun block.

Enrolment Agreement and deposit

Each parent will be asked to complete an enrolment agreement, provide background information about your child, confirm when your child starts, and pay a deposit of one week's fees if this is a new entry, 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

You may be beginning at Magic Garden, or on the waiting list, or transitioning your child from the Infant and Toddler Centre. These are different entry pathways.

New Entry to Magic Garden

An initial meeting will be arranged with the supervisor to share information about the centre 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: sign in/out forms, medicine and accident forms, payment procedures, absence procedures, centre meetings and routines, lost property, meal and rest procedures and email and contact systems. We will collect a photocopy of your child's immunisation record and birth certificate for our records. Your child's key teacher will be introduced. She will support your child and family.

Usually new children will visit for at least two weeks before they begin in the centre and these arrangements will be confirmed by your supervisor.

Talk with your key teacher about how your child's entry will be a comfortable one, giving time for responding to changes and having a calm and secure beginning.

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 about Magic Garden and the key teacher so this new teacher becomes familiar.
- Teach your child how to wash and dry their hands before and after eating and toileting. Teach them how and when to blow their nose and to cough into their sleeves. These are strategies we use to minimise infection in the centre.
- Make several 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.
- Children's clothes should be those that don't matter if they get dirty with paint etc, and they should be easy for children to get off for toileting and for children to dress themselves. We encourage shoes that children can manage themselves.
- Name all clothing, shoes, socks and summer or winter hat.
- Have a roomy back pack clearly named. Let your child help pack the bag with two complete changes of clothes (more underwear if your child is toilet training) and a plastic bag for dirty or wet clothes. Teach your child how to use the bag zip.
- Some children will want to bring a toy as a transition from home. These are special comfort toys for settling or security needs. We ask that only one toy comes each day and is named. We prefer toys to be shown then kept in a safe place (other than the child's bag), to prevent loss. We support the use of dummies and comforters at sleep time if this is the family pattern.

As a Parent

- Be realistic on your child's first day – all children love their parents and miss them when they leave. It may take time before your child feels secure and fully comfortable with the new relationships they are building. This is quite common and understandable.
- Be positive. Children sense when parents are upset or worried and this reinforces their anxiety. Feel free to talk about this with your key teacher.
- If English is not your home language or culture please discuss with your key teacher differences your child might encounter between home and Magic Garden. Be prepared to help the settling process.
- Have a back up system worked out for when your child gets sick and cannot attend Magic Garden.

First Day

- Let your child walk into the centre beside you.
- Approach your child's key teacher to support your child's settling.
- Let your child venture forward at her or his own pace. Let them stand and watch. They may not be ready to join in an activity straight away.
- If your child sleeps during the day and has a 'comfort' toy, bring it and show it to your key teacher. We prefer dummies to be kept for sleeping.

Saying Goodbye

We have found it is easier for a child to settle if the leaving and goodbye process is fairly quick. Our advice is when you feel comfortable (10 – 15 minutes) give your child a big hug and kiss and tell him or her you have to go now and that you will be back to collect them – then go. Tell a teacher when you are leaving. The same practice each day works well.

Rest assured the teachers are very sympathetic to a new child's distress and will respond in the most appropriate way, such as:

- Cuddles and love.
- Distraction.
- Sitting on a teachers lap or on the sofa and watching for a while.
- Giving them their special toy/blanket to cuddle.
- Involve them in an activity.

Feel free to phone the centre during the day to find out how your child is doing. Should your child become really distressed your key teacher will phone you and tell you honestly how your child is coping. They will also tell you if they feel your child has 'had enough' for the day and should be collected.

Transition from other centres

Children transition from the Infant and Toddler Centre between two and two and a half years, according to the needs of the children and the Centres. This system is well organized in advance. Usually children transition with one or two other children from their Centre. Supervisors from both Centres prepare for this event by organising visits and choosing a key teacher who will help your child throughout the transition.

Now is the time to make an appointment to visit and meet the new supervisor, and your new key teacher. This is the time to ask any questions and to make your child's transition as smooth as possible for you all.

Many of the systems are similar between the centres. You will be shown the sign in/out form, medicine record, parent notice board, accident and toileting record, lost property, meal and rest procedures, email and contact systems and the lunch menu. Enrolment details are to be complete before the transition.

