

## Allowing Vision to Speak in early childhood education

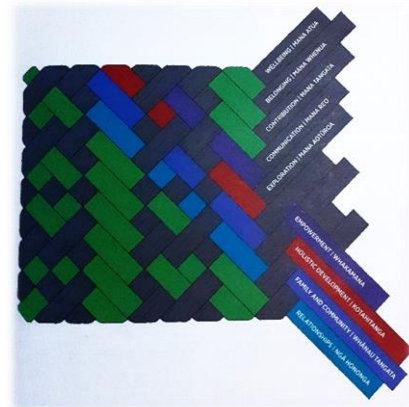
Te Whāriki (meaning “the mat” in the Māori language) is the Early Childhood Curriculum in New Zealand.

The fundamental **PRINCIPLES** of Te Whāriki (“the mat”), are

- **empowerment**
- **holistic development**
- **family & community**
- **relationships**

The areas of learning and development, the interwoven **STRANDS** of Te Whāriki (“the mat”), are

- **well-being** – each child experiences an environment where their health is promoted. We create an environment where they learn to keep themselves healthy, where they learn to care for themselves, where their emotional well-being is nurtured and where they are kept safe from harm
- **belonging** – children experience an environment where they make links with the family and the wider world, where they make connections between people and things in their world, where they are known and they have a place, where they are comfortable with the routines, customs and regular events. They also learn the limits and boundaries of acceptable behaviour.
- **Contribution** – in this environment there is equitable opportunity for learning, irrespective of gender, ability, age, ethnicity, or background. It is where they are affirmed as individuals and where they are encouraged to learn with and alongside others.
- **Communication** – they develop verbal communication skills for a range of purposes. They experience the stories and symbols of their own and other cultures. They also discover different ways to be creative and expressive.
- **Exploration** – we provide an environment where their play is valued as meaningful learning and the importance of spontaneous play is recognised. They gain confidence in and control of their own bodies, they learn strategies for active exploration, thinking and reasoning. They develop working theories for making sense of the natural, social, physical and material worlds.



For further information please:

EITHER go to our website [www.happydayschildcare.co.nz](http://www.happydayschildcare.co.nz)

OR contact me (Joelle) on [reception@happydayschildcare.co.nz](mailto:reception@happydayschildcare.co.nz)