Centre Organisation

Please Phone and Advise Us

- As early as possible in the morning if your child will be absent as this assists us with our lunch quantities and staffing.
- If your child has an infectious disease and will be absent.
- 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 will find the teachers are happy to chat about your child's day. We do ask however, that you keep in mind teachers are usually quite busy at this time so if you would like an in depth discussion about your child, we ask that you make an appointment to suit everyone. In this way everyone will be given the time and attention they need.

Meals

All meals are prepared daily with careful attention to providing balanced nutrition with food your child will enjoy. The lunch menu follows a three weekly rotation. Drinking water is served at meal times and is available throughout the day if and when needed. The menu is displayed at the Sign In desk. Children are encouraged to feed themselves.

The centre also provides morning and afternoon teas and snacks.

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

Please do not send food to Magic Garden with your child without telling a teacher about it.

Lost Property

Ensure that your child's clothes are clearly labeled. Lost property can be found in a "Lost Property Box" by the door to the centre. We periodically clear the clothing items and donate any suitable clothing to charity, so if you are missing anything, please check the collection. We will display lost property for several days before we clear excess items.

Sleep Time/Rest Time

Children who require a sleep have their own stretcher bed and have their own linen, which is supplied and washed by the centre.

All children who are sleeping are supervised and the children's length of sleep is recorded for parents to see each day. Those children who are not sleeping will be asked to have a supervised rest after lunch, on their own pillow and blanket. This time allows children to slow down and have a break before engaging in small group extension activities.

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 other children. We suggest a light sponge cake or cup cakes with minimal icing as suitable for children. The cake will be shared at afternoon tea time. If you are providing a cake please specify its ingredients so we can allow for children with allergies.

Pick Up Time

Please ensure that you are on time to pick up your child, as he or she will have had a very busy day and be looking forward to seeing you. Try to come a bit earlier so you have time to speak to the teachers about your child's day and to collect up their belongings and treasures.

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

A complete copy of centre policies is located at the entrance of the centre and is available for reading.

The following is an outline of some of these policies and we welcome you to read these policies and discuss them with the centre supervisor for further understanding or queries.

Illness and Exclusion Policy

The centre is required by law to exclude a child until well. Your family's emergency contact numbers on the enrolment form must be kept **up-to-date at all times**.

Any child at the centre who is considered to be unwell by the supervisor and teachers is to be sent home. The child's parents/guardians will be telephoned, the conditions discussed, and the child will be put into a quiet area under supervision to await their parent's/guardian's arrival. You will be expected to collect your child **without delay**, as children's health can deteriorate quickly, to minimise the spread of illness and to protect other children and teachers from infection.

Illnesses that warrant a child being sent home are:

- Diarrhoea and/or vomiting
- Fever, temperature or severe colds
- Coloured discharge from the child's nose – which is related to a high temperature or other unwell symptoms (and are not linked to allergies)
- Symptoms of infectious diseases
- Conjunctivitis or discharge from the eyes or ears
- Impetigo (school sores)
- Ear ache
- Spots and/or open sores
- Head lice. This needs treatment at home before bringing the child into the centre. Contact your doctor or pharmacy for advice.

In general, if children experience vomiting and/or diarrhoea they should not attend the centre until **48 hours after all symptoms have disappeared**.

For other illnesses your child can return to the centre when they have been cleared by a doctor, when the contagious period has expired, or when they have been away for the recommended number of days. Please phone if your child is not going to attend the centre and advise us of details of the illness. Alternatively if you are in any doubt about your child's condition, phone before arriving at Magic Garden.

If the illness is 'contagious' (e.g. measles or chickenpox) a notice for parents is displayed to inform of a reported or suspected case in the centre. The child will not be identified.

Our teachers are very vigilant about centre and toy cleanliness to minimise cross infection. Our teachers have current First Aid Certificates.

We do 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 in the centre on the sign-in desk and medicine is stored in the fridge. The medication needs to have a label 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 minor injuries such as scratches, grazes, cuts or bruises 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 incident and/or was involved with the treatment of the injury. An 'A' will be placed by the child's name on the sign in/out sheet to indicate there is an incident to be explained. Minor accidents will be recorded at the teacher's discretion.

Major accident

Any accident that requires a teacher to get a second opinion, or seek medical advice, will be dealt with as follows.

- If it is appropriate the child will be moved to a safe place, reassured, kept warm and kept under observation by a familiar teacher.
- The parents will be phoned.
- An ambulance will be called, 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 so as 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. However the Health Regulations state all parents must provide documented evidence of their child's immunisation status upon enrolment. In the event of a break out 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

Toys from Home

Personal toys are easily lost or damaged and we do not accept responsibility for them. However, if you and your child decide to bring a special toy from home to help them feel settled, we understand. At an appropriate time we encourage the child to put the toy safely in the office or cuddly box.

Toileting

As your child increases in independence he or she will become ready for toileting. There is an information sheet available about Magic Garden strategies for toilet learning. We work closely with parents to assess a child's readiness so that two to three children at a time can be given close attention while learning to use the toilet. Please talk to us before you decide to move your child from nappies to undies.

Parking

Please drive slowly when entering or leaving Magic Garden car park, as there may be other parents and children walking to the door. We ask that you walk holding your child's hand in the car park. The front park of the double length car parks are for short term parking only. There is limited additional 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 want to work together to see your child progress. Our relationship with you and your child is very important to us.

Individual portfolios tell the story of your child's learning experiences, gross and fine motor skills, schemas, interests, strengths, growth and development while at Magic Garden. The voice of the parent, the child and the teacher are all part of the portfolio and we encourage parents to take the portfolio home and contribute your own stories and photos. These stories may be about your family experiences, what you've seen your child learning or in response to our stories. Please advise the teachers when you want to take your child's portfolio over a couple of nights.

Documentation

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

We ask parents to be aware of this documentation, to read it and talk to the teachers about the learning occurring.

Types of documentation:

- Wall documentation – with photos, children’s work and texts.
- Portfolios – each child has a portfolio that becomes the child’s own when it is completed, and moves with the child into the next centre.
- Project books – recording past investigations. These are available to be read at home or at the centre.
- Daily diaries are kept recording inside and outside experiences of the day.

Professional Development

Each fortnight the teachers meet together to reflect on and plan their teams programme. They may also study an issue that is a challenge to the team. Discussions will be based on observations gathered throughout the fortnight of children’s learning processes, and 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 teacher’s on-going training through updating First Aid Certificates, completing early childhood certificates and teacher registration, and attending outside courses and conferences.

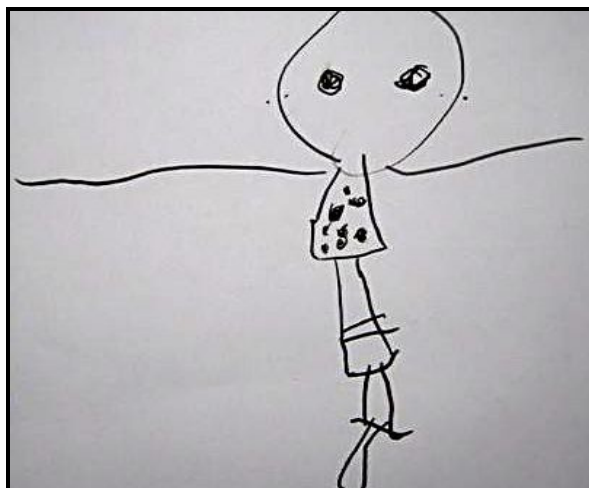


Fees and Payments

Bookings will be accepted for a minimum of three days.

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 but this needs to be accurate for our paper trail. Please do ensure you use your child's name and centre code i.e. I&T, 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

If you want to discuss any matter, big or small, we are happy to talk with you. You may wish to speak with your key teacher, a centre teacher, your centre's assistant supervisor or your supervisor. In addition Jenni, Magic Garden's manager is open to being approached for discussion or appointment. There is a Complaints Procedure displayed in your centre entrance. We hold an open door approach and appreciate our relations with parents.

We want the time your child stays with us to be a happy experience.

Centre Management

Owner / Manager

JENNI JONES

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

Teaching Team

ADRIENNE THOMSON Supervisor

Diploma of Teaching (ECE)
EC Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate

SAMANTHA PLUMMER Assistant Supervisor

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

Teachers:

FIONA MCCORMICK

Bachelor of Education (Teaching)
EC Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate

SOPHIE COLBURN

Bachelor of Education (Steiner Teaching)
First Aid Certificate

KAREN LUND

Certificate in Education (S. Africa) NZQA Equivalence
EC Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate

AMY JANSSEN

Bachelor of Teaching (ECE)
EC Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate

JESSIE CHAN

Bachelor of Education (ECE)
EC Provisional Teacher Registration
First Aid Certificate
Speaks Mandarin and Cantonese

LEIGH EARNSHAW - Housekeeper

B A Hons (Outdoor Education)
Grad Dip Teaching (Primary)

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